

# PARSHA POINTS

## LITTLE GEMS

Y.M.T.O.I. is excited to include for the very first time a special Passover story for the younger children. You can read this story as is or you can print out the characters (at the end of this document) and Hebrew numbers flashcards ([http://www.mtoi.org/ymtoid/parshas/passover\\_edition\\_5777/passover\\_edition\\_hebrew\\_numbers.pdf](http://www.mtoi.org/ymtoid/parshas/passover_edition_5777/passover_edition_hebrew_numbers.pdf)) to use as props. We hope you enjoy.

### Passover Story

Shalom children! I am glad we are all here together. This is a very special time of year. We will spend this week remembering a lot of things that happened a long time ago. There are things that we do today that were commanded by Yahweh way, way back in time, long before you and I were ever born.

I want to take you back to a story that you may remember from one of our lessons not too long ago. This is the story of when the Yisra'elites were finally getting to leave Mitsrayim. They had just seen Yahweh use His mighty power to force Pharaoh into letting the Yisra'elites go, and now it was almost time for them to leave and start the journey to their new home. But before they did that, Yahweh had some special instructions for them. Yahweh told Mosheh that something was going to happen during their last night in Mitsrayim, and it was very important that they listen and obey and do exactly as He instructed.

First, He told the Yisra'elites that this month was to be the very first month of the year for them. **(Hold up number 1 flashcard and say it in Hebrew—Achat.)** Now the Yisra'elites had a way to know when Yahweh expected them to do things.

Next, He told them in this first month, on day 10 **(hold up number 10 flashcard and say it in Hebrew—Eser)**, they were to get a 1 year old male lamb or goat to cook for the whole family. Now, some of you may be thinking, "Gross! A lamb or goat?" But these were things the Yisra'elites liked to eat, the same way you may like chicken nuggets or hot dogs.

Yahweh then gave the next set of instructions. It began with how to choose the lamb or the goat. The first rule was that it had to be perfect. That means it couldn't have broken bones, or have an eye out, or have a limp, or anything like that. **(Place sheep and goats on board, then pull out the perfect lamb.)** Now, Yahweh does love all His creatures, even if they have a limp or don't look quite perfect. But He makes everything for a purpose, and for this special meal they were about to eat, He wanted them to have a perfect lamb or goat. **(Point to the perfect lamb.)**

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Yahweh told them that they had to keep the animal until the fourteenth day of the month. **(Hold up number 14 flashcard and say it in Hebrew—Arbah Esreh.)** Since the animals were outside all the time and could get hurt or run away, they probably needed someone to care for that special lamb or goat to make sure it was safe. **(Place boy or girl near the lamb.)** Because the adults were so busy getting ready to leave Mitsrayim, it was probably a little boy or girl just like you. Do you think you could take good care of that lamb or goat?

Okay, so if they chose their lamb or goat on the tenth day of the month and now it is the fourteenth day, how many days did they keep that animal safe? **(Can you count with me? Hold up number 1, 2, 3, 4 flashcards and say them in Hebrew—Achat, Shtayim, Shalosh, Arba.)**

Yahweh then told the Yisra'elites how to cook the lamb. Not that they didn't know how to cook, but for this occasion, He wanted to make sure they didn't boil it the way you would boil, say, a stew. And they definitely couldn't eat it raw. Now, you may think, "Oh, gross! Who eats raw meat?" Well, if you have ever eaten beef jerky, or any other type of jerky, you have had meat that wasn't cooked. And back in Mitsrayim, they probably got used to drying meat. But, as I said before, Yahweh had special instructions; He wanted the Yisra'elites to be sure to eat the food exactly the way He told them to. Yahweh said to roast the lamb—the whole thing, legs and head too. Then they probably made it look nice on their plates. **(Place roasted lamb on board.)**

There was one more rule about the lamb: the whole family was told to share and eat the meal. That means everyone! There was no saying, "Gross! I don't want that for dinner!" No rules about a 'no-thank-you' bite. Do you have a 'no-thank-you' bite rule in your family? Some families have a rule that you have to take a bite of your food before you can say, "No thank you, I don't like it." Well, no such rule here! Instead, one of the rules was that all the lamb had to be eaten—no leftovers.

Now of course, Yahweh wouldn't want us to be wasteful. He knew that some families were small and some families were big. **(Place several families on board.)** So He said that if a family was too small to finish off a whole lamb or goat, then they could share it with another family. Yahweh always thinks of everything, doesn't He? He also told them that just in case there was still some leftover meat, they had to burn whatever was left over by the next morning.

You may wonder how you can get full on just lamb or goat, but they had other things to eat with their meal. One thing they were to eat was unleavened bread—I bet you all

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know what this is. (**Place unleavened bread on board and let the children answer matzah.**) We will be eating it all week, and you already had some at the Seder. They were also to eat bitter herbs. (**Place bitter herbs on board.**) Maybe that didn't sound very yummy, but remember that everyone had to eat the special dinner.

Now, there were not just rules about how to prepare the food and what to eat, there were also rules about how to dress, and things they had to do to their houses. First, after getting the lamb ready to roast, they had to take some of its blood and put it all around the door. (**Place door with blood on board.**) Now, I know we talked about the 10 plagues of Mitsrayim before, but in this story we can explain a little more about that tenth plague. Yahweh was going to pass through the whole land as a Destroyer. When He did, all the first born of both humans and animals would die.

But Yahweh wanted to protect His people. He knew that if the people trusted Him, they would do as He said. That way, when He came to their houses, He would see the blood on their doors and just pass over their homes, and their firstborn wouldn't die. Okay, did anyone catch that? Do you understand why we have a Passover celebration now? It's so that we will always remember that Yahweh passed over His people, the Yisra'elites, and they didn't die.

Remember how I said they had to dress a specific way? Well, it's not like they had to wear special clothes, but they had to be ready to rush out to go on this big journey. In order to help them move faster, Yahweh told them to gird their loins. Say what??!! Sure, that phrase may sound funny to you, because it's not one that we use nowadays. But back then, everyone wore long robes. (**Point to the families on board.**) And let me tell you, if you try to run in a long robe, you are not getting very far. Well, maybe far down on the floor from falling, but you know what I mean! So each person had to grab the back of his robe, bring it forward, and tuck it into his belt. (**Place girded man on board.**) And tada—they had pants! Well, sort of. Anyway, it kept their legs free so they could move faster. And guess what else? No bare feet. I am guessing maybe they were used to coming home from a long day of making bricks, kicking off their sandals, stretching their toes, and sitting down to chill in their favorite chair. But there was no time for chilling that night! Yahweh wanted them to be ready to go. Don't bother getting comfortable for dinner; keep your staff handy and be all packed and ready to hit the road.

Okay, so let's now take a look at how the moon would look on the day the Yisra'elites left Mitsrayim. (**Place 15<sup>th</sup> day moon and hold up number 15 flashcard and say it in Hebrew—Chamesh Esreh.**) That sure looks like a bright, full moon, doesn't? As we said before, Yahweh thinks of everything, doesn't He? Of course He does. He is

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Yahweh, and He always looks out for His people. When the Yisra'elites finally left Mitsrayim, they had a beautiful full moon to light up the dark night so they could see.

Now we know what day they were to eat the meal, what they were to eat, how they were to cook the meal, how they needed to dress for the meal, and what they needed to do to protect their homes. **(You can pause here and review the parts.)** But if they only did that meal for one day, do you wonder why we celebrate for a whole week? Yahweh actually answers that in Deuteronomy 6:20-25. **(Teacher should read the verses.)**

Once they left Mitsrayim, they would be settling into their new home. When they got comfortable there, Yahweh wanted them never to forget about this day. That's why He said to celebrate this day for 7 days every year, in the same month, from the 15<sup>th</sup> day until the 21<sup>st</sup> day. **(Hold up number 7 flashcard and say it in Hebrew—Sheva.)** Yahweh said, "When you get to your new home, every year at the same time, I want you to make a big feast and take off from your jobs on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month through the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the month. And between those days, do not eat any bread with leavening in it; only eat unleavened bread. That way, you'll have time to talk to your children and teach them why we celebrate this feast."

And that is exactly why we are talking about this today. It's our job to tell you why we celebrate Passover every year, and why we eat matzah all this week. Maybe it's not so much fun when you're not allowed to eat cookies and cakes and some other things you may like to eat, but it's not a punishment. No, it's because when we get away from our everyday routines, we also stop and think. Long ago, those Yisra'elites were anxiously waiting to be told when they could leave. They had to eat their whole meal, while they listened to some very sad sounds going on outside. So during this week, whenever you eat that piece of matzah, remember the story of the first Passover and how blessed we are to enjoy Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread with our friends and family and most of all that Yahweh saved His people.