

Telling the Teen Story:

A guide to share with teens at Pesach

| Introduction |

The Passover Seder is the ultimate educational experience. It is an interactive method of story-telling, a learning (and re-learning) of our people's ancient memory, and navigating through text and time and tradition to make that story our own.

Teenagers are an integral part of the Passover experience, bridging the children and the adults who can bring a unique perspective to any Seder. While they may be too old to be participating for the first time with fresh eyes, they are still questioning, struggling, and wrestling with the themes that we experience during Passover as they contemplate their own journey towards adulthood. Just as the Jews were redeemed from slavery and led into freedom, so too do we have an obligation to guide our teens towards their ultimate understanding of the journey towards adulthood. Teens have an obligation to make the Passover story their own, so they too can tell it for generations to come. We urge you to begin to see your teens as leaders capable of great understanding and even greater potential to embrace their Judaism and find new and innovative ways to make it relevant for us and for everyone at your Passover Seder.



Use this resource to engage in a dialogue with your teen, or as a starting point for them to lead a seder table discussion.

Maggid / Storytelling for you and your teens

- Something to teach others – whether it's a poem, song, or original creative piece, you definitely have inspiration to share with the adults and children at your Seder table. Passover is about understanding our journey and ourselves. This is your chance to share something of yourself with those around you. Plus, your parents will be *kvelling* so hardcore to see you bring your own learning and passion to all that's being taught. It's a win-win situation.



I Bring the Talmud to Your Passover Seder!

You will need: 1 large blank sheet of paper / poster board, different colored markers

1 Step 1: What type of modern oppression/struggle/issue in our country do you want to bring up at YOUR Seder table? Here are a few examples of what you could choose:

- Racial Justice
- Women's rights
- LGBTQ equality
- Gun Violence Epidemic
- Mental Health
- Other

2 Step 2: Come up with a powerful (if somewhat controversial) statement about what you believe should be different in our country, surrounding the issue you have chosen.

- I believe that racial justice in our country is no better off than it was 50 years ago, during the Civil Rights movement.
- I believe that all public restrooms should be open to transgender people based on their preferred gender and not their biological gender
- I believe that no one has the right to tell a woman what to do with her body
- I believe.....

3 Step 3: Write your statement in the middle of a blank sheet of paper, using a brightly colored marker. Ask those around your table to "answer" your statement with their own writing around what you wrote, in a different colored marker, creatively surrounding what you wrote. It could look like a Talmud page or a word cloud. Ask them to answer by addressing:

- Their interpretation of what you said
- Understanding of the issue
- Solution to the issue

4 Step 4: During the Seder, don't read or talk about the statements written until the page is completely full. If those writing want to respond to what others have written, they can do so by writing their response down on the paper.

5 Step 5: After the paper is filled, with different response, bring it back at the end of the Seder and talk about what that experience was like, with those who wrote on it:

- How did it feel to respond, only in writing, to what others had written, not necessarily knowing who was writing it?
- Did you learn something new from this experience? What did you learn?
- Why is it important for us to consider our own voices in modern day oppression? How can we help? What is our responsibility, as Jews, to those who are still not yet free?



Sample Talmud Page