



Webinar Discussion Guide

Improvise Your Seder: How Games and Play Can Make Passover Memorable for Grandchildren and Families

By Andrew Davies

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Purpose

This guide provides prompts for discussion of the JGN webinar “Improvise Your Seder: How Games and Play Can Make Passover Memorable for Grandchildren and Families,” led by Andrew Davies on April 2, 2025. The webinar shares ways to bring the seder to life for grandchildren and families.

If you were not able to attend the session, you can view the recording at <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/video-library/>. The guide is intended for groups of grandparents and program facilitators to discuss the ideas presented in the webinar.

Key Takeaways

- **Fun and Play:** Play is essential to engage grandchildren and encourage their participation. To make your seder memorable, try to set aside the logistics of hosting and have a good time in the moment yourself — because if you enjoy leading, grandkids will enjoy following!
- **Less is More:** Don't worry about covering everything in a traditional adult seder; rather, aim to make what you do powerful and memorable. If you do one or two activities — whether it's Song of the Seder Order, Pharaoh Says, or a Maror Photo Booth (see the recording) — really well, it will mean much more than trying to do a small piece of every part of the seder.
- **“Yes, and” Judaism:** One of the most famous principles of Improv Comedy is the idea of saying “Yes, and” — acknowledging an idea and adding your own. The history of Rabbinical Judaism is a continuous game of the ancient rabbis saying “Yes, and.” They study and honor the tradition that came before them and add their own interpretation. At your seder, you and your family can also honor the past, and add your own ideas, stories, and interpretations.

- **Inspiration from Others:** Check out [My Jewish Learning's Passover Page](#) for great articles and ideas, [Escape the Plagues](#) (a social justice puzzle for Passover), the Bible Players [Moses and the Burning Bush Video](#) and discussion, some great [Passover resources from PJ Library](#), and JGN's [Passover Discovery Kit](#).

Tips and Tricks

- **Interactive is key:** Everything you do should be participatory and interactive in some way. For example, if you like to spend time on the list of plagues, rather than just reading them, use scarves, balloons, and other small props — or sound effects — to act them out.
- **Pivot and adjust as needed:** If an activity you planned doesn't feel right in the moment, trust your gut. Maybe it's late and your activity feels long; shorten it in some way. Alternatively, if you planned three activities and the first one is going great, follow the children's lead and stick with what they're loving.
- **Tactile is terrific:** Whether you're leading in person or on Zoom, incorporating playful objects makes the experience more engaging. Small toys to hold, scarves or balloons to play with, food to share, for example, matzah, maror, or grape juice, help bring the seder to life.
- **Supplies, not surprise:** If you are doing an activity that involves printouts, song sheets, props, markers, or crayons, make sure to organize them well in advance. Have supplies in a designated area, arranged in the order you will use them.

Discussion Questions

1. **Beginnings:** How might you set the scene for your seder in a way that excites your grandchildren? Can you start with a picture, a poem, a song, or a game that connects to your theme?
2. **Past Seders:** What's been your favorite part of the seder? Why? How might you bring that joy to your grandchild this year?
3. **In-Person or Zoom:** Will your seder this year be on Zoom or in-person or both? How does that affect what activities you plan to lead?
4. **Make a Choice:** If you have time for only one activity or game, what will it be? Which one or two others will you add if you have extra time and energy?
5. **Themes:** What themes of Passover resonate with you the most? You could focus on community/*kehillah* (how the Jewish people came together as a nation), freedom from a "narrow place/*Mitzrayim*," or appreciating the good/*hakarat hatov*, and how we are thankful for all we have.
6. **Reflection:** How can you create a moment of reflection before ending your seder? Could participants share a favorite moment or express what resonated with them?