

The Ten-Minute

Dayenu Seder

USER'S GUIDE



Photograph: Janna Hindman



By Lee M. Hendler and Terry Kaye

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THOUSANDS OF

FAMILIES have downloaded, printed, used, and loved the *Ten-Minute Dayenu Seder* since Lee M. Hendler, Co-founder of the Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN), published it in 2020, during Covid.

We called it the *Dayenu Seder* to acknowledge that *whatever* families choose to do at their seder is “enough.”



“The *Dayenu Seder* is a terrific way to celebrate Passover with family using an easy-to-use, colorful, condensed Haggadah.”
- Janna H.



Photograph: Daya Solomon

This guide provides ways to use, adapt, and expand on the content of the *Dayenu Seder* to meet your needs.

Why use the *Dayenu Seder*?

At six pages, this abbreviated Haggadah is short enough to print out in color — one per seder guest — at home or at FedEx, Staples, or your local print shop. We recommend you use heavy paper stock. Put a copy at each person’s place setting.

If you do not want to print it out, it is also short enough for participants to access and follow along on digital devices too.

Updated each year in time for Passover, the *Dayenu Seder* is ideal to use on its own, or in conjunction with another favorite family Haggadah.

When should we use the *Dayenu Seder*?

It is entirely up to you and your family how to best use the *Dayenu Seder*. Consider the following suggestions:

- Use it on the first night as written and enjoy!
- If your family has another beloved Haggadah, think of the *Dayenu Seder* as a supplement. Incorporate the illustrations, margin questions, and comments that will engage your family.
- Use the *Dayenu Seder* if you hold a seder on the second night — or any other night during Passover — when grandchildren (and other family members) may want something different, or unintimidating. It’s also a good choice if participants include family and guests of a different religious tradition or culture.
- Some families may find it hard to gather in person. Host a seder on Zoom so that everyone can participate. (The *Dayenu Seder* was originally designed for this purpose.) Share your screen or, preferably, before the seder, invite all participants to download it. *See more guidance below.*
- It’s easy to use no matter where you hold your seder. We know of one family who finds the *Dayenu Seder* perfect for their annual 2nd night tailgate seder!

What is the simplest way to use the *Dayenu Seder*?

Take turns reading. Go around the table and invite anyone who is able and willing to read a part. Discuss the questions in the margins. One JGN Facebook Group member shared, “with two under-4-year-old grandchildren, the *Dayenu Seder* was a dip-in-and-out experience.”



Some family members are not able to join us. How can I use the Dayenu Seder on Zoom or other video platform?

It is likely that you have family members and friends who cannot be with you in person to celebrate the holiday. You can still welcome them virtually.

- Well in advance, email the *Dayenu Seder* and any song sheets to guests who live far away, or invite them to print out the pages. You can also ask guests to download it [here](https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/ten-minute-dayenu-seder). [https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/ten-minute-dayenu-seder] Another option is to share the Haggadah on your screen during the seder. Be well prepared with a laptop, an additional monitor, if possible, and speakers so you can hear participants. Test out the technology beforehand.
- Be sure to include those participating at a distance in all activities and discussions. For example, invite each child to ask an older participant (whether on screen or in person) to share short, perhaps dramatic, memories about their childhood seders. Family stories can bring to life the responsibility to see ourselves as though we were personally liberated from Egypt.
- Keep in mind that it's much harder to participate when you are on video and everyone else is noisily together in person. Try to be sensitive to this throughout. For example, pause regularly to ask if screen participants can hear clearly and make sure they can see as many people around the table as possible.

I want a longer seder. How can I bump up activities and discussion?

For some families, a ten-minute seder meets their needs perfectly. Others like to add to and extend the activities and discussion.

- Use the ten-minute version with just one question.** In advance of or at the seder ask each participant for a one-sentence response to: "What was a specific joy you experienced or a challenge you faced since last Passover?" Keep a record of participants' responses. Update the list each year as a reminder of who was at the seder and their life journeys.
- Create a family Passover game "What's Your Answer?"** Use the *Dayenu Seder* margin content or make up your own questions. *Examples:* Which items on the seder plate are most

"10 minutes was the perfect amount of time for the younger kids. We made memories and fulfilled the order of the Seder."

- Petie M.



Photograph: Courtesy of the Singer Family

"We spent a terrific 30-40 minutes and we are so grateful the *Dayenu Seder* was there for us."

- Ed M.



We have a 2-year-old grandchild. “We read a little, sang a little, and ate.”

- Todd U.



meaningful to you this year? At the Four Questions/Mah Nishtanah: How is our family different from other families?

- 🌀 **In advance, ask everyone to send in their favorite photographs of a past family seder.** Share at the seder table and ask participants to tell the story of their photo. Ask teens to capture this year’s seder memories by taking photos and videos on their phones throughout the gathering. They can organize the images into a slideshow or text single images to participants (or to the seder leader or host who then distributes them).
- 🌀 **Prepare a family tree and discuss the Exodus moments participants have experienced across the generations and in their own lives.** Discover what transitions have mattered most to your guests — moves across country; new relationships, jobs, and schools; developmental milestones (like learning to read!); life-cycle events (births, marriages, deaths).
- 🌀 **Let a teen lead the seder, or parts of it.** Perhaps you have a teen grandchild or other guest who would like to take a leadership role at the seder. Send them the *Dayenu Seder* well in advance, give them ample time to prepare, and be sure to run through the evening’s plan together before the seder.
- 🌀 **Have a mini-seder plate, salt water, and other ritual foods for every 4 participants.** This idea from another JGN Facebook group member helps ensure that everyone at the table can be up close and hands-on with Passover ritual items.
- 🌀 **Create a playlist of traditional and contemporary Passover songs.** Invite a teen to prepare the lineup. Include Passover-themed songs — for example, songs about freedom, social justice, miracles or awe, travel, and protecting others. For some ideas, check out suggestions in the resources section at the end of the *Dayenu Seder*. If you plan to use traditional Passover songs (many are available online or at the end of traditional Haggadahs), make sure that at least one person present knows the melody and can be the song leader. Print out song sheets in Hebrew, English, and transliteration so everyone can join in.

Wishing you a sweet and meaningful Passover!
Your friends at the Jewish Grandparents Network

