



4 Tips for Using the Passover Discovery Kit in Your Community

By Jonathan Shmidt Chapman

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4 Tips for Using the Passover Discovery Kit in Your Community

At the Jewish Grandparents Network, we are thrilled to offer you resources and ideas for engaging the grandparents in your community — whether their grandchildren live close by or at a distance.

Last year, we launched the Holiday Discovery Kit series, created by Jewish educator and author Jonathan Shmidt Chapman — six interactive guides designed to help grandparents bring the Jewish holidays to life through play with their grandchildren.

Here are tips and suggestions for using and adapting the activities in the [Passover Discovery Kit](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/passover-discovery-kit/); (<https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/passover-discovery-kit/>). You can use them as part of a live program or share them with your community to explore at home.

1. Host a workshop for grandparents on engaging their grandchildren in the Seder.

Grandparents are eager to have tips for bringing the Seder to life with grandchildren. Offer a session, either in person or virtually, to share activities from our Discovery Kit on how to creatively involve grandchildren during the Seder experience. You can lead the activities with the grandparents as participants, so that they experience them in a hands-on way. Provide an opportunity during the workshop for them to ask questions and seek guidance so they feel more confident and prepared to engage guests of different ages at the Seder table.

Here are activities from the Discovery Kit that you can lead with grandparents as a demo and provide to them as a resource for their Seder at home. For example:

- Act out the story of Passover using our basic script on pages 10–11. Explore how they can use this script as part of a Seder, either assigning parts in advance, or having guests add sound effects to the story as you tell it.
- Explore the Passover story through our senses with the activity on pages 15–16. Share how they can use this activity before or during the Seder.

- Create slogan signs exploring the concept of freedom with the activity on page 18.
- Offer the additional resource of JGN's 10-Minute Dayenu Seder, an easy-to-use, colorful, condensed Haggadah.

2. Create a drop-in activity to explore the Discovery Kit in your community.

You can offer a printed set of activities that you give out, or a material pack with a pack of supplies to take home. Alternatively, you can create a drop-in activity at your organization for grandparents and grandchildren (perhaps as a special event in the early childhood program, or as an add-on hour to religious school classes) to attend as a way to explore these activities in community.

Here are some activities from the kit we recommend you focus on:

- Offer our short kid-friendly retelling of the Exodus Story on pages 8 and 9 to tell at home during the Seder.
- Provide the template for making the "Four-Cups Puppets" on pages 13 and 14 that grandparents and grandchildren can create and decorate to use at their family Seder.
- Offer the "Four Grandparents-Grandchildren" activity on Page 19 to use as a creative re-interpretation of the Four Children section of the Seder.
- Share the "Afikoman Scavenger Hunt" activity on page 5 as a way for families to get creative with the search for the Afikomen at the Seder.

3. Share an activity for decorating the Seder table, and run a photo contest.

Encourage grandparents and grandchildren to create a miniature version of the story of Passover on their Seder table, using household items and their imaginations. See the activity on page 12. Ask families to snap a photo and share their creation by sending you an email or posting on social media and tagging your organization. With families' permission, you can share the photos on social media to highlight their creations and inspire other families throughout the eight days of Passover.

4. Send a dedicated e-blast or social media post sharing the kit with grandparents who don't live near their grandchildren.

Grandparents who live far from their children and grandchildren may miss them more

than usual during the Passover holiday. You can share the kit, or specific activities, as a way for grandparents to connect with their grandchildren from afar. Provide tips for incorporating guests into a Seder virtually through video chat, using the activities as a guide. In addition to making all the grandparents in your community feel seen, you will also be able to expand the impact of your programming by including a wider network of families.



Download all six [Holiday Discovery Kits](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/holiday-discovery-kits/):

(<https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/holiday-discovery-kits/>).

Please share your ideas and creative adaptations with us as well, so we can learn from the ways you engage your community. Contact Avery Markel, JGN's Director of Community Engagement: avery@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org

Happy Passover!