



Family 'Short' Seder 2023

Family Member

Shalom! Shalom! We say Shalom! We wish you well and welcome you. It's Seder time, it's Seder time! (Children repeat)

Four times during the Seder we raise our cup of wine or grape juice and say a blessing before we drink it. Wine and its blessing mark special celebrations when we feel glad and grateful for good things that have happened to us. The Seder is an extra special one of those nights.

Family member



[First cup of grape juice](#)

Family Member We drink four cups of wine because there are four Hebrew words for freedom. (Count the cups together) We raise our cups numbered 1 and sing the blessing together:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Family member



[KARPAS Eat a Green Vegetable Dipped in Salt Water](#)

Passover celebrates the start of spring. As cold and dark days end, green leaves return to the trees and flowers blossom again. Trees and plants are free to grow. To mark spring's return, we eat karpas (kar-PAHS), which means "green vegetable." Parsley or celery can be good karpas. Before we eat the karpas, we dip it in salt water. The salty taste reminds us of the tears that the slaves cried in Egypt. It also reminds us of the sadness and pain of slavery.

Dip the green vegetable in salt water, then say:

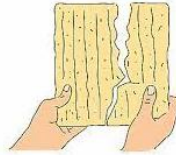
בְּרִיךְ אַתָּה ה' יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְנוּמָה לְךָ עוֹלָם מִבוֹר אֶפְרַיִם הָאֵדָמָה.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei peri ha'adama.

Dear God, Creator of our world, thank You for creating fruits and vegetables that grow out of the earth.

Family member

YACHATZ Break off the Dessert Matzah



Hold up the middle matzah from the ceremonial matzah plate. Break it in half. Put the smaller piece back, but wrap the larger piece in a cloth or pouch and put it aside.

The Seder table has a ceremonial plate with three pieces of matzah. The middle matzah on this plate has a special job. Half of it will “hide” and come back later as the last bite of our meal. Yachatz (yah-CHATZ) means “split in two.” The larger piece of this matzah will be called the Afikoman (ah-fee-koeMAHN), an ancient Greek word that means “after-dinner fun.” In a game of hide-and-seek, adults will hide the Afikoman and children will have to find it. (In some families, the roles are reversed.) This missing piece of matzah will be tonight’s dessert. Keep a close eye on it before it disappears! At the end of the meal, you may get a prize for finding the Afikoman!

Family member

Four questions begin the story we tell to four kinds of children we know so well. (Everyone counts to four or counts out four people)

Ma'nistanah

מַה הַנִּשְׁתַּנָּה לָנוּ הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל־הַלַּיְלָהּ לְיָלוּת?

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

How is this night different from all other nights?



שָׁבֹב כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה לְיָלוּת, אֲךָ נוֹאכְלִין חֶמֶץ וּמָצָה; הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה, בְּלֹא מָצָה

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz umatzah, halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.

On all other nights, we eat chametz (leavened foods) and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?

שָׁבֹב כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה לְיָלוּת, אֲךָ נוֹאכְלִין שְׂאֵר יֵרֶקוֹת; הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה, מָרוֹר.

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin sh'ar y'rakot, halailah hazeh, maror.

On all other nights, we eat all vegetables. Why, on this night, maror (bitter herbs)?

שָׁבֹב כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה לְיָלוּת, אֲךָ נוֹמְטְבִילִין אֶפְסָר לֹא פְעַם אֶחָת; הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה, שְׁתֵּי פְעָמִים.

Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat; halailah hazeh, sh'tei f'amim.

On all other nights, we don't dip even once. Why on this night do we dip twice?

שָׁבֹב כָּל־הַלַּיְלָה לְיָלוּת, אֲךָ נוֹאכְלִין בִּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבִין מְסֻבִּין; הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה, כָּל־נוֹמְסְבִין

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.

On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining. Why on this night do we all recline?

Family Member

Once upon a time in the Land of Egypt, A ruler named Pharaoh Made the Jews work very hard. Family Member We worked all day, We worked all night, We had no rest, We knew it was not right. (Children repeat, while stamping feet.)

Bang Bang Bang - Children sing along

Bang Bang Bang, bang, bang, hold your hammer low.

Bang, bang, bang, give a heavy blow. For it's work, work, work, every day and every night. For it's work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.

Dig, dig, dig, dig your shovels deep. Dig, dig, dig, there's no time for sleep. For it's work, work, work, every day and every night. For it's work, work, work, when it's dark and when it's light.



Family Member

Who will save us? Who will help? God heard our cry and made a plan. One helper was needed to save God's clan. Who will save us? Who will help? (Children repeat)

When Moses was born his mother did fear That soldiers would take her child so dear. So she made a plan to save her son, And that's when we saw how God's work can get done.

Family Member

One fine day, Moses climbed and climbed so high. He thought that he actually could reach the sky. There on the mountain was an awesome sight. A bush stood burning with a radiant light. (Reach hands upward, like rays) It was God right there, right there in the bush. It was God speaking to Moses. Oh my, how he shook! (Everybody shake) With fear and awe and confusion and might, Moses understood he was starting a new time in his life.

Family Member

So down the mountain Moses came, a staff in hand, a face of faith. "To Egypt I must go," he told his wife, Tziporrah. To Pharaoh I must say, "Please let my people go!" To Pharaoh I must say, "Please let my people go!" (Children repeat)

Family Member

Moses went to the Pharaoh and said, "Let us go!" (Children repeat "Let us go!") He looked him in the eye and said, "My God says so." (Point your finger and say it strong!) Pharaoh laughed, Pharaoh smirked, Pharaoh folded his arms and said, (Children fold their arms and say what Pharaoh said) "No way, no way, will I let your people free. I need them to build my great big city. I need them to make the statues. I need them to make bricks. I need them to schlep water. I need them for all my tricks."

Family Member

I will return, you will see The God of Israel will set my people free. You have one day to change your mind, Or we will find ways to make you more kind. Family Member So Moses went home and saw his family. He was sad, he

was troubled, and he prayed to Elohim. They made a plan to try to teach. The Pharaoh must learn that God is our King.

Family Member

Pharaoh still would not be kind; So God sent some reasons to help change his mind. He sent some frogs to jump and twitch (All pretend to be frogs and jump, jump, jump)

Frog Song - Children sing along

One morning when Pharaoh woke in his bed,
There were frogs in his bed and frogs on his head,
Frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes,
Frogs here, frogs there, Frogs were jumping everywhere!



Family member

He sent some bugs to make Pharaoh itch. (Everyone scratches) Blood in the water turned the river red. Flies all around made him cover his head. There were 10 plagues God sent in all, so finally to Moses, Pharaoh did call.

On Passover, we are grateful that extraordinary things happened to help us go free. But we're also sad that other people suffered while we were saved. When we remember the Ten Plagues, we dip a pinky finger into our cup of wine or grape juice and take one drop out for each plague. We're still joyful, but our cup of joy is not quite as full.

When we count the plagues in the seder, we mark them by taking a little of the juice (wine) out of one of our cups with our finger and put it on our napkins, like this. (Demonstrate first, then do it together while counting to 10.)

1. Blood דם (Dam)
2. Frogs צפרדע (a'Tzefarde)
3. Lice כינים (Kinim)
4. Wild Animals ארוב (Arov)
5. Cattle Disease דבר (Dever)
6. Sores שחין (Shechin)
7. Hail ברד (Barad)
8. Locusts ארבה (Arbeh)
9. Darkness חושך (Choshech)
10. Death of the First Born
11. מכת בכורות (Bechorot Makat)

Dayenu

Dayenu (die-AY-new) means “It is more than enough for us!” God has given the Jewish people so many gifts — and even just one of them would have been enough for us to feel grateful and happy.

All Sing

Family Member

Second Cup of Grape Juice



We raise our cups and sing the blessing together:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Family Member

(Act out packing here) It took lots of patience. It took lots of work. But Pharaoh was being a great big jerk. At last he said, "Yes, take your people now." And we packed up our toys and our pillows and blankies. (Encourage the children to say something they would pack and pretend to put it in the suitcase.) We packed up everything we could because we had to move fast.

Family member

TELLING THE STORY WITH FOODS: PESACH, MATZAH, AND MAROR

Rabban Gamliel was a teacher who lived in Israel 2,000 years ago and who helped write the Haggadah. He wanted us to make sure that the foods at our Seder are not just for eating. They are on our table to remind us what the Jews felt at the first Passover celebration, the last night of slavery.

Rabban Gamliel said: Every Passover Seder should include the story of these three items – the lamb bone, the matzah, and the maror. These three symbolic foods – the lamb bone, the matzah, and the maror – bring the feelings of the first Passover night to our own Seder table. In every generation, no matter how long ago the first Passover night was, we try to feel that we ourselves are going free right now.



We've told the story! Now we're ready to eat some of those symbolic foods on the way to our festive dinner.

Family member

MAROR Eat the Bitter Vegetable



Maror, the bitter vegetable, gives a small taste of slavery. We say a blessing over the maror, but when we eat it we do not lean to the side. For this moment, we are slaves again. Before we eat the maror, we dip it in charoset. (See the next page for a description of charoset.) This is the "second dipping" mentioned in the Four Questions, along with the dipping of karpas (parsley) in salt water. The maror can be eaten on a piece of matzah or inside a piece of romaine lettuce.

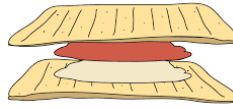
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּצִוְיֶיךָ לֵאמֹר כִּי לֵיל תְּמָרֶה.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al achilat maror.

Dear God, Creator of our world, thank You for giving us rules that make our lives special and for teaching us to eat this maror at the Seder.

Family member

[KORECH Eat the Matzah Sandwich](#)



Korech (koe-RECH) means “make a sandwich.” Korech brings together all of the three foods that are symbols of the freedom story into one spicy bite. Because these days we no longer eat the Passover lamb, some people put charoset in their korech. Charoset means “clay,” and it looks like the clay used by slaves to make bricks for Pharaoh’s buildings.

Give each person two small pieces of the bottom matzah. Put a bit of maror and charoset between them to make a small sandwich.

Family Member

[Third Cup of Grape Juice](#)



We raise our cups and sing the blessing together:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p’ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Family Member

Every year at our Passover Seder, we invite a very special guest. Family Member Do you know who it could be?

It’s a very special prophet who goes from house to house on Passover night and has a sip of wine from a special cup put out just for him! Family Member Elijah is his name! Elijah the Prophet! We’ll stand up and face the door and use our imaginations to welcome Elijah because one day, we hope very soon, Elijah will come and help to make peace throughout the world!

In many Jewish stories, a special man named Elijah the Prophet helps us dream of a happier and fairer world. On Passover, Elijah has a special job: he travels around the world to visit every seder, reminding us to have hope and keep working for fairness and justice. We welcome Elijah with a special cup of wine, just for him.



Family member

[Fourth Cup of Grape Juice](#)



Now we will raise our cups, once again, for the fourth cup of wine.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p’ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

[Find the Afikomen!](#)





This Seder service was created by Sarah Koster (Young Families Lead) for EHRS using a culmination of family services ideas available from Reform Judaism and PJ Library resources. Please find link below to their full Haggadot:

<https://pjlibrary.org/haggadah>

<https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/haggadah/>

HOLIDAYS • HAPPY PASSOVER • פסח כשר ושמח

