



13 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PASSOVER SEDER MORE INCLUSIVE

- 1. Let your guests know what to expect in advance of the seder.** All seders are different, so whether this is your guest's first seder or their 50th, it's good to lay the groundwork for what your seder might look like.
- 2. Consider conducting the first half of the seder, until the meal, in a more relaxed space** than the dining room table. Perhaps you can gather in a family room or den where people can be seated on comfortable couches, chairs, or even pillows, and where you can have all the necessary items for the parts of the seder before the meal. Such a setting might make for more conversation and discussion, which is the primary aim of the seder. While some follow the tradition of waiting to eat until the meal (other than the karpas), others might serve some light appetizers during this first half of the seder to keep people comfortable and engaged.
- 3. Use a haggadah that aligns with your personal values,** or add supplemental materials. [Click here for some suggestions](#), or try building your own haggadah at [Haggadot.com](#).
- 4. The haggadah is not a script to be recited; it's more of a lesson plan** to guide you through the highlights of retelling and discussing our story of freedom which the tradition invites you to share in your own voice and in your own way. The mitzvah is to make it your own.
- 5. Feel free to stop and discuss some sections, and to move through others more quickly.** There's no need to elaborate upon each page. Be mindful of pacing and keeping people's attention.
- 6. Connect the Pesah story to the world today.** Pesah is a Jewish story, but also a universal, human story about breaking out of bondage and bringing freedom to individuals, communities, and the world. It's a story that celebrates not just a past liberation, but an ongoing one; one that demands we pay attention to people today who lack freedom and dignity.
- 7. Encourage people from other cultures to participate and share,** not to feel as if they're observers, or that they're being convinced of one version of the story.
- 8. Reassure your guests that all contributions are welcome.** There are no silly questions or wrong answers.
- 9. Take turns reading and leading** so that everyone is involved as an active participant in the seder.
- 10. Be mindful to define words or expressions used in Hebrew.** Some words that seem widely known might not be familiar to all.
- 11. Consider making some modern additions to the seder table.**
 - Pineapple: A colonial-era symbol of welcome and prosperity. Use as a symbol of welcoming others (including refugees and immigrants). Invite people to bring things to set on the table that are symbols of freedom or immigration from their own cultures which they can then share with you and your other guests.
 - Artichoke: A commonly-used symbol of Jewish diversity with its many leaves. Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, however, offers the idea that the prickly leaves that protect the heart are symbolic of the Jewish community's prickly relationship with intermarriage. The hope is to turn thistles into petals.
 - Orange: Originally placed to include women and LGBTQ+, but expanded to include all who feel marginalized in the community. Some people eat the orange at the start of the seder and spit out the seeds as an expression of rejecting outdated or offensive ideas, beliefs, and values.
 - Cup of Ruth: Wine symbolic of Jews by choice and others who have made their home with the Jewish people, as Ruth did in the Torah. Set it next to Elijah's cup.
- 12. When you say the Shehecheyanu with kiddush at the beginning, invite your guests to share what it is for which they're feeling thankful.**
- 13. HAVE FUN!** Whip scallions at each other during Dayenu like Persian Jews do, give out chocolate frogs, make matzah pyramid desserts, dress up, or use instruments to accompany your singing.