



# Dayenu

# דינו

# סדר

# Seder

A Virtual 10 Minute Celebration

APRIL 2020/NISAN 5780





## PREPARATION

Ready, Set, Go!

Directions for participating in a large Zoom group:

Leader calls on participants to read. Family groups rotate readings to all who want to read in their group. When finished, reading responsibility will pass to the next screen participant.

**Seder means “order”.**



## The Fours

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 this evening for our 2020 [NAME OF FAMILY] Seder. We are so grateful that we can be together, if only to see one another for these few minutes. *If only these few minutes...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!!!  It would have been enough.

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

**ALL:** Dayenu!

**Reader:** Passover means something different to every generation of Jews. The Virus that has separated us has also brought us together in unexpected ways.

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

**ALL:** 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 who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us together on this very different and sacred night of Passover, and may we be together again at the same time next year.

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

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

*If only the blessings...*

**ALL:** 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. Four questions. Four kinds of children. And four glasses of wine. *If only the fours...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!

**Reader:** Our Seder plate with six items engages 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."

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וָדוֹר חֵיב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם  
B'chol dor va dor chayav adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mi'Mitzrayim.

**Reader:** Please hold up your Seder plates or a drawing of one of the traditional Seder symbols.

- 🌀 **Karpas** (parsley or vegetable) to represent spring.
- 🌀 **Maror** (horseradish) or
- 🌀 **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 Passover meal the Israelites ate before they left Egypt.
- 🌀 **A roasted or hardboiled egg** to represent new beginnings.

Tonight, we add a facemask to remind us that we protect ourselves and we protect others. We are all in this together; everybody is responsible one for the other during this pandemic. Every helper is a hero.

*If only the Seder plate...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!

**Reader:** Tonight we tell the story of how God brought us from slavery to freedom and we became the Jewish people. *If only the story...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!

**Reader:** A long, long time ago just about yesterday, the Pharaoh becomes afraid of the Israelites 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 (with the help of his sister and mother), 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 to him and tells Moses to return to Egypt to free his people from slavery.

**Reader:** Moses is afraid he will fail. He knows how hard it will be to convince Pharaoh. 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 is greater than their fear of Pharaoh.

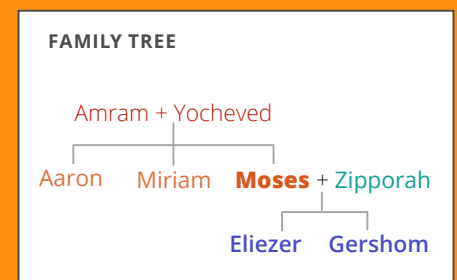
**Reader:** God commands Moses to go to Egypt to save the Israelites and sends his brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam,



**What would you add to the seder plate? What can we do to protect our communities from this pandemic? Who are the leaders we turn to at this time?**

**Haggadah means "The Telling".**

**Moses means "I drew him forth".**





You may wish 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.



Mitzrayim means “the narrow place”.

This Passover, consider the needs and opportunities you see more clearly because of the pandemic. What can you do as a family to address some of what you see?

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. Let’s recite them together:

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

**Reader:** Our Seder with its full moon on the 15th of Nisan 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.

**Leader (holding up matzah):** They take the bread that slaves eat—one that has no time to rise—matzah.

**Reader:** They head towards the Sea of Reeds. But 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 man steps into the sea, others follow, and God parts the waters for the Israelites to cross safely to the other side. When Pharaoh and his army follow, the seas close over them and they drown. Miriam and the other women lead the Israelites in a new song. *If only a new song...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!

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

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

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

**ALL:** Dayenu!

**Leader:** How is this night different from all other nights? Mah nishtnah ha-lailah hazeh? Tonight is a totally different celebration. We thank each person for their unique contribution to our virtual table. Our people cried out to God and God answered them. On this hopeful note we conclude our Seder. From slavery to freedom, from despair to joy, from darkness to light, may we sing a new song—hallelujah!

*If only hallelujah...*

**ALL:** Dayenu!

Sing your family's favorite Seder song.\*

**ALL:** Next year in person!

**Leader ends formal group call.**

(Some families may remain online while eating.)

## SHULCHAN ORECH, THE PESACH FAMILY MEAL שלחן עורף

Rachatz

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

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו על נטילת ידים.

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?
- 🌀 Who was/is your favorite childhood hero?
- 🌀 What is your best or worst Seder memory?



**Please enjoy your meals but before you do, we know that everyone will wash their hands. It has become our universal practice. We 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, 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 a prayer 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!)

[haggadot.com](http://haggadot.com)

[myjewishlearning.com/article/  
passover-2020/](http://myjewishlearning.com/article/passover-2020/)

Passover Songs:  
[pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/  
april-2019/learn-the-songs-in-the-  
passover-haggadah](http://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2019/learn-the-songs-in-the-passover-haggadah)

Make Your Own Matzah:  
[pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/  
april-2019/how-to-make-your-own-  
matzah](http://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2019/how-to-make-your-own-matzah)

## Guiding Principles behind the Dayenu Seder

- Many are “digitally exhausted” and 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 participation in a Zoom Seder.
  - It enables participants to come together and to have an authentic experience that reflects this historic moment.
  - It can include some of the traditions and rabbinic requirements for a Seder.
- We include only rituals that require things people already have. Many may not have Pesach items in their homes this year.
- We use rituals that keep participants on the zoom call and do not require them to leave the screen.
- The language of 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 expression. The youngest will learn from cousins, siblings and elders that this experience matters.
- Many have different understandings of God. We invite participants to adapt this ceremony to reflect individual family principles and values.
- The Dayenu Seder intentionally ends at the family meal because many families may find it challenging to reconvene after the meal.
- We encourage participants to ask many questions and have rich conversations around their individual family tables as they enjoy their Seder meals.



[jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org](http://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org)

[info@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org](mailto:info@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org)

Written by Lee M. Hendler, President and Co-Founder of the Jewish Grandparents Network

The Jewish Grandparents Network thanks Jane Isay, Rabbi Stuart Seltzer, and Dr. Ron Wolfson for their expertise, generous assistance and support.

We thank [Ellen Kahan Zager](#) for her beautiful design work.  
Illustrations by Deborah Zemke

