

YEAR 4: SPRING 1 – HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR JEWISH PEOPLE TO DO WHAT GOD ASKS THEM TO DO?

RE: UNDERSTAND HOW CELEBRATING PASSOVER AND KEEPING KASHRUT HELPS JEWS SHOW GOD THEY VALUE THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

TO RECALL, UNDERSTAND, DESCRIBE AND EXPLAIN

Recall/Vocabulary:	<i>Special occasion</i>	<i>Kashrut</i>	<i>Kosher</i>	<i>Passover</i>	<i>Seder plate</i>	<i>Exodus from Egypt</i>	<i>Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child</i>	
	<i>Moses</i>	<i>Israelites</i>	<i>Abraham</i>	<i>Mezuzah</i>	<i>Sabbath laws</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Monotheistic</i>
	<i>Covenant</i>	<i>Synagogue</i>	<i>Rabbis</i>	<i>Sabbath</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>Pharaoh</i>	<i>Plagues</i>	

Understand/Describe/ Explain:

Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people. It is the oldest of the world’s four biggest **monotheistic** religions (a religion based on the belief that there is only one God), dating back over 4000 years. Judaism may have begun in the Middle East but today Jewish people live in countries all around the world (almost half of the world's Jews live in the USA and a quarter live in Israel).

Jewish Beliefs:

- **Abraham** is seen as the father of the Jewish religion. Abraham’s story is told in the Book of Genesis (the first book of the Hebrew Bible). Jews believe that Judaism began when Abraham began to worship one God instead of the many idols or statues his father had done. Abraham is said to have made an agreement with God, known as the **Covenant**, in which he promised to be faithful and teach his laws to the world. The core Jewish religious belief is that there is one eternal God who is a spirit and has no human form.
- The Jewish holy text is the **Torah**, which is written in ancient Hebrew. It is made up of the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- There are four important stages in Jewish life: birth, becoming an adult, marriage and death.
- **Jerusalem** is a very holy place for Jewish people because it is where the Temple once stood before it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. There is one wall remaining, called the Western Wall, where Jews go to pray.
- The six-pointed star, or ‘**Star of David**’, has been used as a Jewish symbol since the Middle Ages.
- Jews believe Jesus was born into the Jewish religion, but he began preaching his own ideas and his followers went on to form a new religion – Christianity – after he died.



Jewish Practices:

- The **synagogue** is a building where Jews go to worship God. The word synagogue means ‘meeting place’ in Greek.
- Teachers of the Jewish faith are called **Rabbis**. They lead worship in the synagogue, conduct marriage and funeral ceremonies and give people advice on religious matters.
- The **Sabbath** (from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday) is the Jewish holy day.
- Important Jewish festivals include **Rosh Hashanah** (Jewish New Year), **Yom Kippur** (the Day of Atonement), **Passover** and **Hannukah**, the festival of lights.
- Religious Jews can be **Orthodox** (people who follow the laws of the Torah very strictly) and **Progressive** (people who have adapted the Torah teachings to modern life).
- Many Jewish families follow a **kosher** diet. This means that milk and all other dairy products may not be cooked or eaten with meat. All meat must be kosher; kosher animals have to have a cloven hoof and chew the cud (so cows and sheep). There should be no pork, no shell fish and no birds of prey.



THINKING POINT:

What similarities/differences do you notice between Christianity and Judaism?

Kashrut Rules

Jewish people believe that God asks them to keep certain rules on what they eat/don’t eat. Keeping these rules is their choice and if they choose to do this it is because they respect God and want to do what he asks.

- Land animals that chew their cud (ruminant) and have a split (cloven) hoof may be eaten (note that animals with toes may not be eaten. They must be true hooves). This includes livestock like cattle and sheep, but not pigs (which do not chew their cud) or camels (which do not have split hooves).
- Animals that eat meat (carnivores and omnivores) may not be eaten. This also means that birds of prey may not be eaten.
- Specific birds (from a list) may not be eaten. This includes ostrich for example.
- Fish must have fins and scales. Fish without scales (like eels), invertebrates like lobster and shrimp, and shellfish (like mussels) are forbidden.
- No amphibians or reptiles may be eaten. Examples of these are frogs.
- Most insects may not be eaten, with some exceptions like locusts.
- Wine must be specially made. There are special rules about alcohol and other intoxicating substances.
- The animals need to be killed in a special way. The **kosher** slaughterer has religious training for this work.
- An animal that dies by natural means, or is killed by another animal or a hunter, may not be eaten.
- Meat from a sick animal may not be eaten.
- No blood may be eaten. All blood needs to be drained from the meat (by soaking and salting it). In eggs, not even eggs with just a spot of blood can be eaten.
- A kosher kitchen has separate sets of dishes: one for meat foods, another for dairy foods.
- Food may not be cooked during the Sabbath, which in Judaism is called Shabbat.

THINKING POINT:

What does keeping Kashrut rules tell us about how Jewish people live? How might a Jewish child respond if he/she was invited to a birthday party at McDonalds?

Festival of Passover

Every year, Jewish families share a special meal together at **Passover** time, called **The Seder Meal**. The families retell the story of the **Exodus from Egypt under Moses** and remember it was God who allowed the **Israelites** to be free from slavery. Jews believe on the night they escaped, God asked them to remember this night forever; which they do with the Seder Meal.

The Story of the Exodus from Egypt under Moses

Over 3,000 years ago, a group of Jewish people called the **Israelites** were being kept in slavery by the ruler of Egypt called **Pharaoh**. A man called **Moses** went to see **Pharaoh** many times to ask him to let them go, but **Pharaoh** refused. **Moses** told him that if he did not release them, God would make terrible things called **plagues** happen to the Egyptians. But **Pharaoh** did not listen, so the plagues came. These ten plagues included the River Nile turning to blood, frogs covering the land, insect infestations, animals dying, Egyptians getting skin diseases, the sun stopping shining and the first-born child in Egyptian families being killed by an angel. God is said to have told **Moses** to tell the **Israelites** to paint lamb's blood on their doorposts. This way, the angel would know that Jewish people lived there. It would pass over that house and not kill the first-born child. This is where the name **Passover** comes from. For the last plague, even **Pharaoh's** own son was killed. He summoned **Moses** and told him to take the **Israelites** out of Egypt immediately. Finally, after 200 years of slavery, the Jewish people were free.



How is Passover celebrated?

- The Passover celebrations last for several days.
- People clean their houses very carefully, to make sure they get rid of any crumbs of chametz. These are crumbs from food that has been allowed to rise, like normal bread. Jewish people aren't allowed to eat this during Passover. This is because the Israelites had to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not have time to let their bread rise, so food products that have risen are forbidden during Passover.
- During the Seder meal, the door is also left open for the **prophet Elijah**, who is an important religious person, as it is believed he will come to announce the coming of the Messiah.
- Families also read the **Haggadah** - a book that tells the Passover story - with songs and blessings. Children will ask questions and everyone will discuss the story.

The Seder Meal



At the beginning of Passover in the evening, family and friends will get together for a meal and a special service called a Seder. There is a special Seder plate which has certain things on it:

- A lamb bone - This symbolises the sacrifice and blood from the lamb used on the doorposts
- A roasted egg - This is a symbol of sacrifice, but also of the Israelites' determination when they were going through such a difficult time, as the cooked egg is hard
- A green vegetable to dip in salt water - The green vegetable is a reference to new life, while the salt water symbolises the Israelite slaves' tears
- Bitter herbs, often horseradish - This symbolises the bitter suffering that the Israelites had to go through
- Charoset (a paste of chopped apples, walnuts and wine) - This is a symbol of the material used by the Israelites to make bricks while they were working as slaves
- As Jewish people cannot eat bread that has risen, they eat a special type of flat bread which hasn't risen (known as unleavened bread) called Matzah

THINKING POINT:

What does the ways Jews celebrate Passover tell us about how important it is for them to do as God asks?

EXIT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS: HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR JEWISH PEOPLE TO DO WHAT GOD ASKS THEM TO DO?

<u>EXS:</u>	<u>GDS:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you list (using the correct vocabulary) some of things which are special to Jews? • Can you identify foods that Jews can and cannot eat? • Can you describe some of the things Jews do to show respect to God? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you give examples of how Jews show they are in a special relationship with God?