# **Disposition: Remembering Roots**

## **Lesson:** Three

### Question/LO: How do Jewish people remember Pesach (Passover)?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | Recap story from last week by asking pupils the following questions:Who are the slaves or Hebrews today?How was the Pharaoh treating them?What happened as a result?How were the slaves or Hebrews kept safe?Why is it important to remember this story today?Explain that in that in this lesson you will explore how the event of ‘passing over’ or Pesach is remembered today.As preparing for a special time, we very often clean and get the home ready.As part of Pesach the home is thoroughly spring-cleaned to make sure that anything containing ‘chametz’ (leaven) is removed. Many Jewish people eat only chametz-free food and bread during the festive season. This itself is a reminder that when their ancestors left Egypt, they left so quickly and did not have time for the dough to rise to make their bread. Once the house is cleaned there is a ritual known as bedikat chametz (search for the chametz) which makes sure that no chametz has been overlooked during the cleaning – cupboards are checked and even down the back of the sofa examined. Some families deliberately hide ten pieces of chametz and ask children in the family to find them. This ensures that everywhere is searched thoroughly. You might like to carry out bedikat chametz in your classroom.The first evening of the festival friends and family gather for the Seder meal. It is an evening of remembering who they are as a people and about their relationship with God as a result. It is as if Jewish people today were there and that they were liberated by God. The youngest child at the gathering asks special questions which provide the opportunity for the retelling of the Pesach story and how God brought the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. This is the most significant part of the evening, to allow the retelling of the story, that this is a collective memory to be passed on. The important question: “What differentiates this night from all other nights, and why does this difference exist?” is answered with: “Because our fathers were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and God delivered us from there” illustrates the magnitude of the evening.During this meal a special plate with symbolic foods is also used to retell the story, before the main meal is eaten.Show the pupils a Seder plate – if you have an artefact or from the link provided. Explain the names and symbolism for the foods on the plate. You might ask pupils to suggest what they represent, before giving the answer:Haroset: a mixture of apples nuts and cinnamon. A reminder of the mortar used by slaves as part of their building workKarpas: usually parsley. This is dipped in saltwater before it is eaten. It represents the tears of the Hebrews as slavesMaror: horseradish. This is a biter sauce and reminds Jewish people of the bitterness of slavery.Hazeret: Lettuce – which sometimes can be bitter. Represents the first experience of the Hebrews in Egypt. Was fine at first the then turned sour.Zeroa: Roasted lamb. This is not eaten as part of the Seder but is symbolic of the sacrifices in the Temple and the blood of the lamb which was used on the door posts of the slaves so that the angel of death would pass over their homes.Betzah: roasted egg. Again, not eaten during the Seder but is a symbol of new life, of having left slavery and the journey to the promised land.Ask the pupils to draw a Seder plate and label the relevance of the items for the meal.Ask the pupils to plan their own important remembrance meal: - who would they take?- what food they would have?- why would they have that food? Either design a menu for this or draw the items on a paper plate. Pupils to share their ideas and talk through their choices. | Let My People Go 9781851752102 (also Big Book 9781851752096)FestivalsJean Gilbert ISBN 0193212854My Jewish Faith Anne Clarke ISBN 023751897-XSeder plate – artefactLink: seder plate - Bing images |
| Learning to discern | The festival of Pesach remembers the time when the Hebrew slaves were freed, but it also remembers the hardship and sadness of suffering. Discuss with pupils: Are there any events that I should try not to remember and celebrate? |  |