



Designing a Virtual Seder

A Step by Step Guide to Helping you Design a Seder for 2020

Seder Structure: Questions to ask when designing a Seder

To host or not to host.... That is the question!

Checkout [Seder2020](#), to host or find a seder in your area!

Will I be hosting one night of seder or both nights of seder?

How will the first night of the seder be different than the second night of the seder?

- Will I use technology one night and not the other?

Who will I be inviting to the seder?

- Is this a seder for friends and the larger family, or just immediate family?

What will my Haggadah look like this year?

- Will I create my own, use something already in existence, or return to a Haggadah from past years?

How will I structure the Seder?

- Will I use technology? Will it be synchronous or asynchronous?

How will I begin and end the seder?

- This year's seder is different than any other year. How will I start or end the seder to acknowledge that?

How Will I Invite Guests to the Seder?

- Email
- Paperless Post
- Facebook Message
- WhatsApp

Cleaning for Passover: What will the Passover cleaning process look like this year? How can I contextualize this cleaning in the daily cleaning that is part of living in a pandemic?

- JiTap created a game for kids to learn about and [search for Chametz](#)

Ritual Objects: We know that this year is different from all other years which may make it difficult to have all of the ritual items for the seder.

Some questions to consider:

- What might ritual objects like the seder plate and Elijah's Cup look like if we don't have the real thing?
What might be symbolic substitutes?
- What might we add to our seder plate for Passover this year? What might we take away?

Set Design: How will you set the mood at the seder?

- **Music:**
 - Build a playlist on spotify to set the mood
 - Don't have time to create your own? Sample [playlist](#) created by OneTable
- **Projects:**
 - Decorate your home to reflect Passover themes
 - Create a seder plate with different symbolic items on it
 - Decorate your favorite cup to symbolize the cup for Elijah
 - Create the game Passover Headbands! Click [here](#) for inspiration

- **Costumes:**

- Create your own costumes for different parts of the seder. Assign roles to friends and family. Have everyone dress up as a different character from the Passover story! You can plan this across many households and act out the story online or by having families submit videos of their parts.

Haggadot (online/in print): What Haggadah will you use for the seder?

- **Create Your Own Haggadah:** [Haggadot.com](#)
- **Interpretive Haggadah:** [A Different Night](#)
- **LGBTQ Haggadah:** [Keshet](#) Haggadah
- **Social Justice Based Seder:**
 - HIAS [Haggadah](#)
 - Bend the Arc: [Food & Justice Haggadah](#)
- **Musical Seder**
 - [Hamilton Haggadah](#)
 - Bible Rap's [Hip Hop Haggadah](#)
- **Chocolate Seder:** Haggadah- Click [here](#)
- **Escape Room Haggadah**
- **Mental Health and Wellness Haggadah**
- **Jeopardy Haggadah Supplement**
- **New Haggadah for a Virtual Seder**
- **Looking for Kid Friendly Haggadot? Here's a [resource](#) to help you choose**
 - [Passover Puppet Haggadah](#)
 - [Coloring Book Haggadah](#)
 - [Baseball Haggadah](#)

How will you Structure the Seder?

Here are some Tips/Things to Consider when designing a Virtual Seder:

1. **Choose a Platform:** Below we have outlined platforms which can be used for the seder. Please ensure that you are comfortable with the platform. Be sure to send instructions to guests regarding how to log onto the platform before the start of the seder. You could even schedule a practice run to make sure everyone knows how to log on and use the mute and chat functions.
2. **Haggadah:** Will everyone be using a digital Haggadah or a print Haggadah? Ensure that everyone has access to the all of the lyrics or stories that are read aloud.
3. **Roles:** Will you be assigning parts for seder guests to read or lead? Be sure to divide them out before the seder.
4. **Singing:** Remind everyone to keep themselves on mute to eliminate background noise, and so they can sing their hearts out!

Synchronous: Everyone participates in the Seder over one platform together. Below are some platforms that might help and some features that can enhance the experience.

Platforms for a Synchronous Seder

1. **Zoom**

- a. **Backgrounds:** Change the background to set the mood of the seder. You can start by being in the pyramids in Egypt or in the Desert. Have all participants try it also!
- b. **Breakout Rooms:** Want to have small group discussions on different portions of the seder? This platform can help you achieve that!

- c. **Record:** Is there a friend or family member who is unable to join? Record the seder highlights (or the whole thing) and send it to them to watch at their convenience. Or record a grandparent telling a precious family story.
- d. **Share Screen:** On the zoom platform, you can share content from your screen with the entire group. You can use this function to share lyrics to the 4 Questions, videos, the Haggadah, or anything else that will enhance your seder!
- e. **White Board:** Want to draw the story of Passover? Use the white board function to illustrate different moments of the Passover seder. Did you know that other people can take turns writing on white board? Take turns drawing with different family members.
- f. **Chat:** Use the chat function to invite everyone into a conversation quickly. Ask a question and invite all participants to respond in the chat box. Read a few responses aloud.

2. Other Streaming Services

- a. [Facebook Live/Instagram Live](#)
- b. [Vimeo Live](#)
- c. [Youtube/Media Streaming Site](#)

Asynchronous: An opportunity for families to come together for certain parts of the seders and not others. While everyone may not be online at the same time, use the following platforms below to create a family space where everyone can record their experiences, play games together or share notes of meaning and joy!

Platforms for an Asynchronous Seder:

1. [**Padlet**](#)
 - a. Use the online tool to upload images, and comment in real time during the seder. You can also use Padlet to create a “seder timeline” which guests can access throughout the seder.
2. [**Google Docs**](#)
 - a. Use the online tool to write notes to family and friends in real time.
3. [**Kahoot!**](#)
 - a. **Passover Games** - Create Passover Trivia Games for all participants to answer at the beginning or during the seder.

Coming together moments: Even if you are unable to be together for the entire seder, below are some key moments and activities that can be done together either virtually or without technology.

1. Beginning of the Seder: What are ways you might want to begin the seder?

- a. **Reciting the Order of the Seder:** How will the order of the seder look different in light of these uncertain times?
- b. **Text Study**
 - i. Create a source sheet for your seder guest- Click [here](#) to view already existing source sheets or to create your own!
- c. **Passover Parody Songs**
 - i. [Passover Parody songs](#) that you can insert into any section of your seder!
 - ii. [Six13 A Lion King Passover](#)
 - iii. Looking to learn Passover songs? Checkout [virtual cantor](#)
- d. **Discussion Starters:**
 - i. Begin the seder with a [discussion](#)
- e. **Start off with Seder Games**
 - i. [Passover Taboo](#)

2. **Urchatz**: How does “hand washing” symbolize something different this year than in year’s past?
3. **Maggid: Recitation of the Passover Story**- Think about unique ways that you can tell the Passover story this year. How do we share the Passover story in light of our world today?
 - a. [Share Stories of Resilience](#) - check out a resource from Moving Traditions on sharing stories of resiliency at the seder
 - b. JiTap: [The Passover Story in 10 Scenes](#)
 - c. **Passover Play**
 - i. Tell the story with a fun [Passover Play](#)
 - d. **Activities**
 - i. **10 Plagues**
 1. **Bible Raps**: the [Days of 10 Plagues](#)
 2. [JiTAP: 10 Plagues Video](#)
 - e. **Maggid Songs**
 - i. **4 Questions**
 1. **Shaboom**: [Four Questions](#) sing along for kids
 2. [The Maccabeats: Dayenu](#)
 - ii. **Avadim Hayinu**
 1. JiTap: [Avadim Hayinu](#)
 - f. **The Four Children**
 - i. **Bim Bam**: [Story of the 4 Children](#)
 - ii. Create Puppets of the 4 Children, and have a different person act as one of the children
 - iii. *A Different Night* [Haggadah](#) offers many interpretations of the four children
4. **Maror**: What does it mean to eat maror (the bitter herbs) during these times of uncertainty? What is it symbolic of this year?
5. **Korech**: What does it mean to transition from Maror to Korech (Hillel Sandwich) this year? What does it mean to rebuild or move forward with maror (bitterness) still present? How can we sweeten the bitterness this year just like the charoset in the Hillel sandwich sweetens the maror?
6. **Tzafun: Find the Afikomen**
 - a. **Here are some ways to search for the afikomen virtually!**
 - i. [Afikomen Hunting Game](#)
 - ii. [Afikomen Deal or No Deal](#)
 - iii. [Afikomen Activity Maze](#)
7. **Barech: Elijah’s Cup**
 - a. Who might be missing from our table this evening? What might we bring to the seder table to help us honor their memory?
8. **Nirtza: Ending the Seder**: Here are some tips and tricks for ending the seder on a hopeful note
 - a. **Some Relevant sayings**
 - i. “Next Year in Person”
 - b. **Activities**:
 - i. Write yourself a message of hope that you can seal and read at next year’s seder.
 - ii. Gratitude: Have everyone go around and say one thing they are grateful for this Passover.



*Be sure to check our curated and crowdsourced
Passover Resources at*
<https://www.jewishedproject.org/coronavirus/passover>