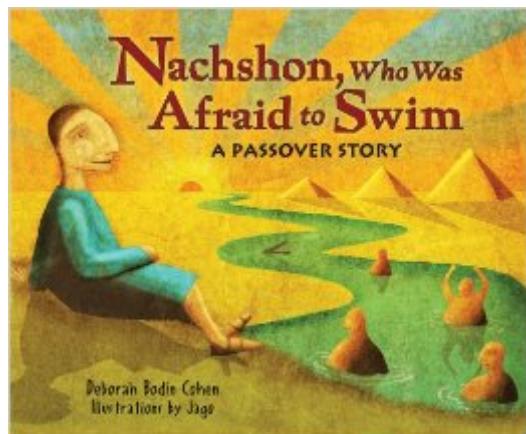


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# Nachshon, Who Was Afraid To Swim: A Passover Story



## Synopsis

For generations Nachshonâ™s family has been enslaved by the Egyptian Pharaoh. Nachshon is afraid it will be his destiny too. Then Moses confronts the fearsome Pharaoh, and Nachshonâ™s dream of freedom begins to come true. But soon he has to overcome his own special fear. The story of the brave boy who was the first to jump into the sea will inspire young and old alike.

## Book Information

Series: Passover

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,235,632 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish #464 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #8731 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Religions

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

## Customer Reviews

REVIEWED BY: Wayne S. Walker, reviewer with Stories for Children Magazine

Nachshon, along with the rest of his family and all the Israelites, is a slave in Egypt. His parents, grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents have been slaves, and he is afraid that he may be a slave for his whole life, too. However, Nachshon remembers the stories of how long ago his ancestors had been free, and he dreams of freedom every night. Nachshon's father and brothers make straw and mud into bricks in the hot sun, but Nachshon slips past the taskmasters to bring them cool drinking water. He also spies on Pharaoh and his royal courtiers to give reports to the Israelite elders. Everyone begins calling him "Brave Nachshon." But Nachshon does have one fear: When the other slaves take a cool dip in the Nile River each evening, he is afraid of water. One day, a stranger named Moses comes and promises the Israelites freedom. That evening, when the slaves jump in the river, Moses sees Nachshon's hesitation and says, "Real freedom means facing your fears and

overcoming them." Many people can tell the story from here. Moses calls on Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. At first the king refuses, but after ten terrible plagues, he finally agrees, and the Israelites march to the Sea of Reeds. Looking back, they see the armies of Pharaoh chasing them. When Moses tells them to march forward into the sea, what will Nachshon, who is still afraid to swim, do? According to a note by author Deborah Bodin Cohen, the Torah includes only brief references to Nachshon ben Aminadav who was a leader in the tribe of Judah (Naashon or Nahshon in English bibles; see Numbers 1:7). However, in the Midrash or Rabbinic lore, his story is more fully developed as an example of faith and courage.

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