Notes for the Maggid/Narrative for Seder 2020 PowerPoint:

Slide # 65:

*The Israelites were numerous and slaves in Egypt*

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for approximately 400 years.

Over those centuries their numbers increased tremendously.

The Torah says that a new Pharaoh arose, ‘one who did not know Joseph’, and the good that Joseph had done for Egypt.

Slide # 66:

*Moses is put in the basket and sent down the Nile.*

This Pharaoh became worried at the vast numbers of Israelites in Egypt. He was afraid that, as the young boys grew up, they would unite and try to take over his army. So he decreed that any baby boy born to an Israelite mother be thrown into the Nile River.

A woman named Yocheved gave birth to a baby she named Moshe/Moses. She hid this baby for 3 months, and when she could no longer hide him, she put him into a basket that floated down the Nile River, under the watchful eyes of his sister Miriam. The basket was seen by the handmaidens of the Pharaoh’s daughter, who brought Moses to her.

Slide # 67:

*Moses is raised in Pharaoh’s Kingdom.*

Pharaoh’s daughter, whom our tradition names as Batya (daughter of God) takes baby Moses and raises him in the palace as her own son, and as Pharaoh’s grandson. Moses grows up as an Egyptian, with all the privilege and splendor of a royal son.

Slide #68:

*Moses stands up to the taskmaster.*

One day when Moses, probably a teenager, was out walking, he witnessed an Egyptian taskmaster beating an Israelite slave. He became enraged, and struck the Egyptian, killing him.

The Rabbis teach us that Moses always knew or must have felt ‘different’ from the others as he grew up in the palace of Pharaoh. Did he suspect that he was not an Egyptian? Did he know that he was one of the Israelites? Whatever emotion or feeling was unleashed at that very moment to cause Moses to react, it was a life-changing event. At that moment Moses knew that he could not return to his home in the palace, so he ran far away.

Slide #69:

*Moses has left Egypt and has a family of his own.*

Moses ran away and settled in the land of Midian. He meets and marries Tzipporah, with whom he has two sons. He becomes very close to Yitro (Jethro) a Midian priest and Tzipporah’s father. Moses works as a shepherd in Midian.

Slide #70:

*God comes to Moses in the burning bush.*

One day a sheep from Moses’ flock wanders away, and Moses sets out to find it. He comes across a sight that fills him with shock and with awe: It is a burning bush, yet the fire does not consume the bush.

Moses hears a voice – the voice of God – and is instructed to return to Egypt, go to Pharaoh, and demand “Let My People Go!”

Who is this God? Moses is anxious, and he also objects, telling God that he is not able to speak clearly. His brother Aaron will serve as his spokesman.

God reveals God’s self to Moses. Moses and Aaron set off for Egypt.

Slide #73:

*Moses returns to Egypt to face Pharaoh.*

Moses and Aaron repeatedly come before Pharaoh to demand, in the name of God, "Let My people go:” They use magic to try and convince Pharaoh of the power of this God, even turning Moses’ staff into a snake. All of Moses and Aaron’s magic is met with the Pharaoh’s sorcerers’ magic. Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites go. Moses warns him of the dire consequences, yet Pharaoh remains impervious.

Slide #75:

*God sends 10 Plagues to Egypt.*

God begins to send a series of plagues upon the Egyptians. In the throes of each plague, Pharaoh promises to let the Children of Israel go, but then reneges as soon as the plague ends:

1) Aaron strikes the Nile, the waters turn to blood;  
2) Swarms of frogs overrun the land;  
3) Lice infest all men and beasts.   
4) Hordes of wild animals invade the cities,  
5) a pestilence kills the domestic animals,  
6) painful boils afflict the Egyptians.  
7) Fire and ice combine to descend from the skies as a devastating hail.

The Torah tells us that *"the heart of Pharaoh was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go; as God had said to Moses."*

The people of Egypt have suffered so much. They beg Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. When Moses comes to warn Pharaoh of the eighth plague, Pharaoh says: “You say that you want to go serve your God? I'll let the men go, as long as the women and children stay behind.”

“No”, says Moses, “we must all go, men women and children, cattle and herds.”

Pharaoh again refuses.

The next plagues descend upon Egypt.  
8) a swarm of locusts devours all the crops and greenery;  
9) a thick darkness envelops the land.

Each Israelite household is instructed to bring a ‘Passover offering’ to God: a lamb or kid is to be slaughtered and its blood painted on the doorposts every Israelite home, so that the Angel of Death will PASS OVER these homes.

The roasted meat of the offering is to be eaten that night together with matzah (unleavened bread) and bitter herbs.

Then comes the tenth and most devastating plague upon Egypt,  
10) the death of all the firstborn of Egypt.

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Slide #104:

*Nachshon showed his bravery by entering the water.*

After the 10th and final plague, which included the death of the Pharaoh’s son, the Israelites were set free from Egypt.

*The sea parted so the Israelites could leave Egypt.*