

# JEWISH DEMS PASSOVER SEDER COMPANION



*Brought to you by the Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA), the political home and voice of Jewish voters, advocating for policies and supporting Democrats who share our core values.*

Each year, Jews around the world gather to celebrate Passover and recount the story of our freedom from oppression. By retelling our liberation from slavery, as if we ourselves were slaves in Egypt, we also reflect on different forms of oppression in 2026.

Passover teaches us that freedom, much like our democracy, is our responsibility, and it is something we must actively defend for ourselves and others.

Today, in the United States, our rights and freedoms are threatened. As we read from the *Haggadah* and draw parallels to the current day, it is our responsibility to push back against authoritarianism, stand up for the most vulnerable among us, and fight for freedom, including the right to vote.

At JDCA, we are committed to using the tools of our democracy to preserve it and bring about change at the ballot box. Specifically, we're advocating for key issues and supporting candidates and elected officials who represent our Jewish and Democratic values. As we approach the 2026 midterm elections, we're advocating for our values and aiming to ensure Democrats who share those values win in November.

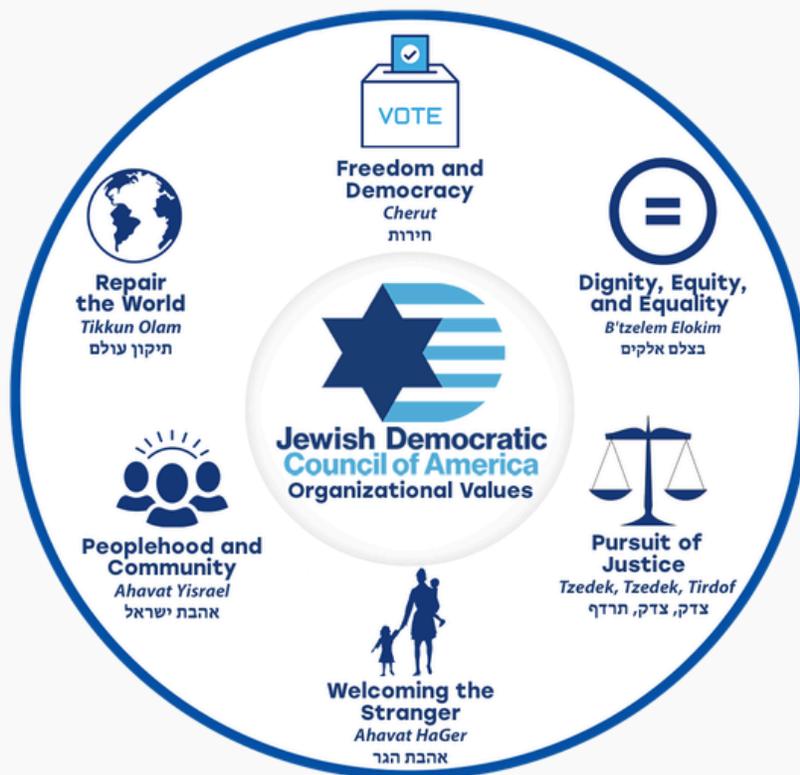
We encourage you to visit our website at [jewishdems.org](https://jewishdems.org) and learn about the many opportunities to join our movement, including advocating with us, attending our virtual events, getting involved in elections, becoming a 2026 JDCA Member, and making a contribution to support our work, which will help us do even more in this critically important year.

Thank you for welcoming us into your homes this Passover.

***Chag Pesach Sameach from JDCA!***

**חג פסח שמח!**

## ***DISCUSSING OUR VALUES AT THE SEDER***



### **Freedom & Democracy**

חירות | *Cherut*

Throughout history, the Jewish people have thrived in pluralistic democracies that guaranteed the rights and freedoms of all. We believe that only a vibrant democracy can ensure freedom and protect against tyranny, and we support measures that strengthen and safeguard our democratic institutions and the right to vote.

### **Dignity, Equity, and Equality**

בצלם אלקים | *B'tzelem Elokim*

We believe that all peoples are created in the image of the divine and that we should treat each other as we would like to be treated. We work toward a more equitable world in which the basic human dignity of all people is realized, and where the government works equally for all people to achieve their potential and aspirations.

## ***DISCUSSING OUR VALUES AT THE SEDER***

### **Justice**

צדק, צדק, תרדף | *Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof*

The concept of a just society upheld by a system of laws, ethics, and accountability is a central principle of our Jewish tradition. The **pursuit of justice** compels us to work to defend **racial, social, economic, environmental, and reproductive justice**. We support policies that uphold the rule of law and build a more just world for all.

### **Peoplehood & Community**

אהבת ישראל | *Ahavat Yisrael*

We celebrate the histories and traditions that have sustained the Jewish people throughout time. Our sense of belonging and shared purpose, including our connection and ties to Israel, drives our work to ensure **thriving, safe, and secure Jewish communities** in the U.S., Israel, and around the world.

### **Welcoming the Stranger**

אהבת הגר | *Ahavat HaGer*

Jews are called to **welcome the stranger** more than any other commandment in the Torah, and we are reminded that we were once strangers in a strange land. We are obligated to act with **compassion toward all oppressed and marginalized peoples, including refugees and immigrants**, as we too know what it is like to experience marginalization and oppression.

### **Repairing the World**

תיקון עולם | *Tikkun Olam*

Our Jewish tradition compels us to make a more **livable, sustainable, and just world through advocacy and action**. We are commanded to not stand idly by, and while we are not obligated to complete the work, neither are we free to abstain from it.

***We encourage you to use these conversation starters to discuss what the Passover story can teach us about creating a world that reflects our Jewish and Democratic values.***

**וְכִי-יֵגוּר אֶתְךָ גֵר, בְּאֶרְצְכֶם לֹא תוֹנוּ, אֹתוֹ. כְּאֶזְרַח מִכֶּם  
יְהִיֶה לָכֶם הַגֵּר הַגֵּר אֶתְכֶם, וְאַהֲבַתְּ לוֹ כְּמוֹךָ כִּי-גֵרִים  
הֵייתֶם, בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:**

***When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. They shall be treated as a citizen among you, and you shall love them as yourself, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt.***

***- Leviticus 19:33-34.***

Jews are called upon to “welcome the stranger” more than any other commandment in the Torah. Perhaps it is because of our history as refugees ourselves that this obligation to act with compassion toward all oppressed and marginalized peoples – especially refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants – resonates so strongly, for we, too, know what it is like to experience marginalization and oppression as strangers in a strange land.

***As Jewish Americans, how does the history of our people inform our advocacy for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers? What can we do to fight for and protect them?***

***We encourage you to use these conversation starters to discuss what the Passover story can teach us about creating a world that reflects our Jewish and Democratic values.***

The Hebrew word for Egypt, “*Mitzrayim*,” translates to “narrow places,” and is often interpreted as both a physical and a symbolic place the Jewish people must travel through on their journey to reach the “Promised Land.”

***It has been an incredibly difficult period for Jewish Americans, given the rise of antisemitism. How can today be understood as its own “Mitzrayim?” What narrowing of spaces might we be experiencing today, and what changes are we aspiring for that might shape the “Promised Land”?***

Our tradition teaches that each year at the Seder, we must tell the story of the Exodus as if we, ourselves, were once slaves in Egypt.

***Today, what are our stories if we retell our modern-day experiences as Jewish Americans? What are the stories and moments we want future generations to tell? What can we be doing to fight for our freedoms?***

Passover is referred to as “*z’man cheiruteinu*” – the “time of our freedom.” The sages of our tradition chose the Hebrew word “*cheirut*” for freedom, because freedom isn’t guaranteed. Much like our democracy, freedom is a responsibility that we must fight for to ensure it’s sustained for ourselves and others.

***What does freedom look like today, and how is it being limited in some spaces, whether it be freedom of speech, freedom of the press, or freedom to vote? What are some ways we can advocate for our rights, defend democracy, and safeguard our freedoms?***

# ***THE FOUR CHILDREN: FOUR APPROACHES TO COMBATING FASCISM***

## **The Wise Child | חכם:**

The wise child asks detailed questions about the laws of Passover, seeking to understand their meaning and what is behind them. This child represents intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and thoughtful understanding. The wise child actively resists authoritarian ideologies, questions power, and seeks to understand the roots of injustice. A wise child develops strategies and tactics that will help lead us toward a better future. We should look to the wise child with hope, as they represent the next generation of leaders.

## **The Simple Child | תם:**

The simple child asks basic questions that lack the complexity and reasoning of those asked by the wise child. This child represents innocence and a desire to participate without fully understanding why events are taking the shape they are. Some may fall into the role of the simple child, passive or vulnerable to manipulation, no matter how well-meaning they may be. We should not allow ourselves to become like the simple child by ignoring what is happening around us, and we should encourage them to make an effort to shape our shared future.

## **The Wicked Child | רשע:**

The wicked child asks, "What relevance does the Passover Seder have for me?" and separates themselves from the community. This child finds anything that doesn't directly benefit them a waste of time, and has no interest in exploring the meaning of the Passover. The wicked child rejects pluralistic democratic norms in favor of self-interest, and views the values of equity and equality as a threat to their personal standing. Autocratic leaders can appeal to the wicked child by alienating them from mainstream society, appealing to their feelings of being "forgotten" and "left behind," and promising them power by denigrating others. The wicked child sees the world as a "zero-sum" game, where others are left behind in order to benefit themselves. We should aim to teach the wicked child that our future is inextricably linked – what benefits them can and will also benefit others.

## **The Child Who Doesn't Know How to Ask | שאינו יודע לשאול:**

This child does not ask any questions because they don't know how or because they are too afraid to engage. This child represents the silent observers who are tepid or indifferent to the political process, feel powerless to effect change, or believe politics do not impact them. Autocratic leaders thrive on complacency, and it is up to each of us to teach the child who doesn't know how to ask just how vital a role they have to play when they use their voice for good.

# TEN WAYS TO FIGHT TYRANNY AND LET MY PEOPLE VOTE

In the Passover story, we read about the Pharaoh, who fomented fear and issued decrees stripping people of their freedoms and safety. Today, we are called upon to learn from those who risked their lives by refusing to obey the Pharaoh's orders, and take action to defend our democracy, freedom, and rights.

God sent ten plagues to Egypt to free the Israelites. Today, we are calling on you to take ten actions to combat modern-day tyranny. Moses told the Pharaoh to "Let My People Go." Today, we call on elected officials to "Let My People Vote."



**1. Protect Jewish Communities:**  
[Tell your elected officials to strengthen synagogue security funding.](#)



**6. Support JDCA:**  
[Deepen your support of JDCA to strengthen our work to take back power in 2026.](#)



**2. Reject ICE's Cruelty:**  
[Tell Congress to oppose ICE funding without safeguards and investigations.](#)



**7. Volunteer with JDCA:**  
[Join a JDCA Regional Network for more opportunities to support Democrats and bring your community into our work.](#)



**3. Condemn Weaponization of Antisemitism:**  
[Tell the administration to stop using antisemitism as an excuse to advance their extreme agenda.](#)



**8. Host an Event:**  
[Are you ready to put your network into action? Host a parlor meeting or fundraiser with JDCA.](#)



**4. Condemn White Supremacy:**  
[Urge Congress to condemn white supremacy and antisemitism.](#)



**9. Follow JDCA:**  
JDCA is here to keep you informed. Make sure you are following us on [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



**5. Oppose the SAVE America Act:**  
[Urge Congress to oppose this voter suppression bill.](#)



**10. Share JDCA with your Network:**  
[Ask your friends and family to sign up for JDCA email alerts so we can grow our community and impact.](#)

## ***SHEHECHIYANU BLESSING***

On January 26, 2026, remains of the last hostage held by Hamas in Gaza finally came home – more than 843 days after October 7, 2023, when Hamas launched the deadliest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

As we celebrate our first Passover since October 7, 2023, with every hostage finally returned to Israel, we invite you to say a special *Shehechyanu* blessing.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.**

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melech ha'olam,  
shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed is the Divine for granting us life, sustaining us,  
and allowing us to reach this season.

## ***FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE***

Thank you for welcoming us into your homes as part of your Seder.

Passover reminds us of the power of standing up against tyranny and injustice, including in our modern-day world. We must stand united against any force that seeks to weaken our democracy, rights, and freedoms, and your support helps us continue the crucial work of holding those in power accountable and defending democracy. Together, we can ensure justice and freedom for all.

***Your continued support makes our work possible,  
providing the foundation for our efforts to defend our  
Jewish and Democratic values.***

We encourage you to visit [jewishdems.org](http://jewishdems.org) to learn more and get involved in our work.

***Chag Pesach Sameach!***

**חג פסח שמח!**