Long ago, Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. Pharaoh hated the Jews. He made the Jews slaves. Slaves work hard every day. Slaves do not rest or play or have vacations. The Jewish slaves made bricks and built tall buildings called pyramids. If the Jews did not want to work the Egyptians would hurt them.

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One day a Jewish woman had a baby. She did not want her baby to be a slave and work hard. She wanted her baby to be free. She put her baby in a basket, then she put the basket in the river. The baby in the basket floated on the river until a princess saw the basket. She took the baby and raised him like he was her own son. She named him Moses.

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When Moses grew up, he saw a bush. The bush was on fire! Moses heard God's voice coming from the bush. God spoke to Moses. God said: "I do not want the Jewish people to be slaves. Go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go."

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So Moses went to Pharaoh, just like God had told him to. Moses said, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh did not want the Jews to go. He liked having slaves to build his pyramids. So Pharaoh said, "No no no! I will not let them go!"

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God was very angry that Pharaoh would not let the Jews go free. So he sent ten plagues to the Egyptians, each one worse than the last.

The plagues made life for the Egyptians miserable. After the tenth plague, Pharaoh told Moses, "I am tired of plagues. The Jews are free. Go away and leave Egypt!"

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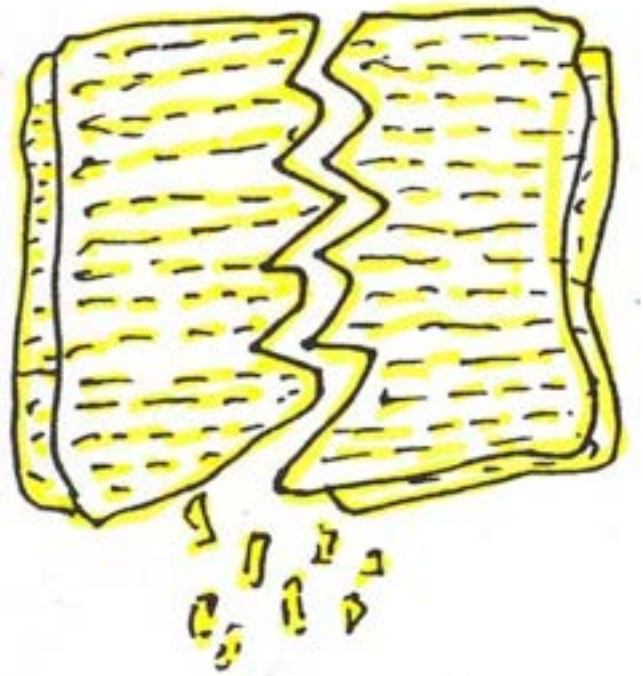

The Jews got ready to leave Egypt quickly. They were afraid that Pharaoh would change his mind and make them slaves again. Some of the Jews were making bread when it was time to leave, but there was no time to let the bread rise and grow soft. Instead, it was flat and crunchy like a cracker. The Jews called this matzah and took it with them as they ran away.

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After the Jews left Egypt, Pharaoh did change his mind. He liked having the Jews be his slaves and build his pyramids. Pharaoh sent his army to chase the Jews. The Jews ran away from Pharaoh's army until they came to the sea. But they could not cross the sea; they were stuck! Moses raised his arms, and God split the sea in two, with a path in the middle for the Jews to walk on safely. The Jews walked through the ocean. Then, God brought the sea back together again so the Egyptians could not chase them. The Jews were free, and they thanked God by singing and dancing.

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Today on Passover we celebrate how the Jews were freed from being slaves. We celebrate by having a Seder. A Seder is a special meal where we say blessings, sing songs, and enjoy being with our families.

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We read the Haggadah at the Seder. The Hagaddah tells the story of how the Jews left Egypt. It also tells us which blessings to say.

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And we celebrate that the Jews are free by eating matzah instead of bread for one week. This helps us to remember that the Jews in the Passover story ate matzah when they left Egypt.

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