

The Ten-Minute

Dayenu Seder

USER'S GUIDE



Photograph: Janna Hindman



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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 easy-to-use, colorful, and condensed *Dayenu Seder* is a terrific way to celebrate Passover.”
- Janna H.



Photograph: Courtesy of Leslie Kimmelman

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 best to 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 young 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?

You may 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 children to ask older participants (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 one big 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 meaningful to you this year? At the Four Questions/Mah Nishtanah, add: How is our family different from other families?



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



Photograph: Courtesy of the Singer Family

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



On both the first and second nights, all our family and friends found the service very meaningful.

- Michael R.



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 and text it to participants (or to the seder leader or host who then distributes it).



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.

Missing a favorite ritual? We've included two at the end of this guide: **The Four Questions** and **Searching for the Afikoman**.

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



Two Additional Favorite Seder Rituals

By popular demand, we have added the Four Questions and Searching for the Afikoman to the guide. These two ritualized practices bookend the seder and engage children so effectively that we often forget their original purpose. Our sages designed them specifically to keep children at the table so adults could fulfill the biblical commandment to tell the Exodus story to our children and grandchildren.

We hope you enjoy these additions and find ways to include your own family favorites!

The Four Questions (Mah Nishtanah):

The Four Questions (Mah Nishtanah), which fall under the Maggid (“telling”) part of the seder, direct attention to practices — eating matzah and maror, dipping vegetables — that are part of a traditional seder. They encourage questioning, reward curiosity, and teach that life is filled with symbolic and sacred meaning, if we choose to make it so. Apart from the Shema, the chanting of the Four Questions may well be one of our most universally known and sung melodies.

Often, the younger children at the seder table lead the singing of The Four Questions and everyone joins in for the chorus.

“This was the best seder ever. Can we come again next year?”

- Multi-heritage couple



Photograph: Courtesy of Debra S. Weinberg

The Four Questions (Mah Nishtanah):

מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל
הלילות?

Transliteration

*Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol
haleilot?*

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין
חמץ ומצה, הלילה הזה כולו מצה.

*Shebechol haleilot anu ochlin
chametz umatzah, halailah hazeh kulo matzah.*

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין שאר
ירקות, הלילה הזה מרור.

*Shebechol haleilot anu ochlin she'ar
yerakot, halailah hazeh maror.*

שבכל הלילות אין אנו מטבילין
אפילו פעם אחת, הלילה הזה
שתי פעמים.

*Shebechol haleilot ein anu matbilen
afilu pa'am echat, halailah hazeh
sh'tei fe'amim.*

שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין
בין יושבין ובין מסבין, הלילה
הזה כלנו מסבין.

*Shebechol haleilot anu ochlin
bein yoshvin uvein mesubin, halailah
hazeh kulanu mesubin.*

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat *chametz* (leavened bread) and matzah, but on this night only matzah.

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on this night *maror* (bitter herbs).

On all other nights we do not dip even once, but on this night we dip twice.

On all other nights we eat either sitting or reclining, but on this night we all recline.

Searching for the Afikoman

Who doesn't love a scavenger hunt? The search for the afikoman begins with the breaking of the middle matzah of the three symbolic pieces on the seder table. Usually, before the end of the meal, the leader of the seder or another adult hides a piece of that matzah — or one piece for each child — in a pouch (for some this may be a family Passover heirloom), napkin, or plastic wrap.

After dessert (or during the meal if the kids are impatient!), the hunt begins. Depending on the age and number of participants, you may want to consider some boundaries — certain rooms or floors are off limits and perhaps no running.

The child (or children) who finds the afikoman brings it back to the leader. Traditionally, the child holds the matzah for ransom and negotiates with the leader for payment so that the matzah can be returned to the seder table. Some find that a bit too intense and instead reward the finder and all of the seekers with small gifts, such as books, crafts, small toys, or cash.

Each person at the table may choose to take a tiny piece of the afikoman to eat. This piece of matzah represents the Pascal sacrifice which was the very last thing eaten at the seder.

While the children are hunting, those at the table may wish to consider these ideas:

- It is possible for us to move from brokenness to joy.
- We have the power to break things along with the power to restore them.
- We are always seeking wholeness.

What other meanings does this ritual suggest to you?

After the children return to the table, ask a few adults to share their favorite childhood afikoman stories.



Photograph: Courtesy of Cheryl Katz Cohen

What is your favorite childhood memory of the afikoman and/or the Four Questions?

What do you hope your grandchildren will take away from reciting or helping to recite the Four Questions? Participating in the search for the afikoman?

