

# Searching for Chametz

## A Passover Family Activity (Bedikat Chametz)

Before Passover begins, some Jewish homes participate in a special tradition called *Bedikat Chametz*, the search for *chametz* (leavened foods like bread or crumbs). This ritual reminds us to remove both physical *chametz* from our homes and the “*chametz* within”—the habits, stress or negativity we want to leave behind as we enter the holiday.

Your kit includes tools traditionally used for this search:

- Candle—to light the way as you search
- Feather—to gently sweep crumbs
- Spoon—to collect the *chametz*
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### FAMILY ACTIVITY: CHAMETZ HIDE AND SEEK

Before the search begins, **choose one family member to hide 10 small pieces of *chametz*** (like bread, Cheerios or pieces of crackers) around the house. This is a long standing custom connected to the Passover story and helps make sure there is something to find during the search.

Tips:

- Keep the pieces small.
- The person hiding them should **write down where they are hidden** in case one is missed.

Everyone else becomes the **search team!**

### STEP 1: GATHER AND SAY THE BLESSING

Turn off the lights if possible and gather together with the candle. Recite the blessing:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו  
וצונו על בעור חמץ

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav  
v'tzivanu al biur chametz.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who sanctifies us with mitzvot and commands us to remove *chametz*.

### STEP 2: SEARCH THE HOUSE

Using the candle to guide you:

1. Walk through the house together.
2. Look in places where crumbs might hide—tables, shelves, corners.
3. When you find a piece of *chametz*:
  - Sweep it gently with the feather
  - Scoop it onto the spoon
  - Place everything you find together in a safe spot for disposal.

Typically, these would be placed in a paper bag and burned, but feel free to do this symbolically instead.

### STEP 3: A MOMENT OF REFLECTION (OPTIONAL)

Jewish tradition teaches that *chametz* can also symbolize **ego, stress or habits we want to let go of** before the holiday.

Ask together:

- What is something I want to leave behind this year?
- What will help me feel more free or joyful this Passover?

You may want to share answers or simply reflect quietly.

### STEP 4: LETTING GO OF CHAMETZ

When the search is finished, say:

Any *chametz* that are in my possession that I have not seen or removed shall be considered like the dust of the earth.

This reminds us that we have done our best to remove *chametz* from our homes and hearts.