

# Passover

## What Is Passover?

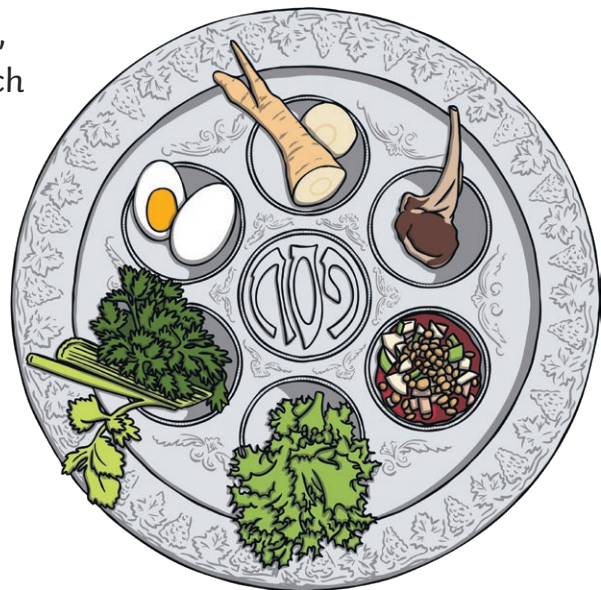
Passover is one of the most important **Jewish** festivals because it celebrates a time when the Israelites were led out of enslavement by Moses over 3000 years ago. It is the remembrance of the miracle of the **exodus** of Moses and his people (the Israelites) from Egypt. In **Hebrew**, it is called Pesach and is celebrated in the spring as a time of new beginnings.

## How Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is celebrated for seven or eight days and on the eve of Pesach, there is a special service called a **Seder**, during which a **Seder plate** is placed on the table. Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a folded napkin, it bears the important ceremonial foods of the Seder. All of the items on the plate signify different aspects of the story of the Israelites' exodus, which is read from a special book called a **Haggadah**.

## Items That May Be Included on a Seder Plate

- **Beitzah** – A roasted, hard-boiled egg that represents sacrifice but also new life.
- **Salt water** – Symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.
- **Karpas** – A fresh green vegetable, often parsley, which symbolises the freshness of spring.
- **Maror and Chazeret** – Two types of bitter herbs, often horseradish or lettuce, reminding people of the bitterness of enslavement.
- **Zeroa** – A roasted lamb or chicken bone to symbolise offerings made to G-d.
- **Charoset** – A mixture of ground apples, nuts, ginger, cinnamon and wine, which symbolises the mortar used by the Israelites to cement bricks together.
- **Matzo breads** – unleavened bread (similar to crispbread), which represents the rush that the Israelites left in. A popular belief is that their bread didn't have time to rise in their haste to leave for freedom.



Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

## How Is Passover Celebrated Around the World?

### Ethiopia

In some Ethiopian families, the mother destroys all of the earthenware dishes and makes a new set to mark a complete break from the past.

### Hungary

Jews from Hungary have a tradition of decorating their Seder table with gold and silver jewellery.

This signifies the precious metals that the Egyptians are said to have given to Moses's people to speed up their exodus from Egypt as a result of their fear that G-d would send further plagues to punish them for not bestowing freedom on the Israelites sooner.



### Türkiye

At the end of Passover, it is customary for each person to hold a piece of parsley (the sign of spring) while reciting an Arabic poem. In Türkiye, following this tradition, the speaker will bless each person in the room (with a wish for a good year ahead). This continues until each person has blessed every other person in the room.

### Romania

In Romania, the reading of the story of the exodus is combined with theatre to recreate a sense of urgency. At the point in the story when 'We were enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt' is read, the oldest person takes a large bag (or pillowcase) filled with heavy objects and carries it around the room, passing it in turn to the other members of the party. Adults say, "Difficult to be enslaved," over and over as everyone experiences the 'weight' of enslavement.

### Glossary

**Exodus:** A mass departure of people.

**Haggadah:** A special book from which the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt is read.

**Hebrew:** An ancient language that is the official language of Israel.

**Jewish:** Refers to a person whose religion is Judaism.

**Seder:** Means 'order' in Hebrew. A ceremonial dinner service held on the first one or two nights of Passover.

**Seder plate:** An important part of the ritual meal, this plate has five sections to hold Seder.

# Questions

1. **At the end of Passover, it is the custom for each person to hold a piece of parsley...**

Which word is closest in meaning to 'custom'? Tick one.

- tradition
- law
- expected
- allowed

2. Draw **three** lines and match the question to the correct answer.

Who celebrates Passover?

Seder

What is the official language of Israel?

Jewish people

What is the name of the service on the eve of Passover?

Hebrew

3. Name **two** things that people may put on a Seder plate.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. In which country do people decorate the Seder plate with gold and silver?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a word or phrase which means the same as 'stands for'.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think that the Seder plate is so important? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

7. Why do you think that people in Türkiye bless everyone during Passover celebrations?

---

---

---

8. Which country would you prefer to visit during Passover? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

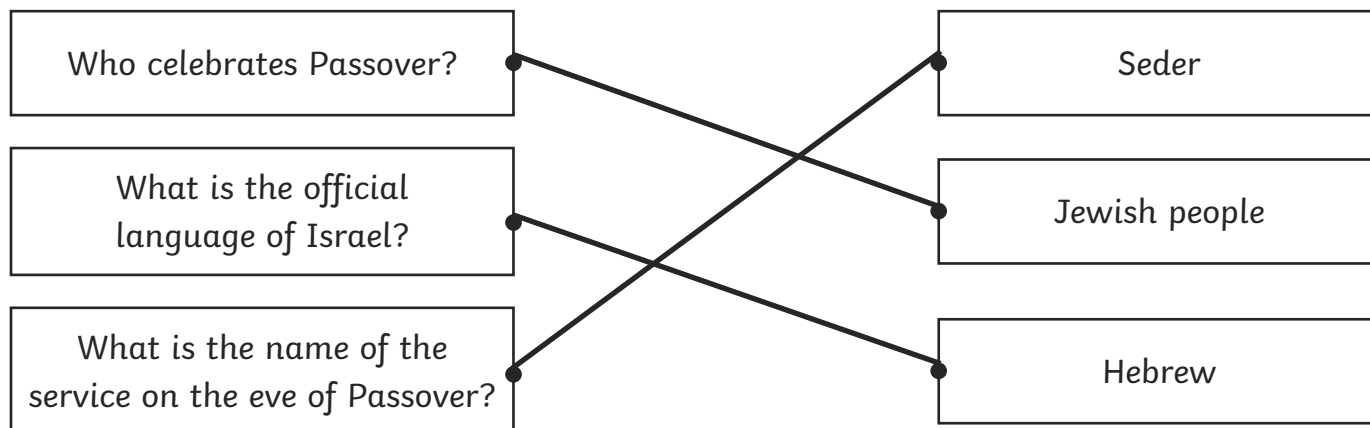
Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

# Answers

1. **At the end of Passover, it is the custom for each person to hold a piece of parsley...**  
Which word is closest in meaning to 'custom'? Tick one.

- tradition**  
 law  
 expected  
 allowed

2. Draw **three** lines and match the question to the correct answer.



3. Name **two** things that people may put on a Seder plate.  
**Accept any of the following: Beitzah, Salt water, Karpas, Zeroa, Maror and Chazeret, Charoset, Matzo breads.**
4. In which country do people decorate the Seder plate with gold and silver?  
**Hungary**
5. Find and copy a word or phrase which means the same as 'stands for'.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: represents; symbolises.**
6. Why do you think that the Seder plate is so important? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the Seder plate is important because all of the items signify parts of the story of exodus, which is the story of the Israelites becoming free.**
7. Why do you think that people in Türkiye bless everyone during Passover celebrations?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Passover is a celebration of freedom and new beginnings so people in Türkiye use it as a time to wish everyone a good year to follow.**
8. Which country would you prefer to visit during Passover? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would prefer to visit Hungary because the decorations sound beautiful and I like the idea of good wishes being shared during the blessings.**

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

# Passover

Passover is one of the most important Jewish festivals because it remembers a time when the Israelites were released from enslavement, guided by Moses, over 3000 years ago. The biblical story of the Israelites' exodus tells of G-d coming to Moses and asking him to lead his chosen people out of enslavement in Egypt to the Promised Land. G-d brought a succession of plagues upon the Egyptians to express anger at their enslavement of the Israelites. It was an arduous task, but, with the help of G-d who enabled a series of miracles, the Israelites gained freedom.

## How Is Passover Celebrated?

Passover is called Pesach in Hebrew (an ancient language that is the official language of Israel) and is celebrated in spring by Jewish people. It is celebrated for between seven and eight days and, on the eve of Pesach, there is a special service called a Seder. Seder means 'order' in Hebrew, indicating the order of events that led to the Israelites' freedom. During the ritual, a Seder plate is placed on a table. This is a special plate with five sections to hold different important items. Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a folded napkin, it bears the important ceremonial foods of the Seder, which all signify different aspects of the story of the Israelites' exodus. During the ritual service, the story is often read from a special book called a Haggadah.

## Items That May Be Included on a Seder Plate

- **Beitzah** – A roasted, hard-boiled egg that represents sacrifice but also new life.
- **Karpas** – A fresh green vegetable, often parsley, which symbolises the freshness of spring.
- **Maror and Chazeret** – Two types of bitter herbs, reminding people of the bitterness of enslavement.
- **Zeroa** – A roasted lamb or chicken bone to symbolise offerings made to G-d.
- **Charoset** – A mixture of ground apples, nuts, ginger, cinnamon and wine, which symbolises the mortar used by the Israelites when they were forced to cement bricks together to construct the Egyptians' buildings.
- **Salt water** – Symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.



Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.



# Questions

1. **It was an arduous task, but, with the help of G-d who enabled a series of miracles, the Israelites succeeded in gaining freedom.**

Which word is closest in meaning to 'succeeded' in this sentence? Tick one.

- arrived  
 triumphed  
 failed  
 followed

2. Draw **three** lines to match the food to what it symbolises.

Zeroa	● the bitterness of enslavement
Maror and Chazeret	● offerings made to G-d
Beitzah	● sacrifice but also new life

3. Find a word or phrase that tells you that Passover is a significant celebration.

---

4. Name **two** important aspects of a Seder ceremony.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the importance of the Matzo bread?

---



---

6. **Salt water – Symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.**

Why do you think it is important for Jewish people to remember enslavement?

---



---



---

7. How are Ethiopia, Hungary and Türkiye similar in their Passover celebrations?

---



---

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

8. Would you like to attend a Passover celebration? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

9. What do you think is the most important aspect of Passover celebrations?

---

---

---

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

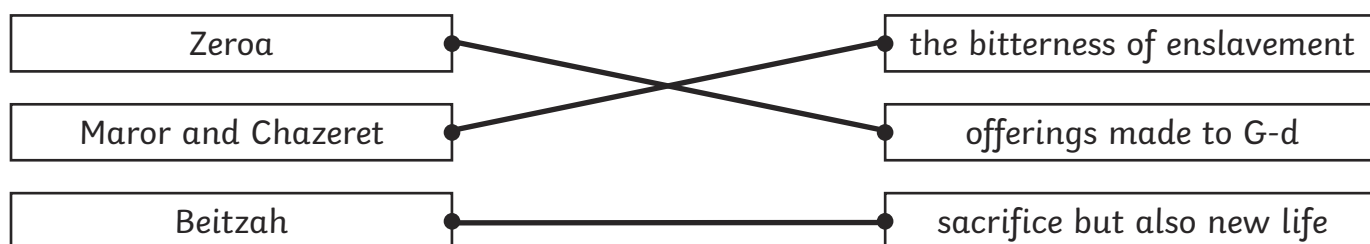
# Answers

1. **It was an arduous task, but, with the help of G-d who enabled a series of miracles, the Israelites succeeded in gaining freedom.**

Which word is closest in meaning to 'succeeded' in this sentence? Tick one.

- arrived  
 **triumphed**  
 failed  
 followed

2. Draw **three** lines to match the food to what it symbolises.



3. Find a word or phrase that tells you that Passover is a significant celebration.  
**one of the most important Jewish festivals**
4. Name **two** important aspects of a Seder ceremony.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Special foods are placed on a Seder plate; The story of exodus is read from the Haggadah.**
5. What is the importance of the Matzo bread?  
**The Matzo bread symbolises the rush that the Israelites left in meaning their bread didn't have time to rise.**
6. **Salt water – Symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.**  
 Why do you think it is important for Jewish people to remember enslavement?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it is important for the Jewish people to remember enslavement because it is an important part of the story of the Israelites' exodus which inspires the Seder.**
7. How are Ethiopia, Hungary and Türkiye similar in their Passover celebrations?  
**The three countries are similar in their Passover celebrations as they all hold a Seder as part of their traditions.**
8. Would you like to attend a Passover celebration? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would enjoy attending Passover celebrations because I would find the story and food interesting and I would like to participate in a cultural experience.**

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

9. What do you think is the most important aspect of Passover celebrations?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most important aspect of Passover celebrations is the time that people participating spend in remembering/reflecting on the events of the story of exodus and how the Israelites would have felt when enslaved and searching for the Promised Land.**

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

# Passover

Celebrating a time when the Israelites were led out of enslavement by Moses over 3000 years ago, Passover is one of the most important Jewish festivals. The ceremony remembers the time when G-d came to Moses and requested that he lead the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land following their emancipation from enslavement. The story of the Israelites' departure from Egypt is read from the Book of Exodus, which explains that G-d sent a succession of ten plagues upon the Egyptians to express anger at the enslavement of the Israelites. The final plague caused the death of the eldest son in each family. The Israelites painted lamb's blood on their doors so that the angel of death would know to pass over their houses. Following several miracles, enabled by G-d, the Israelites found the Promised Land.

## Passover Celebrations

Known as Pesach in Hebrew (an ancient language that is the official language of Israel), Passover is celebrated by Jewish people in spring for a duration of between seven and eight days. On the eve of Pesach, there is a particularly special service called a Seder. The origin of the word Seder comes from the word 'order' in Hebrew.

The Seder ceremony commemorates the order of events leading to the Israelites' freedom in the story of exodus. The ritual celebrations include the use of a Seder plate. This is an important part of the Seder meal and has five sections to hold different significant items. Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a folded napkin, the plate bears the important ceremonial foods of the Seder and represents different aspects of the story of the Israelites' exodus. This story is read from a special book called a Haggadah during the ceremony.

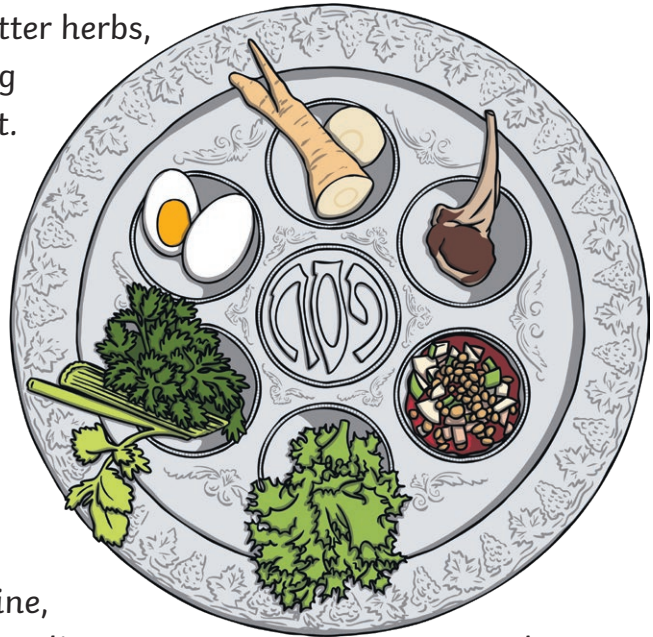


## Items That May Be Included on a Seder Plate

- **Beitzah** – A roasted hard-boiled egg, symbolising the korban chagigah (festival sacrifice) that was offered in the temple in Jerusalem. It also represents new life. This may be roasted and eaten as part of the meal on Seder night.

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

- **Karpas** – A fresh green vegetable, often parsley or celery, which symbolises the initial flourishing of the Israelites in Egypt and the freshness of spring.
- **Maror and Chazeret** – Two types of bitter herbs, often horseradish or lettuce, reminding people of the bitterness of enslavement.
- **Zeroa** – A roasted lamb or chicken bone used to symbolise offerings made to G-d; unlike other items on the Seder Plate, it is never eaten and remains a reminder of the monumental moments before the exodus.
- **Charoset** – A mixture of ground apples, nuts, ginger, cinnamon and wine, symbolising the mortar used by the Israelites when they cemented bricks together to construct buildings for the Egyptians.
- **Salt water** – Symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.
- **Matzo breads** – When the Israelites learned that the pharaoh had agreed to let them leave Egypt, they did not have time to bake bread for their journey. In case the pharaoh changed his mind, they quickly made unleavened (unrisen) dough which baked on their backs in the sun. Matzo breads therefore symbolise the Israelites' rush to freedom.



## Passover around the World

### Ethiopia

In some Ethiopian families, the mother destroys all of the earthenware dishes and creates a new set to mark a complete and radical break from the past. This is a method of celebrating the Israelite's departure from Egypt and their breakaway from enslavement. The new dishes may be used for the Seder celebration.

### Hungary

The tradition of adorning the Seder table with gold and silver jewellery is unique to Hungary. This signifies that many Egyptians are believed to have given the

Israelites items of precious metal to prompt them to leave quickly to prevent additional plagues from being sent by G-d.

### **Türkiye**

At the end of the Seder celebration, it is the custom for each person to hold a piece of parsley (the sign of spring) while reciting a poem in Arabic. Following this tradition, the speaker will bless each person in the room with the wish for a good year ahead. This exchange of wishes continues until every person has blessed every other person in the room, meaning the ceremony can sometimes last a long time.

### **Romania**

In Romania, reading the exodus story is combined with theatre to recreate a sense of urgency. At the point in the story when 'We were enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt' is read, the oldest person takes a large bag (or pillowcase) filled with heavy objects and carries it around the room, passing it in turn to the other members of the party. Adults repeat the phrase, "Difficult to be enslaved," as everyone experiences the 'weight' of enslavement.

# Questions

1. **Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a folded napkin, the plate bears the important ceremonial foods of the Seder...**

What does 'bears' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- rejects
- holds
- shows
- displays

2. What does Passover celebrate? Tick one.

- the beginning of spring
- the freedom of the Israelites
- becoming rich
- a new year

3. Find and copy one word which tells you that Hebrew is an old language.

---

4. Find and copy **three** links to enslavement on the Seder plate.

1. 

---

2. 

---

3. 

---

5. Why did the Israelites' bread not rise?

---

---

6. Why do you think that people bless each other during Passover celebrations?

---

---

7. Summarise what you have read in section two in one sentence.

---

---

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

8. How are people remembering the difficulties of enslavement in the Passover celebrations discussed in the text?

---



---



---

9. Predict what, if any, changes may happen to Passover celebrations in the future.

---



---



---

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Passover celebrates a time when the Israelites were led from enslavement by Moses.		
The Israelites painted lambs blood on their doors believing this would protect them from the angel of death.		
Passover is celebrated for 9 days.		
In Türkiye, before reciting a poem, each person is blessed by the speaker.		
Matzo breads symbolise the Israelites rush to freedom.		

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

# Answers

1. **Whether it is an ornate silver dish or a folded napkin, the plate bears the important ceremonial foods of the Seder...**

What does 'bears' mean in this sentence? Tick one.

- rejects  
 **holds**  
 shows  
 displays

2. What does Passover celebrate? Tick one.

- the beginning of spring  
 **the freedom of the Israelites**  
 becoming rich  
 a new year

3. Find and copy one word which tells you that Hebrew is an old language.

**ancient**

4. Find and copy **three** links to enslavement on the Seder plate.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Maror and Chazeret remind people of the bitterness of enslavement; Charoset symbolises the mortar used by the Israelites when they were forced to make bricks; Salt water symbolises the tears and sweat of enslavement.**

5. Why did the Israelites' bread not rise?

**Accept any reference to the fact that they had to leave quickly.**

6. Why do you think that people bless each other during Passover celebrations?

**Pupils' own responses, e.g. Passover is a time of remembering the difficult times that the Israelites have been through so they may bless each other in the hope that they won't have to go through difficult times in the future.**

7. Summarise what you have read in section two in one sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Passover, which is also known as Pesach, is a Jewish celebration that takes place in spring and begins with a Seder – a special meal to remember the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.**

8. How are people remembering the difficulties of enslavement in the Passover celebrations discussed in the text?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People are remembering the difficulties of enslavement through undergoing hard work (carrying a heavy pillow case) in the Romanian tradition; In the Seder ceremony, the many tears shed by the Israelites are remembered through the salt water on the Seder plate.**

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.

9. Predict what, if any, changes may happen to Passover celebrations in the future.

**Accept answers that refer to the traditions of Passover and why they are performed.**

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

Statement	True	False
Passover celebrates a time when the Israelites were led from enslavement by Moses.	✓	
The Israelites painted lambs blood on their doors believing this would protect them from the angel of death.	✓	
Passover is celebrated for 9 days.		✓
In Türkiye, before reciting a poem, each person is blessed by the speaker.		✓
Matzo breads symbolise the Israelites rush to freedom.	✓	

**Award 2 marks** for **all 5** correct.

**Award 1 mark** for **four** correct.

Disclaimer: Please note that the spelling G-d has been used in this resource as a sign of respect towards Jewish people so that they can erase or dispose of the writing without showing disrespect to their faith.