

Rabbi Berkowitz's Class Before Passover

- b This Mozoe Shabbos is going to be some special night, who remembers what this special Holiday is called?
(14:00:42)
- c Passover
- b Passover
(14:00:55)
- b What is the Holiday Passover? What happened on Passover?
- c All the Jews went out of Egypt.
(14:01:07)
- b What were the Jews doing in Egypt, were they having a good time there?
- c No
- b What was in Egypt? What did they have to do?
- c Work hard
(14:01:17)
- b They had to work very hard. Well, now I have a very difficult question to ask. Who went out of Egypt?
- c The Jews.
- b Who else went out of Egypt?
- c All the Jews
(14:01:36)
- b And even the children of this class, Yes?
- c Yes.
- b Where would all the children be if G-d hadn't taken all the Jews out of Egypt?
- c In Egypt
- b What would you have had to do?
- c Work
(14:01:49)
- b Work very hard. Very good. O.K. We will say now together the Kaddesh Urechatz, O.K? First let us sing together.
(14:01:59)

- b&c Kaddesh, Urechatz, Karpas, Yachatz, Maggid, Rachzah, Motzie Mazah, Maror, Korech, Shulchan Orech, Zafon, Berach, Hallel, Nirtzah.
- b All the children together:
(14:02:28)
- c Kaddesh: When the father comes home from Shul, he puts on his white robe and makes QUICKLY Kiddush, so that the small children should not fall asleep.
- b Very good. So what does the father do? Does he sit and have a conversation when he comes home from Shul?
- c No, you have to make immediately Kiddush.
- b Oh, why do you make Kiddush right away?
- c So that the children don't fall asleep.
- b Why do the children need to be up, who knows?
- c So that they say the Hagaddah. Also the Ma Nishtanah.
- b Very good. Oh, who knows, there is once a year that you're allowed to steal. Who knows, what are you allowed to steal?
- c The Afikoman.
- b The Afikoman. Who knows why you're allowed to take the Afikoman?
- c Because you're supposed to eat the Afikoman.
- b Yes, but why are you allowed to take it away, do you know?
- c Does not respond
- b Because we want the children to be up, right? You should be able to ask for good presents, right? And if you'll be sleeping, you won't be able to ask for presents, right?
- c I'm going to ask for a car.
- b You're going to ask for a car, a real one? What are you going to do with it?
- c Responding together... A school bus.

- b A school bus, a real school bus, Oh, we won't need Moshe any more. We will let the bus driver know, O.K?
- c Talking all together about their gift choices...
- b A fire truck are you going to be or a fire man?
- c Talking, screaming altogether...
- b A fire truck or a fireman?
- c Children screaming together...
- b You can't be a fire truck...
- c Talking altogether...
- b What are you going to ask?
- c Talking screaming together...
- b You're going to be the school bus driver, I already heard, what are you going to be?
- c Talking, screaming altogether...
- b A policeman, ... I'll be very afraid to come to Yeshiva over here. I'm going to have a class of bus drivers, and fireman and policeman. I'll be afraid to come here.
- c Screaming, talking together...
- b O.K. Now we know what Kaddesh means. right?
- c Right,
- b Now, what comes, what is the next thing?
- c Urechatz
- b Let us all sing together.
- b&c Urechatz,

- c You wash your hands, and you DO NOT make a Berach, "Al netilas Yadayim".
- b Why don't you make a bracha "Al netilas Yadayim"?
- c Because you don't eat Matzah yet.
- b Oh, not the first time, so what do you do after Urechatz? What do you eat after Urechatz?
- c Karpas
- b Oh, let us hear what Karpas means.
- c Together: You take a piece of vegetable, you dip it into salty water, and you make a Bracha: "Boreh Pri Haadamah", and you keep in mind to do away with the Maror.
- b Very good. What do you eat, a jumbo piece of the Karpas?
- c No, more together response... Matzos,
- b Because we need to be hungry when we go eat the Matzah, right? So we only eat..
- c A small piece, a tiny weeny.
- b Oh, I totally forgot... What do we dip the Karpas into?
- c In salt water.
- b Why do we dip the Karpas in salt water?
- c Because they were crying, their tears...
- b Why did they cry?
- c Because the Goyim were hitting them.
- b The Goyim were hitting them... and what do tears taste like?
- c Salty water.
- b Oh, that's why we dip into salt water. Very good. We are finished with the Karpas. What goes next?

- c Together screaming: Yachatz
- b Yachatz
- c Together: You take the middle Matzah that's called "Levi", You break it in two,
- b Very good. What goes next?
- c Maggid.
- b Maggid
- c You say the Haggadah, from "Ha Lachma Anya" till
- b Very good. And what goes after "Ha Lachma Anya", we ask the four...
- c Questions.
- b But we need to do something before we ask the four questions. What do we do before we ask the four questions?
- c We pour the second cup.
- b We pour the second cup. Very good. Now you want to ask the four questions, out loud.
- c Dear father, I want to ask you the four questions.
Ma Nishtana, Why is different,
Halila Hazeh, This night of Passover
Mikol Haleilos, from all the other nights of the year.

The first question is,

Shebechol Haleilos, all the nights of the entire year,
Anu Ochlim, we eat, both, Chametz & Matzah,
Halaila Hazeh, but this night of Passover,
Qulo Matzoh, we are only allowed to eat Matzoh.

The second question is,

Shebechol Haleilos, all the nights of the entire year,
Anu Ochlim, we eat, Shear Yerakot, all types of vegetables,
Haleila Hezeh, but this night of Passover,

Maror, we must eat Maror.

The third question is,

Shebechol Haleilos, all the nights of the entire year,
Ain Anu Matbilim, We don't dip,
Afilu Paam Achas, Even not once
Halaila Hazeh, but the night of Passover,
Shtei Peamim, we dip two times, once Karpas in salt
water, and once Maror in Charoses.

The fourth question is,

Shebechol Haleilos, all the nights of the entire year,
Anu Ochlim, we eat,
Bein Yoshvim, either sitting,
Uvein Mesubin, or leaning,
Haleila Hazeh, but the night of Passover,
Qulanu Mesubim, We all eat leaning.

- b Very good. Now let us see whether we know the answers to the four questions.
Why do we eat Passover Matzohs? And why do we eat Maror Passover?
- c Because it was bitter in Egypt.
- b Because it was bitter in Egypt, You had to work very hard. Who knows the third question, why we dip twice, once Karpas in salt water, and once Maror in Charoses. O.K. The Karpas in salt water we already explained, because the Jews... And why do we dip Maror in Charoses?
- c Because Maror looks like cement
- b What looks like cement?
- c Charoses
- b Charoses, What do we make Charoses from? From apples, nuts and wine, right? And when we mix this together, what does this look like? Like cement. And what did the Jews need to work hard with in Egypt?
- c With cement
- b With cement, and that's why we dip the Maror in Charoses.

The fourth question is, why do we eat Passover at night in a leaning fashion?

- c Because when the Jews came out of Egypt they felt like kings,
b and a king always eats
b&c in a leaning fashion.
- b So Passover at night, all the fathers are kings. Oh, I forgot, by Urechatz, does the father need to go wash, or do they bring him the water?
- c They bring him the water.
- b Why do they bring him the water?
- c Because he is like a king.
- b Oh, and a king doesn't have to go to a sink, right? They bring him the...
c water.
- b Very good. O.K. What goes now, Rach...
c Rachzah
- b&c Rachzah, You wash your hands and you DO make a bracha, "Al netilas Yadayim".
- b Motzie, You...
c Take all 3 Matzohs, make a bracha Hamozie Lechem Min Haaretz.
- b Matzah,
c You take the Cohen with Levi and you make a bracha "Asher Kiddishanu Bemitzvosav Vetzivanu Al Achilas Matzah".
- b Maror:
c You take a measurement of Maror and you dip this into Charoses and you make the Bracha "Asher Kiddishanu Bemitzvosav Vetzivanu Al Achilas Maror".
- b Korech

- c You take two pieces of Matzah, you put in Maror and you say, "Zecher Lemikdash Kehilel".
- b The Korech and Maror you eat leaning?
- c No,
- b Why?
- c
- b and Korech you did eat leaning?
- c Yes,
- b Even though there is Maror inside?
- c Yes, because there are also two Matzos.
- b Oh, there are Matzohs too, very good.
Shulchan Orech,
- c You eat and drink and Holiday Seudah.
- b Tzafun
- c You take out the hidden Afikomen.
- b And when do you drink the third cup?
- c After we say the blessing (benching)
- b After the benching. O.K., for whom do we pour a cup after the benching,
some big cup, who is it for?
- c Eliyahu Hanavi
- b And who do we open the door after?
- c For Eliyahu Hanavi, so that he could drink from the cup.
- b So that he could drink from the cup. Very good. What wine does Eliyahu
Hanavi like?
- c Red

- b Red wine, what type of wine do we use for the Seder, Red or white?
- c Red.
- b Why?
- c So that we should remember blood.
- b Aha, very good. O.K., now we're going to pour the 4th cup, what are we going to say on the 4th cup?
- c (Answer erased...)
- b Children, who remembers, where did we go to last week with the bus, in middle of the day?
- c To the Matzoh Bakery.
- b Matzoh Bakery, You went twice. Who saw that they do by the Matzohs?
- c They make Matzohs.
- b O.K. One person was standing and had water, right? and the other person had flour. His job is that he takes the water and flour, and mixes them together, and what does he make out of it? A...
- c A dough
- b A dough, yes? (Children interact...) So now we have one father that put the flour and one father that mixed the flour, Right? O.K., and what do we do afterwards with the dough? You mix it very well and you make a long dough. Then someone else stands with a knife and cuts off small pieces, and he gave it to a bunch of people. What did these people do with their small pieces of dough?
They took a rolling pin and started rolling it out, and when it was a large round Matzah, someone put it on a stick, and ran quickly with it to a table. He put it on the table, and what did a person do with it?
- c He made holes
- b He made holes, right? After they made holes, they put it on a large pole, a person ran with it and put it into the...

- c Oven
- b Oven. Do they leave it very long inside?
- c No, because it becomes Chometz.
- b They do it very quickly, right? Out come nice Matzohs. The person has a shovel and he takes it out with a shovel.
- c Like the one that you break the ice with.
- b No, not such a shovel, you can break all the Matzohs in this manner.
- c Interacting...
- b A long shovel...
- c Interacting...
- b Did you hear what they say during the baking? All yell: "Leshem Matzohs Mitzvah", Did you all hear? You saw a bunch of ladies that made Matzohs, right? Each time they put new dough on the table, what did they all say? "Leshem Matzoh Mitzvah," Let us hear from all the children, what did they say... Leshem...
- c "Leshem Matzoh Mitzvah"... There are a bunch of bakeries, Stolin, Belzer, Satmar and Lubavitcher bakery, in Crown Heights, right?...
- c&b Interaction re Matzohs.
- b Who can help me sing "Vehi Sheamdah"?
- c Me.... Singing Vehi Sheamdah...
- b At the end of the Seder we sing "Leshana Habaa", yes? Let us all sing together... Singing Leshana Habaa...

It has something to do with Purim too. Do you remember a few weeks ago was Purim?
- c Yes,

- b The second day of Passover, we eat something at the Seudah during the day to remember Purim. Do you know why? Because the 2nd day of Passover is the day the hung... who did they hang?
- c Haman
- b Haman. The 2nd day of Passover they hung Haman, so that when we eat the Seudah the 2nd day of Passover, we eat something and we say, that this is for the Seudah that Queen Esther made. Do you remember Queen Esther? How many festivities did she make?
- c Two
- b Two, and at the 2nd festivity when Achashvarosh asked her what she wanted, she told him about Haman, right? And then what did they do with Haman?
- c They hung him
- b When was that? The second day of Passover. O.K?
Discussion regarding cleaning the prayer books from Chametz in preparation of Passover... Is that how you did all the books at home? Yes? Very good. And tomorrow night we're going to do something. What are we going to do tomorrow night?
- c Chametz.
- b What are we going to do with the Chametz?
- c Hide it.
- b Are we going to hide it or look for it?
- b&c Interaction. Sends one of the children for a candle. Does not have. Interaction regarding searching for Chametz... Oh, he found real Chometz, he found a pretzel, real Chometz. Now I'm going to sweep...etc. etc. lengthy interaction with children...
- c Each of you will be Bodek Chometz... Having fun with the children looking for Chometz - lengthy episode...
- b Who did the Mitzvah of Honoring your mother and father before Passover, there is a special thing that you can do...
- c Me...

- b What did you do before Passover? Who helped? You cleaned your room before Passover?
- c All screaming together...
- b You cleaned your floor?