



exploring the exodus

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY
OF THE PASSOVER STORY

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

holiday**HISTORY**

Part 1

Prelude

A tour of the neighborhood. Our journey begins not in the land of the Pharaohs, but in Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilization, birthplace of Abraham and Sarah, the place where our story began. We follow in their footsteps, exploring the path that led them to the Promised Land, and eventually to Egypt. What did they see? What did they experience in a world so different from our own?

Part 2

The Descent

In the land of the Nile, we encounter Joseph, a young Hebrew slave who rises to become vizier of Egypt. Who was the Pharaoh that he served? What do we know about him from Egyptian records? Where exactly was Goshen? And what was life like for the Hebrews who toiled as slaves in Egypt?

Part 3

Liberation

For generations, scholars have searched for evidence of the Exodus outside of the Biblical account. What have they found? Dating; As your single friends can tell you, dating is hard! What are we to make of conflicting chronologies?

Part 4

Festival of our Freedom

The Passover festival has been observed for thousands of years. How did our ancestors celebrate this momentous occasion? Can we find any mention of the festival in non-traditional sources? Who authored the Haggadah, the guide to the Seder night? What was so special about that famous Seder in Benei Berak, which has become the model for our own Passover celebrations?