



HOPPY PASSOVER!

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Bunny siblings Violet and Simon happily learn about Passover as they help their family prepare for the seder. The items on the seder plate take on meaning for the pair, and the relatives share their favorite aspects of the holiday.

In millions of Jewish homes each spring, families take part in a scripted meal that commemorates the ancient Israelites' escape from Egyptian slavery and celebrates freedom for all people: the Passover seder. Central to each seder table is the seder plate. The plate itself can take many forms – from a simple child-decorated paper or Styrofoam “dish” to ornate, hand-painted china. On the seder plate we find traditional Passover symbols.

In *Hoppy Passover!*, Violet and Simon happily learn about the holiday while helping their family prepare for Passover. The items on the seder plate take on real meaning for them, as does the *matzoh* (a flat cracker-like bread, unleavened because of the Israelites' need to leave Egypt quickly, before the pharaoh changed his mind) and the practice of reclining on pillows (symbolic of the relaxation that only free people enjoy).

One of the main objectives of the Passover seder is to pass on its lessons to our children, ensuring that they will value freedom and come to understand how difficult it may be to acquire and keep. To bring relevance and delight to your family's Passover celebration, consider the family preparations for the holiday found on the back flap of this book.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Here are a few examples of activities and you and your family might consider trying after reading *Hoppy Passover!*:

- Create a “learning seder plate” from cardboard, clay or some other sturdy material, with separate pieces for the items typically found on it. Encourage your children to explore these objects and to sample several of the foods they'll encounter at the seder: parsley, *matzoh* or salt water, for example.
- Many melodies and lyrics are associated with Passover. Share some of these songs with your children before the holiday so that the music and words are familiar to them at the seder. CDs are available online or at many public libraries.
- Review with your children the favorite features of Passover that the Simon and Violet's family enjoyed. Make a list of your family's favorite aspects of the holiday. Keep your list and watch how it changes from year to year as your children—and you celebrations—grow. Pj

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