

Weekly Clergy Message

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Pleasant Prep for a Perfect Passover
Tzav
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Passover is approaching, and this week I wanted to address how we as adults approach the task of leading our Seders so that our guests and children are engaged throughout the journey from Slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Wilderness.

The book of Exodus (Exodus 6:20, 12:26, 13:8, 13:14) tells us that in the years to come our children will ask us about the events that transpired and why we practice these rituals. Some children will even challenge us to tell them why they should care? These anonymous and imagined children become some of the biggest stars of the Seder - the Four Sons (children).

They also set the tone for our entire symposium meal. They ask questions and challenge us to formulate answers and derive meaning that we can share with all the guests at our table. This leads us to the framing of the centerpiece of the Passover ritual - the recitation of the four questions (*Ma Nishtana*) and the telling (*Magid*) of the miraculous redemption of our people from the most dire of straits (*Mitzrayim*/Egypt which in Hebrew means the narrow place).

Let's consider our *Seder* (order) - an event that includes a meal which has 15 highly organized steps but which celebrates our being free from bondage. It may seem like its contradictory, but in essence it is another challenge for us. It sets us up for the idea that practicing Judaism is a celebration of finding freedom of expression within well-established structures, and identifying our own individuality within the context of a community of practice.

This year at Passover, I hope you will question and challenge with gusto all those who share your Seder table - that you will engage each guest (adult or child) with thoughtful and fun activities and discussions that will help them to grow as individuals and build us up together as a unified people.

As an added aid for your Pesach preparations, please enjoy [this link](#) to fun Passover videos from our friends at BimBam.

Hag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach!