

Passover Activities

Passover Questions for the Whole Family

(Courtesy of the URJ Website)

Our tradition teaches us that the Passover Seder is meant to be a learning experience. As you prepare to sit around the Seder table, we'd like to offer you some additional questions to help connect the past, present, and future of our Passover traditions. Focusing on the symbols of Passover, we hope this resource helps highlight our traditions in a way that links to where we are today and will lead to asking even more questions.



What is your *chametz*?

As we prepare for Passover we get rid of anything that contains *chametz* – any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their derivatives, which has leavened (risen) – and traditionally we abstain from *chametz* throughout Passover. Actual *chametz* is relatively easy to identify. What *chametz* in **your** life are you going to clean out this year?

What are our plagues?

We read in the Haggadah that God sent 10 plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians to convince them to let the Israelites go. What are our contemporary Plagues that are reminding us to cherish our freedom and make sure more people are free?

What enslaves you?

Each year at the Passover Seder we read that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. One of the central purposes of the Seder is to remember what it means to be enslaved. What enslaves you today?

What is your matzah?

The Israelites had to pack to leave Egypt at a moments notice without time to bake bread and let it rise. What is most essential to you today – what would you be taking with you?

Why?

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Seder Plate (Courtesy of URJ Website)

Create your own Seder Plate: (Estimated time: 30 minutes – 45 minutes. Drying time: at least 24 hours)

Materials

- glass charger or serving plate
- 5-lb. bag of sea glass pieces, found in the floral decorating section of craft stores and Wall Mart
- E6000 adhesive
- paper towel
- small plates or bowls



Directions

1. Working with a 2-inch section at a time, spread a thin layer of glue on the plate's upper rim. Glue down the glass shards, fitting them together in an artistic pattern. Continue gluing on more pieces in the same manner until the rim is completely covered. You will need to hold down the glass for a few seconds so that the pieces don't slide around.
2. For a second layer, spread a small amount of glue on the back of each piece and attach it to the top of the first layer. You can add as many layers as you like in the same manner.
3. Clean up any glue drips with a damp paper towel. (The glue gums up and can be pulled off easily.) Let dry for at least 24 hours before using.
4. Place small plates or bowls onto your seder plate to hold the symbolic foods.

Note: Hand-wash after use.



Afikomen Bag (Estimated time: 30 minutes – 45 minutes)

Quick! Hide the afikomen!

At the seder, it's traditional for a piece of the middle matzah, called the afikomen, to be hidden by either the head of the Seder or by the children participating. In either case, when the matzo is found or returned, the children receive (or are promised) a gift. This is all done in good spirits, to keep the children interested in the seder until the end, when the afikomen is eaten. Create a beautiful Afikomen Bag.

Materials

- 1/4-yard polar fleece
- tape measure
- pencil
- pinking shears
- needle and thread
- sharp scissors
- 26" length of 1/2-wide ribbon
- 2 tassels
- sequins or rhinestones, optional
- craft or fabric glue, optional

Directions

1. Measure and mark a 9"x22" rectangle on the back of the fleece. Cut out with pinking shears.
2. Fold the fleece in the middle, lengthwise, with the right side facing in. (If you are using fleece without a pattern, there is no right or wrong side; just make sure that the pencil marks are on the outside.) It should form a 9"x11" pouch.
3. With the needle and thread, or sewing machine, stitch the fleece together to form a pouch, leaving the top open.

4. Fold the top of the fleece pouch down so that there is a 1" cuff around the top.
5. Use sharp scissors to cut 1/4"-deep slits into the fold of the cuff, cutting through both layers at the same time. Cut 9 slits spaced 1" apart around the top of the pouch. Unfold the cuff.
6. Turn the pouch right-side-out. Thread the ribbon through the slits. Knot a tassel to each of the ribbon ends.

Optional: Decorate the front of the bag by gluing on rhinestones and/or sequins with craft glue or fabric glue.