



Pesach themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

Subject Area: Jewish Living and Identity, Holidays, Prayer, Jewish History, Culture & Art.

Target Age Group: Families with young children ranging from preschoolers to first graders.

Lesson Objective:

To teach about Pesach and to create a comfortable learning environment that helps families with young children integrate Jewish traditions and customs into the fabric of their lives as well as connect to the synagogue. The program attracts many families with young children who are seeking an opportunity to meet other Jews within their demographic. It also appeals to interfaith families who do not possess the skill set to create a Jewish experience and want to gain exposure to Jewish living.

Summary:

The program begins with a short Shabbat service which includes Hinei Mah Tov, The Shalom Song, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, and Miriam's Song as well as a closing song and story connected to Pesach. The four questions finger puppets (available at Judaica stores) can also be integrated into storytime. Possible books to choose from include Dance, Sing, Remember – A Celebration of Jewish Holidays by Leslie Kimmelman, What I Like About Passover by Varda Livney, and Let's Ask Four Questions by Madeline Wikler and Judy Groner. Nametags are provided for families as they arrive, as well as instruments for children to play during the service.

After the service, the children participate in a search for the afikomen (with prizes for everyone) as well as the blessings over the wine and the challah (or matzah if it is actually Pesach). Matzah is also available for participants to snack on. Next, children may choose from a variety of activities and art projects. Children may concentrate on just one activity, or they can try their hand at them all. Possibilities include making Elijah or Miriam's Cups, assembling plague bags, or crafting matzah covers (see appendix for more information). Plain paper



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and crayons are also available for children to illustrate their favorite part of Pesach.

Finally, the program concludes with the singing of Shalom Chaverim, as well as an invitation to attend next month's program. Handouts relating to Pesach are distributed to parents as they leave.

APPENDIX:

Elijah's/Miriam's Cups

You will need:

Tissue paper (in various colors)
Scissors
Plastic wine cups
Glue sticks

Cut the tissue paper up into small squares. Glue the pieces of tissue paper onto the wine glasses so that they are overlapping like a mosaic. Children can use their glasses as Elijah's Cups or Miriam's Cups at their family seder.

Plague Bags

Buy material drawstring bags and several items that represent the plagues (such as plastic frogs, paper umbrellas, etc.) Use your imagination and try to represent as many of the plagues as possible. Write "Plagues" on each one of the bags with permanent marker. Children may fill their bags with one of each plague and use at their family seder.

Matzah Covers

You will need:

Rectangular felt squares

 <p>Chidush חידוש Sweetening Jewish Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pesach themed Shabbat Mishpacha</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submitted by: <i>Marcia Seigal</i></p> <hr style="border: 1px solid brown; background-color: #8B4513; width: 100%;"/>
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Hebrew stencils (for letters mem, tzadik, and hay)
Permanent markers
Notions (buttons, yarn, trim, etc.)
Fabric glue

Trace the Hebrew stencils onto the rectangular felt squares to spell “matzah”.
Then glue the notions on as decoration. Children may use the matzah covers at their family seder.