

What is Passover?

Passover commemorates the Biblical story of Exodus — where God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The celebration of Passover is described in the book of [Exodus in the Old Testament](#) (in Judaism, the first five books of Moses are called the Torah). The holiday is often celebrated for eight days ([seven in Israel](#)), and incorporates themes of springtime, a Jewish homeland, family, remembrance of Jewish history, social justice and freedom — including recognizing those who are still being oppressed today. All of these aspects are discussed, if not symbolically represented, during the Passover seder.

[The Seder](#) is a unique family time where families gather together to celebrate their common Jewish heritage. The main focus of the evening is the children who get to ask the '[Ma Nishtana](#) – 4 questions. Judaism is a continual tradition that has been passed on continuously for over three thousand years in the Jewish family. The Seder, gives us the opportunity to continue teaching that unbroken tradition to the next generation ensuring that the tradition will continue.

The Seder (literally 'Order') is a fifteen part order for an evening full of meaning and significance. The main parts include; eating Matzah, the unleavened cracker that our ancestors ate as they left Egypt, eating Maror, bitter herbs usually horseradish or romaine lettuce remembering the bitter times in Egypt drinking four cups of wine commemorating our freedom from slavery and telling the story of our slavery in Egypt and our miraculous Exodus. This story is told over in the ancient text of the Haggadah that we read at the Seder.

(Ref: [jccmb.com](#); [History of 7 Passover Traditions, time.com](#))