



JEWISH DEMS PASSOVER SEDER COMPANION

*Brought to you by the
Jewish Democratic Council of America,
the only national organization combining
Jewish values advocacy with a
Democratic political agenda.*

The Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA) is the political home and voice of Jewish voters in support of Democrats who share our core values.

Our vision is to create a just and equitable society, safe and secure Jewish communities, and strong and vibrant democracies in the United States, in Israel, and around the world. We advocate for policy, educate and mobilize Jewish voters, and elect Democrats, all consistent with our core values.

We encourage you to visit www.jewishdems.org to learn more about taking action and joining JDCA. We see a connection between the political struggles of today and our liberation from Egypt, and in that spirit, please enjoy our Passover supplement. We wish you a meaningful and joyful Passover.

Each year, we gather with friends and family to celebrate the festival of freedom, Passover. Around our Seder tables, we tell the story of freedom from oppression. While our Haggadahs focus on the Jewish liberation from bondage in Egypt, we also reflect on different forms of oppression in the modern day.

This Seder supplement looks at the parallels between the Passover story, current events and political dynamics, and steps we can take to ensure those elected to office represent our values.

At the end of the Seder, we commit to "next year in Jerusalem," which has different meanings to different people. For some, it may literally mean to visit Jerusalem next year. For others, it means committing to ensuring greater freedoms in the coming year. In this spirit, we encourage you to add a fifth question to tonight's Seder:

What actions will you take in the next year to expand opportunities for equality, equity, justice, freedom, and democracy in the United States?

We hope you'll take action with JDCA, advocating for our shared values and helping to elect candidates who share those values.

JDCA wishes you *Chag Pesach Sameach* - a Happy Passover.

חג פסח שמח!

We sing *Dayenu* to express gratitude for overcoming oppression and offering thanks for what we've accomplished together. This year, we're focusing on the ways President Biden and Democrats have delivered for the American people.

If Democrats just passed once-in-a-generation infrastructure funding, rebuilding America's roads and bridges...

DAYENU!

If President Biden just signed the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest government investment to combat climate change in American history...

DAYENU!

If President Biden and Democrats had just made historic investments in clean energy and manufacturing, leading to job growth and the lowest unemployment in more than fifty years...

DAYENU!

The Four Questions

1. Matzah | מצה : Survival is about taking bold action. The Israelites had to act quickly and had no time for their bread to rise as they fled Egypt. More recently, Vladimir Putin's unconscionable assault on Ukraine forced over eight million Ukrainians to flee their homes. Many have had to act quickly in order to survive, and we stand with Ukrainians in their fight for freedom.

How would you react if you were forced to flee your home? How can we support Ukrainians, who've been forced to flee in unprecedented numbers?

2. Bitter Herbs | מרור : As we remember the bitter conditions of the slaves in Egypt, we recognize the bitter conditions around the globe and injustices in the United States. The epidemics of gun violence, systemic racism, right-wing extremism, bigotry and economic inequities plague our country. Jewish Dems oppose these injustices and are fighting to defend our democracy and other critically important values.

What are the steps Jews can take to stand with marginalized groups and individuals in the face of oppression? What are some steps we can take together to make our communities more secure and equitable?

3. The Freedom to Dip Twice | שתי פעמים : Dipping twice is an expression of our freedom from bondage. The wave of abortion restrictions, voter suppression bills, and anti-LGBTQI+ measures proposed and passed by Republicans restrict our basic freedoms and rights in many states across America.

What are some ways we can advocate for these rights, defend democracy, and safeguard the freedom of all Americans?

4. Reclining | כלנו מסבין : We have seen that the Jewish vote can make a difference in tight races. Since 2018, JDCA has helped to flip the House, Senate, and White House from Republican to Democratic control. Together, we restored the soul of our nation by electing President Biden in 2020 and expanded our Democratic Senate majority in 2022.

Tonight, let us recline – let's “lean left!” – to celebrate our past success and commit to electing more Democrats who share our values in 2024.

*Had we just flipped the House in 2018 – dayenu!
Had we just flipped the White House and Senate in 2020 – dayenu!
Had we just expanded Dems' Senate majority in 2022 – dayenu!*

Four Cups of Wine

The four cups of wine represent the four ways we experienced deliverance when we were led out of Egypt. **How are we delivered when we advocate for our Jewish and Democratic values?**



Democrats understand that we must take action to combat climate change and protect our environment. That's why they passed the **largest package of climate investments in U.S. history** as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.



President Biden's leadership has led to the creation of nearly **11,000,000 new jobs**, relief for American families, and historic investments in our nation's infrastructure. The benefits of the **Inflation Reduction Act**, the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan**, and the **CHIPS Act** will be felt for generations to come.



Congressional Democrats and President Biden led the effort to pass **comprehensive gun safety legislation for the first time in over 30 years**. This is a significant step in the right direction toward ending the epidemic of gun violence, and we must now move to the next step: banning assault weapons.



Last year, President Biden **nominated the first Black woman to the Supreme Court** – Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. He continues to nominate the most diverse group of judicial appointees in U.S. history, and had 118 of his nominees confirmed, a historic victory for Americans.

The Four Children:

Four Approaches to Political Activism

The Wise Child | חכם: Spreading truth and facts.

Republican leaders and right-wing media continue to promote election denialism and dangerous conspiracy theories, including those targeting American Jews. We need to restore a shared understanding of the truth and push back against misinformation. We must replace ignorance with education, and that starts with educating and imparting our values to our children.

The Wicked Child | רשע: Pushing back against the politics of exclusion.

Many in the Republican Party have embraced extremism and made excluding voters from the electoral process their official policy. We should strive to create a country where all citizens are included, where their voices are heard and their votes are counted. Our democracy works best when every American has access to the ballot.

The Simple Child | תם: Educating and empowering citizens to seek help.

As politically active citizens, it is imperative that we spread the facts. People must know how President Biden and Democrats are delivering for Americans with legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and that – all too often, including in the case of voting rights – Republicans are obstructing progress and curtailing freedoms.

The Child Who Doesn't Know How to Ask | שאינו יודע לשאול: Asking hard questions.

To create change and repair the world, we must know how to ask hard questions. Discuss social, racial, and economic justice in America, and do your part to ensure a more just and equitable society, including by advocating with Jewish Dems.

Discussing our Values at the Seder

We are driven by our Jewish and Democratic values. Use these conversation starters to talk about what these lessons from the Seder can teach us about how to make a world that more strongly reflects those values.

1. On Passover, we look back at our bondage and we look forward to our liberation. *Mitzrayim*, the Hebrew word for Egypt, also means ‘narrow places’ — the idea that we came from the narrow places of our enslavement. Reflecting on this idea, what are the narrow places in which we are currently residing, and how can we help each other emerge?
2. After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and their Egyptian pursuers drowned behind them, G-d was upset with the angels who celebrated, saying; "How can you sing for joy when my children are dying? Are they not my children too?"¹ How do we maintain empathy for those with whom we disagree politically and even those who wish us harm?
3. When the Israelites left their homes in Egypt to begin their journey to the land of Israel, they did not know what lay before them. Right now, we are at a time of change here in America, in Israel, and around the world. How do we summon the strength to keep working toward a better future – and stronger democracy – when there is so much uncertainty? What grounds us as we pursue our own path to a more just and equitable world?
4. Our tradition teaches that each year at the Seder, we must tell the story of the Exodus as if we, ourselves, were leaving Egypt. Today, if we were to retell our modern-day experiences as Jews, as Jewish Americans, and as Jewish Democrats, what are our stories? What are the stories and moments we would want future generations to retell?

¹ Talmud, Megillah 10b and Sanhedrin 39b

Shaping the Future

Each year, we complete the Passover Seder by reflecting upon where we will be celebrating Passover next year. Believe it or not, we're already gearing up for the critical 2024 elections. That means **now** is the time to shape our future and make sure that, next year at this time, we are heading into 2024 in a great position to elect Democrats who share our values.

What actions will we take in the coming days and months to ensure that our country is more equitable, just, and safe for all people?

How will you take action to help Democrats win in 2024?

Together, we can shape what "next year" looks like. We hope you will join JDCA in taking our voices and values to Congress during our Week of Action, June 13-14.

[Join us by signing up here](#) or visit [jewishdems.org/woa23](https://www.jewishdems.org/woa23).

Thank you for welcoming us into your homes as part of your Seder. We encourage you to visit www.jewishdems.org to learn more about all of our policy priorities and how you can join us as we work toward a better future for us all.

Chag Pesach Sameach! חג פסח שמח