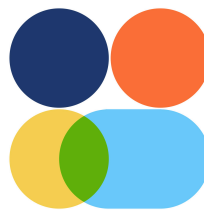


# LESSON PLAN



Theme Preparations for the *Seder*

Grade Level(s)

3-5

Time of lesson 40 Minutes

### Key Ideas

- In addition to not eating bread, some Jews completely rid their houses of bread products- known in Hebrew as *chametz*- this is called *bedikat chametz*
- *Bedikat chametz* is not only about ridding the house of real *chametz*, but also about ridding ourselves of things in our lives that are holding us back from being the best versions of ourselves.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- To review the meaning of the word “chametz” or leaven.
- To understand what *bedikat chametz* is and how it is done
- To connect *bedikat chametz* with making ourselves better people

### Materials & Resources

- Have the technology available for students to watch a YouTube video together
- Ensure that flashlights are all in working order

### Warm-up and Overview

- Start the lesson by having the students watch this video from Six13:
  - [youtube.com/watch?v=qervY5HSzqM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qervY5HSzqM)

### Introduction

Explain that one way we prepare for Passover is to clean all of the *chametz* out of our house! One custom for doing this is by using a feather, wooden spoon, and a candle. Traditionally, we turn the lights off in the house and use the candle to search for the *chametz* that we then sweep onto the spoon and put the crumbs into a paper bag to burn the next day. We do this the night before the first *seder* of Passover once it is nightfall. This is called “*bedikat chametz*”- the search for the *chametz*. This can symbolize ridding ourselves from anything we do not want to be anymore and to remind us that we can always start fresh!

### Specific Accomodations

- Pay attention to how loud the sound on the video is and make sure individuals are seated to be able to comfortably hear and see the video.
- Use captions for the video.

## Activity

- *Bedikat Chametz* scavenger hunt: Break students up into teams. Each team will be given a flashlight, a paper bag, and a list of items they need to find and “burn” in order to rid the classroom of *chametz*.
  - Note: some of the items should be actual *chametz* (bread, crackers, etc.), while others should be things we want to metaphorically get rid of (like being disrespectful to a teacher, excluding a friend from an activity, etc.). You may use the examples and photographs included, or come up with your own!
- Hide all of these things as well as other decoy items and have students search the room for them.

## Specific Accommodations

- Allow student to answer question in various ways- in front of the group, in pairs, or by writing down/drawing their answer

## Options for Extensions

- Encourage the students to think about why we might use *chametz* as a metaphor.
- Ask students to think about how this activity can be improved for use in future classes.

## Options for Remediation

- Intentionally group students for activity. Thinking about group dynamics, inclusivity, and skill level.
- Remove any barriers and obstacles from the area that might cause safety concerns.

## Review and Closing

- At the end of the game, each team should present each piece of their *chametz* (metaphorical and real) and explain why they are throwing it into the “fire” (i.e. because it is made with wheat and we can’t eat that on Passover or because it is an action I want us to get rid of as a class)

## Specific Accommodations

- Allow students to answer out loud, or by writing down their answers
- Give students the option to share with a peer instead of with the whole class

## Checking for Understanding

- Provide students with an exit slip/question asking them to write down or tell the teacher one *Bedikat Chametz* item. They should be encouraged to think of something that they may not have said prior to having this lesson.

# *Bedikat Chametz* Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Please find the following items (or picture of the item) in the classroom in order to rid the classroom of hametz.

Bread

Cracker

Being disrespectful to a teacher

Excluding a friend from an activity

Cereal

Pasta

Cookie

Not taking ownership for doing something wrong

# Images to “hide” for Bedikat Chametz Scavenger Hunt

