



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Other Faith and Religion Judaism – YEAR 5

*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

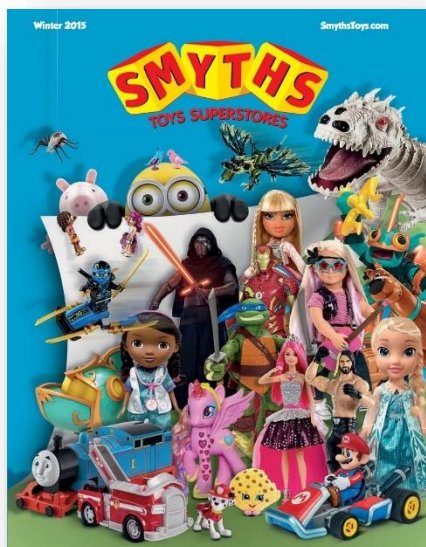
This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning. It is important to teach Judaism since 'Christians and Jews have such a common spiritual heritage'.

The first part of learning is called – **LOOK** This shares an aspect of Judaism to help enrich children's knowledge of another Faith or Religion. The second part, called – **DISCOVER AND RESPECT**: is when children are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt, appreciated and respected and what it means for the followers of that religion.

It is important to note that this is not taught as a comparative to Christianity but as a separate Faith with its own rich and diverse heritage.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Judaism YEAR 5 – Beliefs and festivals – The Pesach

LOOK – There are times for remembering



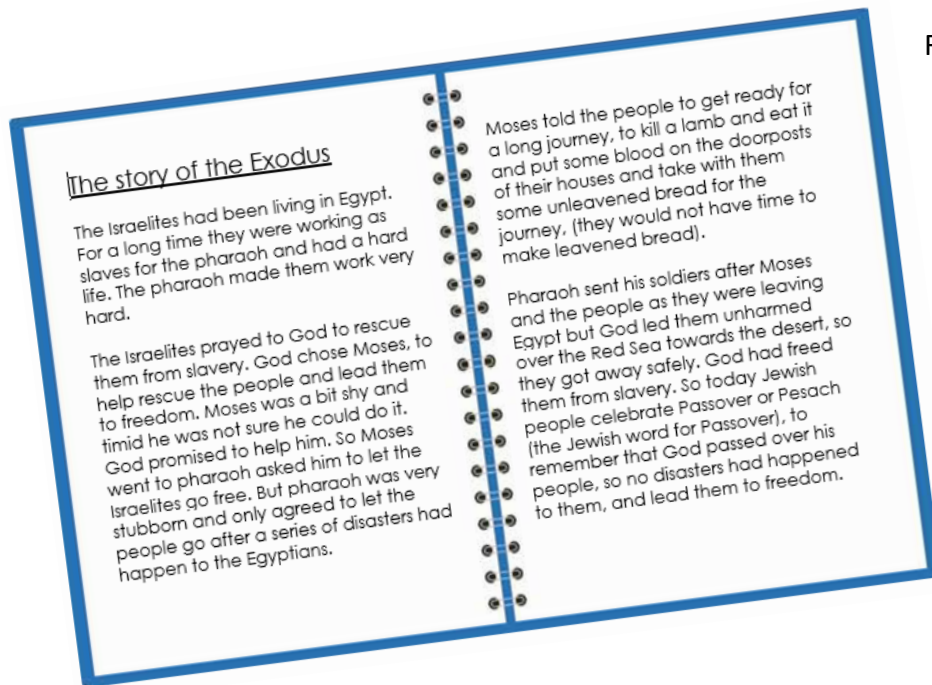
Have a look at the cover of the Smyths Toy Superstore from the year 2015. Do you recognise any of your old toys? Maybe you still have some tucked away in a drawer or a cupboard in your bedroom. What kinds of things do you remember from that time? You might even have a favourite teddy or doll from when you were a baby. How does thinking about the past (reminiscing) make you feel? Why?

When families gather together for special occasions one of things that many people do is reminisce about past stories or events. Sometimes these are funny or serious stories about things that have happened over the years. These memories are shared over and over again because are special to families and it helps to keep them and the people in the stories alive.

Q. Can you remember a story that your family share every time they come together for special events like Christmas/New Year or parties?

DISCOVER – the story of the Exodus and Passover/Pesach

Every year during springtime the Jewish people get ready to come together as families to celebrate the festival of the Passover or Pesach. During Pesach, Jewish people remember the story of how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt, how God still takes care of them and how they still have the need for freedom in some places of the world.



Read this story from Exodus.

- Q How do you think the Israelites felt when they were freed?
- Q Why is this festival called Passover/Pesach?

Watch this clip from BBC Bitesize which tells the story of the Exodus and the special way in which the Jewish families remember today and celebrate Pesach.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zx7tfg8>

Jewish families gather together to celebrate the Passover, no-one is left out; those without families are welcomed into families. God has commanded the Jewish people to keep this festival see Exodus 12: 14-17

The house is cleaned and all leavened bread (bread which has yeast in it to make it rise) is removed. Kosher food (that is, specially approved according to the regulations that are in the Torah) is cooked and the table is laid with the best china. The meal is called a seder meal, the word seder means order. There is a special order of things that happened at the meal. Certain foods are placed on a special plate called the Seder plate which are a reminder of the Exodus, the escape from Egypt.



- Matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten as a reminder of when the Israelites left Egypt with unleavened dough.
- Bitter herbs, horseradish or lettuce, used to symbolize the bitterness of slavery.
- Charoset: a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine, as a reminder of the mortar used by the Jews in the construction of buildings as slaves.
- A roasted egg, as a symbol of life.
- A vegetable, preferably parsley or celery, representing hope and redemption; served with a bowl of salted water to represent the tears shed.
- A lamb shankbone, symbolizing the Passover sacrificial offering in the days of the Temple.

- Wine: four glasses of wine or grape juice are consumed during the service to represent the four-fold promise of redemption.

During the meal, the youngest child asks 4 questions. The answers to the questions tell the story of the Exodus, so no one will ever forget it. The children search for a special piece of matzah which has been hidden. Special songs are sung and the meal lasts for many hours. The feast of Pesach (Passover) is a joyful occasion full of hope, of thankfulness to God for protection, guidance and sustenance. It is a time that parents use to retell their children the story of the Jewish people. It is a time when families gather, when they feel a sense of belonging to a community which is specially loved by God and is also dependent upon him. Jews think a lot about peace at this time. At the end of the Seder meal Jews pray that next year they can celebrate the Seder in Jerusalem in a time of peace.

Q. What event does Pesach/Passover recall?

Q. What does the word Seder mean?

Q. How do you know it is a family occasion?

Q. Why would Jews want to celebrate Pesach in Jerusalem?

DISCOVER AND RESPECT — Belief in one God: The Shema, God cares for all his people.

God proved his love and commitment by rescuing his people and staying with them on their journeys. God asks his people to return that love and commitment by worshipping him alone and caring for others as God would care for them. Jewish people are always aware that God is present in their lives, they pray at least three times a day and have many prayers to say throughout the day each which reminded them that God is there.

There are special prayers like the Shema. God gave Moses some commandments and rules for his people. These helped the people to love God and live in peace with each other. In the book of Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, which is part of the Torah, God gives his people a special reminder of their responsibility to love God. It is a prayer called the Shema. It helps the Jewish people to focus on the day ahead and on the day that has just gone. It is a commitment to belief. It shows belief in God. The Shema is recited twice a day by Jewish people and is a special prayer in the synagogue.

*Listen Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls and with all your might.
These words which I am commanding you today must remain in your heart.
Teach them to your children and speak of them when you are at home,
when you are travelling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Tie these words as a sign on your hand; let them be a sign in the centre of your head.
Also write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.*



The last commandment is kept by the use of a mezuzah. That is a little box containing a parchment with the Shema written on it which is fixed to the side of the front door of the house and sometimes on the door posts of the rooms in the house. The parchment has to be written by a specially trained scribe who uses a special quill and special ink. Many Jews touch the mezuzah with their fingers when they go through the doorway. Doing this helps them to show their love and respect for God and reminds them of God's laws.

Choose an activity:

- Make and decorate a mezuzah (template attached). Copy out the Shema prayer, decorate it with Hebrew letters and place it inside.
- Draw around a large dinner plate and recreate the Seder plate with all the items from the special meal. Write a description of what each item is and what it represents to the Jewish people.
- Write a poem about 'Freedom' or 'Shalom' which is the Jewish word for peace.



| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| נ | ה | י | י |
| (4) | (3) | (2) | (1) |

e-lo·**hey** nu
our God



Card Mezuzah
Cover Template

