

HOW TO HOLD AN AMAZING ZOOM SEDER...A “ZEDER”!

So, you’ve decided to do your Seder – or part of it – over Zoom. This is a first-of-its-kind Passover experience - let’s make it one to remember. Let’s make the best of it. Here are some tips and tricks to help make your Zeder a success!

1

HAVE A PURPOSE

When planning your Seder, think about why you’re doing it. Are you trying to connect with friends or family? Do you need to hear or sing certain songs? To read the entire Haggadah? To fulfill the obligations of the Seder? Do you want to have deep conversations about the nature of freedom or your current situation? Once you’ve defined your purpose, use it to guide what you will do during your Seder.

2

APPOINT A LEADER

Having one person be in charge of the Seder is key. This designated person figures out the plan in advance, invites people, makes sure the Seder flows, and most importantly, makes sure the Seder ends on time! *You* don’t have to be the leader, but the leader needs to know in advance that they are the one leading.

3

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

The leader doesn’t and shouldn’t do every part of the Seder. Seders in general, and online Seders in particular, should be broken up with different people leading different parts. The leader should assign roles as far in advance as possible to give guests a chance to prepare, and should give some basic parameters of time and content.

4

MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

The traditional Seder is based around questions (four to be exact). Ask your guests open-ended questions related to Passover and this moment to help your Seder go deep. Some suggested questions: When do you feel the most free? What are you grateful for at this moment? In the future, what story do we want to tell about this period in our lives? Try going beyond questions to include skits, games and storytelling.



5

LESS IS MORE

For your Seder, you’ll probably find that doing a little less than usual will result in a better overall experience. Maybe only have a 20-30 minute call together to launch your Seder, or focus on four questions that you or your guests write. As the great line from the Talmud says, “One spicy pepper is better than a basketful of bland squash.” Fill your seder with a few really nice elements, and take out what might not work as well online, like the reading of large chunks of Hebrew/English in unison.

6

GET ON THE SAME PAGE

Try having people use the same Haggadah to make it easier to help guests navigate the Seder, and send a link to it before the Seder. Encourage people to use their favorite Haggadot for sharing pictures and commentary.

7

HIT THAT MUTE BUTTON

Music is an integral part of most Seders, but really challenging when video conferencing. For those comfortable using technology on the holiday, have one person sing while everyone else sings along on mute. This will help everyone stay together due to the technical limitations of most video conferencing platforms.

8

REMEMBER, JUDAISM HAS YOUR BACK

The Seder was developed more than 2,000 years ago following the destruction of the Temple as a home-based replacement for the Paschal sacrifice. At its core, the Seder is trying to give access to an experience that is impossible to fully recreate. The Seder as we know it is the result of a world of rapidly changing needs. This was as true 2,000 years ago as it is today.

Join Audio Stop Video

Invite

Manage Participants

Share Screen

Chat

Record

Reactions

End Meeting