

Information Card 2



BEDIKAT CHAMETZ

The search for leaven!

Chametz ("food that has leavened") refers to food containing any amount of wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt that has leavened, or "puffed up." To commemorate the Jewish slaves' hasty departure from Egypt when there was no time for bread to rise, Passover is celebrated by feasting on matzah and removing all types of chametz or leavening from our homes.

What is it?

Bedikat Chametz, or Search for Leaven, is a quick, hands-on, kid-friendly, and extremely memorable activity right before Passover starts. Basically, we hide bits of bread/leaven/chametz, let the kids find them at nightfall, and then destroy the bits the next day (the morning before the first seder). In short: hide and seek + darkness + flames/light = awesome.

What is needed?

candle, wooden spoon, feather, paper bag

Activity



Hide 10 small pieces of bread (or anything that creates crumbs) in the kitchen. Take all the materials out of the bag and then turn out the lights. Let the kids find each piece of bread, helped by the light of the flaming candle. Use the feather to scoop the bread onto the wooden spoon, and then drop the bread into the paper bag. Once all 10 pieces have been found and scooped into the bag, recite the blessing for removing chametz together.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו על בעור חמץ.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu al biur chametz.
Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to remove all chametz.

What should I do with the bread crumbs?

Dispose of the bag of crumbs in the garbage or burn it on your BBQ outside.