



PRE-SEDER PREPARATION

In every generation, one must see oneself as if one had personally experienced the Exodus from Egypt. As it is written: "You shall speak to your children on that day, saying, this is how the Holy Blessed One redeemed me from Egypt. It wasn't merely my ancestors who were redeemed, but the Holy Blessed One also redeemed us with them, as it is said, 'And we went forth from there, in order that God might lead us to the land which had been promised to our ancestors.' ~ Haggadah

Redemption isn't a one-time thing that happened to our ancestors; it is an ongoing experience, on Passover and every day. We too should feel as though we were redeemed from Egypt, and we should be encouraged to express gratitude.



PRE-SEDER PREPARATION

1. How is every Seder different if we follow the same order?
2. Why is it important to personalize our Seder experience?
3. How does it feel when traditions change?
4. What other century-old traditions changed? Do you adapt?
5. What are your expectations of this holiday this year?
6. How does it feel when you prepare your home for Passover?
7. Consider how preparing for Passover serves as an ideal parallel to the Exodus. How did the Hebrew slaves prepare for their Exodus?
8. Why is cleaning and preparing your home an important part of the Passover celebration?
9. What is the basic idea behind the Passover festival? The Torah provides a simple explanation that it is an annual commemoration of past events. Is there more to it?
10. How does our ancestral story compel us to grapple with oppression in today's world?
11. In what way do the themes of Passover resonate with the current socio-political climate?
12. Moses took action because the Israelites in Egypt were being denied their basic rights. Which modern human rights issue compels you to act?
13. How do you help your family and guests prepare for Passover?



ANTISEMITISM & THE SEDER

Antisemitism and violent attacks on Jewish institutions and Jews are on the rise in North America and around the world. Over time, antisemitic attitudes have remained constant in America. Some American adults continue to agree with common tropes about Jews, including “Jewish power” in business and “dual loyalty,” the notion that Jews are more loyal to Israel than their own country. With the increases of reported antisemitism around the world, there’s also been a growth in different expressions of antisemitism that demonize Israel and Israelis and attribute Israel’s perceived faults to its Jewish character. The theme of antisemitism is woven into the story of Passover.

1. What can you do to make sure “never again” actually means “never again”?
2. What do you think “never again” means in practice?
3. Why do you think the Seder specifically is meant to be done in the vernacular, while many other mitzvot and prayers are done in Hebrew?
4. How can you and those assembled at your Seder actively fight and combat antisemitism throughout the year?



CommUNITY

1. What are your communities? Why does it matter?
2. How is your sense of belonging in a community tied to experiencing challenges or to celebrating joyous occasions together?
3. How do you stay connected to a community?
4. What is the difference between community and commUNITY?
5. Think for a moment about the future of the Jewish people. Do you think your great-grandchildren will be sitting at a Passover Seder someday? What can you do now to ensure that they will?
6. When do we need a community? What can't we accomplish on our own?
7. What places of brokenness in the world or in the community do you most wish to help fix?
8. What are the areas in your community and on the larger world stage where bitterness, subjugation and slavery still exist?
9. What does it mean to experience coming out of Egypt with a group of people?



DIASPORA

1. Are some Diaspora Jews freer than others?
2. How would your holiday celebration be different in Israel?
3. Why are we considered to still be in exile when we enjoy religious freedom to such a great extent?
4. What do currently do to stand with Israel?
5. What can you do to actively and unconditionally support Israel?



L'DOR V'DOR

1. What does "from Generation to Generation" mean to you? What happens at your Seder that connects you to previous generations of your family?
2. Do you feel more connected to your parents, grandparents and family values and traditions when you sit at the Seder table? If so, why?
3. What are ways you can feel connected to family and friends through food over the holiday?
4. What stories do you know about your family's struggles and successes?
5. How did what your parents or grandparents pass down to you about the Exodus affect you?
6. Why is it important to tell the next generation our personal or family "Egypt" stories?
7. How do you think the Passover story connects to your life today?
8. How do the paths you have taken in life help you understand the journey out of Egypt?
9. How does taking the perspective of others benefit us?
10. We retell the Passover story in each generation. What do you want the next generation to remember about how you responded to today's challenges?
11. What are some ways you might use the telling of the Exodus story to continue your family's traditions?
12. What stories do you see as your responsibility to pass down to the next generation?
13. What does it mean to "regard" oneself as having "personally left Egypt?"
14. What impact as an adult did your parents or grandparents teachings about the Exodus have on you?
15. What is the power of imagination?
16. What lessons have you derived from the Torah you have studied these past few weeks and from the experience of this current reality?
17. What lessons are you learning from today's reality?
18. What relevance do you find in the story of the Exodus?
19. Who are the enemies of our generation that seek to destroy us, and can we identify miracles God does to protect us?



V'HI SHE'AMDA

1. Have we ever personally experienced antisemitism?
2. How do we develop resiliency?
3. What are some challenges you have overcome in your life?
4. What has gotten us through tough times as a people, a family and/or as individuals?



TZEH U'LEMAD

1. How has assimilation affected our families?
2. How do we ensure that we maintain our Jewish identity?
3. How does assimilation, intermarriage and antisemitism intersect in our society?
4. What does this say about the importance of Jewish education?



SHULCHAN ORECH

1. Have you ever picked fruit or vegetables on a farm and eaten it straight from the earth? If so, what was that experience like and what feelings did it evoke for you?
2. What is your favorite thing to eat at the Seder or on Passover?
3. Think about your memories of food and family. What might they teach you about yourself and your values?
4. What traditions and recipes are important to your family? Why?
5. How do the foods we eat on Passover help immerse you in the feeling of escaping Egypt?
6. Why are certain foods so meaningful? What memories or feelings do they conjure?
7. If you had to pick one food to eat every day, what food would it be?
8. How do the traditional Passover foods remind you of your family's journey?
9. What would it have been like to be a gourmet chef for the Israelites as they wandered through the desert? What would you have cooked, where would you have gotten the ingredients and what utensils would you have used to prepare the food with?
10. If you were to add a new food to the Seder plate that symbolizes the yearning for freedom, what would it be and why?



TZAFUN

1. How does Elijah become associated with Passover?
2. What does Elijah represent for you?
3. Why Elijah? Who would you invite if you were given the option?
4. What doubts and questions do you have waiting for Eliyahu to resolve?
5. Elijah is coming to announce the coming of the Messiah and peace on earth. Consider any spot on the globe. Discuss where he should announce this great proclamation. Why?
6. Do you yearn daily for the Messiah or just focus on the present?
7. Is it a Jewish value to wish vengeance against those who have wronged us?