

READER: What is the meaning of *matzah*?

TOGETHER: *Matzah* is unleavened bread that symbolizes both slavery and freedom. It is our “bread of affliction,” and a symbol of the divine help we received when we were liberated from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12:39).

READER: As God has liberated us from Egyptian bondage, so may God always inspire us to help the afflicted.

READER: What is the meaning of *maror*?

TOGETHER: *Maror* is a bitter herb. It reminds us that the lives of our ancestors were made bitter from the oppression of Egyptian slavery (Exodus 1:14).

READER: As God has blessed us with freedom, so may God always inspire us to be messengers of God’s word to those in need of hope.

The Watch-Night of the Eternal

READER: “You shall tell your child on that day: ‘It is because of what God did for me when I came forth out from Egypt’” (Exodus 13:8).

This passage in the Book of Exodus is the inspiration for the most important words spoken during the Passover seder:

TOGETHER:

🎵 In every generation each individual is bound to regard himself or herself as if he or she had personally gone forth from Egypt.

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וְדוֹר חַיָּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ
הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם.

B'chol dor vador, chayav adam lirot et-atzmo k'ilu hu yatzta miMitzrayim.

Opportunity for a short discussion: How does the idea of living our lives “as if” God brought us out of Egypt impact the decisions we make about what we do for others?

READER: The words we have spoken express the universal experiences we seek from our seder. It is not “each Jew” who must feel as if he or she came forth out of Egypt, but “each individual.”

TOGETHER: “I” am bound, therefore, to live my life “as if” God redeemed me from persecution, oppression, and slavery. As a beneficiary of the miracles that God performed, I discuss the rituals and symbols of Passover to bring the events from the Exodus into my daily life.

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קַדֵּשׁ

Kadeish

First Cup of Wine

וְרַחֵץ

Urchatz

Washing Hands

כַּרְפָּס

Karpas

Green Vegetable

יַחַץ

Yachatz

Middle Matzah

מַגִּיד

Magid

Telling the Story

רְחִיצָה

Rochtzah

Washing Hands

before the Meal

מוֹצֵיא/מֹצֵה

Motzi/Matzah

Matzah

מְרוֹר

Maror

Bitter Herbs

כּוֹרֵךְ

Koreich

Hillel Sandwich

שְׁלֵחַן עֹרֵךְ

Shulchan Oreich

The Meal Is Served

“Watch-Night”

refers to

Exodus 12:42,

which charges

the children

of Israel to

observe a night

of Passover

through all

generations.

The Seder Service

before the Meal