

Passover Finger Puppets

Finger puppets encourage creative play and communication and give you a great opportunity to share the Passover story with your kids in a way that won't bore them to tears. Even better: They're a snap to make. (Once Passover is over, you can recast the puppets as fairy tale characters or anything else your child enjoys.)

Need a refresher of the Passover story? See below for a summary to share with your child while making the puppets.

What You Need:

- Paper or cardstock
- Pen or pencil
- Felt
- Scissors
- Needle and thread
- Decoration materials, including cotton balls, beads, fabric scraps, etc.



What You Do:

1. Start by tracing a shape about 1/2-inch wider around than your child's middle finger on a piece of paper or sturdy card stock. This is the pattern for your puppets.
2. Now, cut out two pieces of felt for each puppet. (We usually make three at a time because the three middle fingers are the best suited for holding finger puppets.) For Moses, we used a light brown felt, for the Pharaoh a dark brown felt and for Aaron, pink felt, but any colors would work fine. Use a needle and thread to sew along the edges of the felt, sewing the two pieces together and leaving the bottom opening unsewn. Turn the puppets inside out so that the seams are inside.
3. Now's the fun part: decorating. Use a cotton ball to give Moses a beard and embroidery thread to make his eyes and mouth. A little more cotton ball gave him bushy eyebrows. Leftover fabric makes him a shepherd's headdress and little robe. Aaron gets the same treatment, minus the cotton ball beard. For the Pharaoh, we used a mismatched thrift store earring to make a fancy crown and black yarn for his hair. We made his white tunic out of an old T-shirt.

The Passover Story:

A long time ago in Egypt, the Hebrew people were slaves for the Egyptians. Moses was born to a Hebrew family. When Moses was a baby, the king of Egypt, who was called the Pharaoh and who was cruel to his slaves, ordered that all the Hebrew baby boys be killed. To save her son, Moses's mother made him a basket of reeds and sent him floating down the river. He was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter, who brought him up as her own son and a prince of Egypt.

When Moses grew up, God came to him in the form of a burning bush and told Moses to set his people free so that they would no longer be slaves of the Egyptians. Moses was nervous at first, but he agreed to do what God wanted and went with his brother Aaron to ask the Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go free. The Pharaoh refused over and over again, and every time he said "no," God made something bad happen for the Egyptians. Finally, Moses warned the Pharaoh that if he didn't let the Hebrews go free, God would kill all the first-born sons of the Egyptians. The Pharaoh still said "no," so Moses and Aaron showed the Hebrew people how to mark their doors with sheep's blood so that the angel of death would know to "pass over" those houses and not kill the boys inside. (That's where the name Passover comes from.)

When the Pharaoh's own oldest son died, the Pharaoh finally agreed to let the Hebrews go, but at the last minute, he decided to chase them and bring them back to be slaves. God helped the Hebrews by parting the Red Sea so they could cross safely and then letting the water crash down on the Egyptian soldiers who were chasing them. The Hebrews were free! You can read the whole story of Moses in the Torah, or the Old Testament, in the book of Exodus.

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