



UPDATED

APRIL 2025/NISAN 5785

Dayenu

דינו

סדר

Seder

A 10-Minute Celebration



PREPARING... AND GETTING THERE

How long should a seder be?

There is no prescribed length! But according to the great sage Rabban Gamliel three things must be discussed to fulfill the purpose (mitzvah) of the seder: *pesach*, *matzah*, and *maror*. *Maggid* helps us do this.

Leader: Read through before leading seder. Make sure participants will have what they need. Choose discussion points to explore.

Participants: Participate and celebrate! You are part of an ancient tradition and are joining millions of people around the world who are also celebrating Passover.

Everyone: Read words in bold together. Take turns. Be curious. Have fun.

Seder means “order.”



THE FOURS

Four times the bible tells us to teach our children about the Exodus.

Four questions:

Why matzah?
Why maror?
Why dip twice?
Why recline?

Four kinds of children:

The wise one
The rebellious one
The simple one
The one who does not know to ask

Four glasses of wine:

I will free you.
I will deliver you.
I will redeem you.
I will take you to be my people.

Leader: Welcome to all who have joined us for our 2025 [NAME OF FAMILY] Seder. We are so grateful to be together, if only for this short time.

ALL: *If only these few minutes...Dayenu!!!*
It would have been enough.

דיינו.

Reader: How different is this night from all other nights? Mah nishtanah ha-lailah hazeh? We have been asking this question ever since the seder was created so that we could ask many more questions.

ALL: *If only the questions...Dayenu!*

Reader: Passover means something different to every generation of Jews. In each generation, we experience unique threats and choose how to face them.

Reader: The rabbis gave us rituals to help us tell the Exodus story of our passage from slavery to freedom.

ALL: *If only the rituals...Dayenu!*

Reader: **KIDDUSH**

We lift our cup of wine and say:

Blessed are you God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי הגפן.

Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, borei p'ri ha' gafen.

Leader: **SHEHECHEYANU**

Blessed are you God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us together at Passover. May we all be together again at the same time next year.

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם, ששהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-Olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Passover always follows Purim—a time when we actively work to bring more joy into the world. May gladness reign and peace increase!

ALL: *If only the blessings...Dayenu!*

Reader: The seder was created so that families could fulfill the biblical commandment of teaching the Exodus story to our children and grandchildren. It has many ways to keep everyone engaged. We use sets of fours.

ALL: *If only the fours...Dayenu!*

Reader: We use the six traditional items on our Seder plate to



engage us in the whole Exodus experience so that we can say, "In every generation, it is your responsibility to think of yourself as if you actually had been present at the Exodus from Egypt."

B'chol dor va'dor chayav adam lir'ot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mi'Mitzrayim.

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וְדוֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם

Reader: Each item on our seder plate has symbolic meaning.

- 🌀 **Karpas** (parsley or vegetable) to represent spring.
- 🌀 **Maror** (horseradish) and **Chazeret** (romaine lettuce) to remind us of the bitterness of slavery.
- 🌀 **Haroset** (an apple, wine, and nut mixture) to remind us of the hard work the Israelites did in Egypt.
- 🌀 **A shankbone** to remind us of the Pesach, the Passover meal the Israelites ate before they left Egypt. (No shank bone? No problem! Use a chicken wing, neck, or drumstick.)
- 🌀 **A roasted or hardboiled egg** to represent new beginnings.

Reader: This Passover, (name of guest)* has added a seventh item for a problem that needs our attention (show symbolic object). Passover reminds us that small actions can have big consequences. Our tradition teaches that we may not complete the task; neither are we free to turn away from it.

ALL: If only the Seder plate...Dayenu!

Reader: Now we'll tell the story of how God brought us from slavery to freedom and we became the Jewish people.

ALL: If only the story...Dayenu!

Reader: MAGGID

A long, long time ago, Pharaoh begins to fear the Israelites who live in his land. He does not understand their different ways. He makes them slaves and orders them to drown their baby boys. But Pharaoh's daughter, Batya, does not agree. She rescues a baby boy (with the help of his sister, Miriam, and mother, Yocheved). Batya names him Moses, and raises him in Pharaoh's court.

Reader: When Moses grows up, he flees into the desert, becomes a shepherd, and marries a non-Israelite woman. One day, while Moses tends his flock, God appears in a burning bush and tells Moses to return to Egypt to free God's people from slavery.

Reader: Moses is afraid he will fail. He knows how hard it will be to convince Pharaoh since tyrants always believe they are more powerful than anything or anyone else. Pharaoh has to learn that he is not fighting Moses, but God, and a people whose belief in God and freedom is greater than their fear of Pharaoh.

* **Ask** a guest, in advance, to choose a 7th item for your seder plate.



What would **you** choose to add to the seder plate?

THINK ABOUT THIS!

Jews have been celebrating Seders since ancient times. Some say since the 5th century BCE while most place the creation of seder in the period just before or after 70 CE. Either way, we've been doing this for centuries.

Exodus is ancient Greek for "the road out." However the five books of Moses were originally written in Aramaic. The title of the second book is "Sh'mot" which means names and comes from the book's first verse 1:1 "Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob...."

Maggid is the main part of the seder when the story is told.

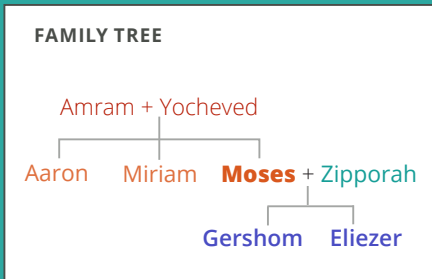
Pesach means "to pass over."

Haggadah means "The Telling."

Moses means "I drew him forth."



When have you needed help from your family to take on a difficult job or challenge?



What does your family tree look like?

You may choose to dip a finger into your wine cup with each plague and let a drop fall on your plate. One reason for this tradition is to show that our joy is diminished by the suffering of others—even if they deserve punishment.



Leader holds up matzah

Why does Passover always begin on the 15th of Nisan?

Mitzrayim means “the narrow place.”

This Passover, consider the needs and opportunities you see more clearly. **What** will you do as a family to address some of the injustices you see?

ALL: Let my people go!

Reader: God commands Moses to go to Egypt to save the Israelites and sends his brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, to help. The Israelites have been slaves for more than four centuries. They will learn about God, as do the Egyptians, through the ten plagues. **ALL:**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 Blood | Dahm | דם |
| 2 Frogs | Tz'far-dei-ah | צפרדע |
| 3 Lice | Kee-neem | כנים |
| 4 Flies | Ah-rov | ערוב |
| 5 Cattle plague | Deh-ver | דבר |
| 6 Boils | Sh'cheen | שחין |
| 7 Hail | Ba-rad | ברד |
| 8 Locusts | Ar-beh | ארבה |
| 9 Darkness | Cho-shech | חשך |
| 10 The Death of the Firstborn | Ma-kat B'cho-rot | מכת בכורות |

Reader: Our Seder recalls the long night of waiting during the 10th plague. Pharaoh finally agrees to “let my people go.” The Israelites leave quickly, carrying what they can. A full moon lights the way.

They take the bread that slaves eat—one that has no time to rise—matzah.

Reader: They head towards the Sea of Reeds. As tyrants often do, Pharaoh changes his mind and comes after them with his army in their chariots. The people are terrified! Even Moses is frightened.

Reader: But we are taught that one person, Nachshon, steps into the sea. Then God parts the waters for the Israelites to cross safely to the other side. When Pharaoh and his army follow, the sea closes over them. Miriam and the other women lead the Israelites in a new song of praise and gratitude.

ALL: If only a new song...Dayenu!

Reader: Our journey from Mitzrayim, the biblical name for Egypt, is the moment of our birth as a people. We teach this central story of the Jewish people year after year so that we will all remember and better understand what it is like to be oppressed and to hope for freedom.

ALL: If only hope...Dayenu!



Reader: Because we were once slaves, we must oppose slavery. Because we know what it is like not to have a voice, we must speak out for the voiceless.

ALL: *If only a voice...Dayenu!*

Reader: This moment is *our* narrow place. May we emerge from our bondage to a new understanding of the work we must do to make the world a better place for all.

ALL: *If only a better place for all...Dayenu!*

Reader: We'll end the formal part of our seder with a Hillel sandwich. Before the fall of the temple, it was made with lamb, matzah, and maror. Tonight we use matzah, haroset, and maror (all are symbols of our slavery) as we remember the hardships of life in Egypt and our flight to freedom.

Leader: How is this night different from all other nights? Mah nishtanah ha-lailah hazeh? Who could have predicted the impact of COVID on our lives? Or that we would face so many other challenges? Our people cried out to God and God answered them. On this hopeful note we conclude our seder. From slavery to freedom, despair to joy, darkness to light, separation to togetherness, may we sing a new song—hallelujah!

ALL: *If only hallelujah...Dayenu!*

Sing your family's favorite seder or freedom song.*

ALL: *Next year in person for all!*

Leader ends formal celebration.

SHULCHAN ORECH, THE PESACH FAMILY MEAL **שְׁלֶחַן עוֹרֵךְ**

RACHTZAH

Blessed are You, Adonai Our God, Sovereign of all, who sanctifies us through the mitzvot and commands us to wash our hands.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-Olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al netilat yadayim.

Consider these questions for your family meal:

- ∞ What miracles have happened in your family?
- ∞ What is an Exodus story in your family and who can tell it?
- ∞ What is your best or worst seder memory?
- ∞ What have we learned in this past year that we will carry forward?
- ∞ How many ways does water play a role in the Exodus story? (Include the Seder too.)

We have learned to wash our hands often to stay healthy. Handwashing in ancient Israel was a priestly act of sanctification—it purified priests for their temple responsibilities. After the Temple was destroyed in 70 ce, the rabbis moved Temple rites to the dining table so that every home could be “a small sanctuary.” Handwashing before meals became a practice for all Jews. Though the intent was fundamentally spiritual, the practice also had health benefits. As part of the traditional Seder, we recite Rachtzah, a blessing for handwashing before the meal. We rejoice that we can connect our life-saving practice today to the traditions of our ancestors.



see A Few Online Resources (on next page)





A Few Online Resources (just click!)

[My Jewish Learning
pjlibrary.org/passover](https://www.pjlibrary.org/passover)

PASSOVER SONGS

[A Billy Joel Passover
Passover Songs With Chabad](#)

DAYENU (PERFORMED)

[Maccabeats Dayenu](#)

PASSOVER RECIPES

[Charoset: Reasons and recipes](#)
[Jamie Geller](#)
[Jewish Food Society:
The Home for Jewish Food](#)

FOR FUN & INSPIRATION (Really! Check it Out!)

[Jewish Grandparents Network Passover
Discovery Kit](#)

(for grandparents and grandchildren
ages 3-8)

[Jewish Learning Matters on Pinterest](#)

[HOW TO USE THE DAYENU SEDER
User's Guide](#)

WHY A DAYENU SEDER?

Created in spring 2020 when Passover coincided with the beginning of the COVID shutdown, the *Dayenu Seder* has since been used by thousands of families. It turns out that many families have a vision of what is “enough” for their Passover celebration. Some use the *Dayenu Seder* as is, while others elaborate on it. Some use it for their first night seder, others for the 2nd night or at other times during the Passover week. We even heard of a family that used it for a Passover tailgate seder! However you use it, we hope it helps you to have a fun, meaningful, and memorable holiday celebration. Download the [User's Guide for the Dayenu Seder](#).

Guiding Principles behind the *Dayenu Seder*

- Many do not have the energy or time to create their own seder experience from the many excellent resources available.
- Why ten minutes? It's a reasonable amount of time to sustain multi-group and multi-generational participation in a Seder (virtual or otherwise).
- It enables participants to come together and to have an authentic holiday experience.
- It includes some of the traditions and rabbinic requirements for a seder.
- It includes only rituals that require things people already have. It may be difficult for some to find other traditional items.
- The rituals keep participants focused on the experience and do not require them to leave the room (or a screen).
- The *Dayenu Seder* is geared to 5-year-olds and up. Involve younger participants with the Seder plate, calling out the ten plagues, participating in the *dayenu* chorus, and by telling the story with spontaneous creativity—dance, drawings, photos, funny songs. Show what hallelujah means to you. The youngest will learn from cousins, siblings, and elders that this experience matters.
- Many have different understandings of God. Please adapt this ceremony to reflect individual family values and practices.
- The *Dayenu Seder* intentionally ends at the family meal because many families find it challenging to reconvene afterwards.
- Please continue to ask questions and have rich conversations as you enjoy your seder meal.



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