**Covenants/Judaism**

**Passover Meal**

**Seder –** Passover meal

**Matzah** – unleavened bread

**Hagadah** – telling the story

**Chametz** – bread that contains yeast or grain

**Haroset** – apple and honey

**Examples from the bible of the covenants God made e.g. Moses, Noah, Abraham**

**Noah** – The story of Noah is about a great flood that covered the earth because the people had become corrupt. Only Noah was found to be upright and so he survived with his family. God showed how special the whole human family is by making a covenant – a solemn promise – with Noah that the world would never be destroyed by flooding again.

**Abraham –** God made a covenant with Abraham and all that he promised came true. God made several promises to him: that he would have a land to live in, he would have a son, and a great nation would be descended from him. It is a story of faith and Abraham became known ‘our father in faith’

*“Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield: your reward will be great”*

**Moses –** God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and to bring them into the wilderness so that he could make a covenant with them. He asked him to take a message back to the Israelites that he was always with them and to lead them out of Egypt and away from their miserable lives of slavery. Moses questioned God’s decision “Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” However, Moses trusted in God and if God promised to save and protect his people, God would not let them down. Moses found happiness by answering God’s call and helping the Israelites flee Egypt.

**The importance of the Passover meal for Jews today**

For over 3,000 years, Jews have continued to celebrate the Passover. For them it not only recalls their escape from Egypt and slavery but also the start own nation. Most importantly, it is a celebration of God’s goodness and faithfulness to the Covenant.

God commanded the Israelites to mark their freedom with an annual festival called Pesach. It commemorates their total reliance on God’s help for no human power could have taken them out of slavery. This celebration takes the form of a special meal called Seder.

The story is not just told through words. Each item of food on the Seder plate is a symbol calling to mind a different aspect of the story.

*“Blessed art thou, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments, and command us to eat unleavened cakes”*

**The Exodus and Plagues**

God through Moses commanded Pharaoh nine times: *“Let my people go”.* Each time Pharaoh refused, God sent a plague that caused widespread destruction throughout Egypt.

**First Plague: Blood.** In the first plague the Lord turned the water of the Nile River into blood. **Second Plague: Frogs.** In the next plague the Lord sent frogs throughout the land of Egypt. **Third Plague: Lice.** In the third plague the Lord sent lice. **Fourth Plague: Flies.** In the fourth plague the Lord sent flies, **Fifth Plague: Disease on Livestock.** In the fifth plague God sent a terrible disease on the cattle. **Sixth Plague: Boils.** In the six plague the Lord sent open sores or boils on the skin. **Seventh Plague: Hail.** The next plague the Lord sent a great hail and when it landed on the ground it turned into fire. **Eighth Plague: Locusts.** In the eighth plague the Lord sent a miserable plague of locusts. **Ninth Plague: Darkness.** The ninth plague was a great darkness throughout the land of Egypt, a darkness which could be felt. **Tenth Plague: Death of the First-Born.** Moses revealed his anger by this time, this was because of Pharaoh's rejection even in the midst of all the suffering. God sent the Angel of death to go throughout the land of Egypt, and if anyone did not have the blood of a lamb placed upon the doorpost of their house, that house would be smitten by the death Angel. The Israelites were quick to obey God, and the Egyptians suffered greatly with the loss of their firstborn, even in the house of Pharaoh

The Exodus is the name given to the journey the Israelites set out on. The book in the Bible that contains this story is also called Exodus because it is the account of the Israelites’ journey from Egypt to the land God gave them. The story of the Exodus is about the weak and the powerless eventually winning – being victorious – because they put their faith in God. True to his word God guided and protected the Israelites as they left Egypt.