

The background is a dark blue gradient with a starry texture. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular patterns. One prominent circle has a scale around its perimeter with numbers ranging from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other circles are solid or dashed with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The main title is centered in the right half of the image.

# **PREPARING TO LEAD A 40 MINUTE ZOOM SEDER**

MOUNT ZION TEMPLE – RABBI ADAM STOCK SPILKER

# AGENDA FOR TONIGHT

1. Introduction: What is your favorite part of Passover seder?
2. Permission to do whatever is necessary / Q and A for tonight by chat during presentation.
3. Platforms – This is not a “how to use Zoom” session. Go to [mzion.org](https://mzion.org) (click on main message).
4. Basic questions
5. Haggadah – online or print or book?
6. In advance...How are you going to do this? Room set up / devices. Email invites....
7. Goals and Guidelines
8. Zoom Tips
9. Substitutions
10. Seder discussion questions
11. Fun Songs and MZ's resources

**With appreciation to David and Sarah Orbach and the Jewish Education Project.**

# PLATFORMS

<https://seder2020.org/video-platforms>

## BASIC QUESTIONS TO START:

- Get comfortable using the platform you choose (e.g. learn how to use the ‘screen share’ function so that everyone can see the same Haggadah, the same video, etc.)
- Will there be one person or household “on zoom” and rest in the room? Or a bunch of folks “on zoom”? This makes a difference. Who is the master facilitator who can laugh and keep things going?

# ONLINE HAGGADAH?

Are you going to share screen or print or have actual books?

- **Reform Flipbook:** <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/sharing-the-journey-vt-haggadah/>
- **HIAS (Refugee/Justice) Haggadah:** [https://www.hias.org/passover?utm\\_source=lajewishjournal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=passover2020](https://www.hias.org/passover?utm_source=lajewishjournal&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=passover2020)
- **Lab/Shul reimaged 4 question Haggadah:** <https://labshul.org/assets/uploads/2019/07/sayder-fold-out.pdf>
- **Many other options:** <https://seder2020.org/haggadah-options> **and for more depth:** <https://www.haggadahsrus.com/> **or build your own!** <https://www.haggadot.com/>

# HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS?

- Invite folks; pick a start time.
- Send email with instructions and links.
- Plan the time at least in general form:
  - Doing all steps together?
  - Just a discussion?
  - Combination?
  - 40 minutes or longer or back to back times?
- Assign roles (even a script?) or just call on people during seder?

# ROOM / DEVICE SET UP:

- Setting up the camera/computer:
  - Think about lighting – move a lamp
  - Think about position of computer – does it capture your table; can you be heard? Use ethernet instead of wifi?
  - Arranging seats to be “on stage” rather than around a table?
  - Maybe phone on tripod to get “room shot” for Zoom audience? Landscape vs. Portrait?
  - Maybe computer by leader and another one for rest of table to see?
  - Who will be working on the screen, changing pages, muting, etc? That device likely cannot be the “room’s” device.
  - **If multiple devices, only one can have sound on. Others “no sound” – experiment.**
  - Setting it up in advance and checking the lighting, the angle, the sound.

# GOALS

- Help everyone feel transported across time to Egypt. Everyone in her or his own way needs to internalize the story and connect it to today.
- Biblically – only need to “TELL STORY” and “EAT MATZAH”. Everything else is added.
- Ask questions more than provide answers. Address all kinds of learners and honor different participating choices.
- **THIS IS NOT NORMAL; EVERYTHING IS NOT OK. NEXT YEAR...**



## SOME GUIDELINES:

- Make it stress free as possible
- Read less. Talk more.
- Make it interactive and short - 60 minutes tops, but 40 minutes is fine. Being online together is wonderful, but you'll probably want to limit the total time of your Seder to work better for this format.
- Make it spiritual; set the tone with a reading, a quote, your intention.
- Acknowledge that this will not be the same as being in person.
- Ask different people to 'lead' or choose how to visit some of the steps of the Seder in advance. Or not.
- Be flexible and have fun – there will be mistakes / technical problems. :> Go with the flow...

## ZOOM TIPS:

- Mute. Mute. Mute. You can't read or sing together. Sorry.
- On computer, space bar temporarily unmutes (while holding it)
- Try to minimize side conversations.
- Use chat maybe?
- **Stop screen share for any discussion.**
- Enable “mirror” setting in video in case you hold up things...

# SUBSTITUTIONS

- **Shankbone.** *Substitute with a chicken bone. Or a beet root (it 'bleeds').*
- **Egg.** *Symbolizes new birth/Spring. Substitute with a spring flower or blossom.*
- **Parsley.** *Substitute with any other leafy green.*
- **Maror.** *Substitute with any hot or spicy sauce or add chilli powder to something like mayonnaise.*
- **Charoset.** *Charoset can be made with anything sweet that can stick together. You could use dried fruits, jams, nuts, apple sauce. There are many recipes online or invent your own!*

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Tell a story of personal resilience. How did you overcome adversity in the past?
- On a card, write, “What do you fear?” on opposite, “Where is your hope?”
- How do you welcome the stranger when we are afraid of transmission of COVID-19?
- “Let all who are hungry come and eat.” As we isolate, how can we care for people who are in need? **At Yachatz when saying “Let all who are hungry come and eat” – make a donation right then to Mazon or another organization.**
- **At beginning or end, pass around Elijah’s cup and each fill it with a little of your wine and respond:** Who is not here and what would they contribute to this night? What can we remember and think about from them?

# YAD CHAZAKAH CRAFT PROJECT

*Can be done at the seder during a more “adult” discussion or whenever.*

- *Yad chazakah* means “Strong hand” – God redeemed the Israelites with a *yad chazakah*.
- Make a cut out of your hand.
- Discuss: What can my hand do? Besides hands right now being kinda scary because it needs to be washed all the time. In what ways are your hands strong?
- Hold up hands to the camera during sharing time.

# IDEAS: VIRTUAL AFIKOMAN HIDING

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10mAYAkWxc-m\\_c3okM\\_69QTaPo5tXZcA](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10mAYAkWxc-m_c3okM_69QTaPo5tXZcA)
  - Where is Waldo?
  - Riddle...
- Riddle in 6 clues... **with appreciation to David and Sarah Orbach**

# THE TORAH SPEAKS OF FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO USE ZOOM:

The Wise / The Wicked / The Simple One  
The One Who Does Not Know How to “Mute”

The Wise Person says: “I’ll handle the Admin Feature Controls and Chat Rooms, and forward the Cloud Recording Transcript after the call.”

The Wicked Person says: “Since I have unlimited duration, I scheduled the meeting for six hours—as it says in the Haggadah, whoever prolongs the telling of the story, **harei zeh ‘shubach**, is praiseworthy.”

The Simple Person says: “Hello? Am I on? I can hear you but I can’t see you.”

[Jerusalem Talmud reads here: “I can see you, but I can’t hear you.”]

The One Who Does Not Know How to Mute says: “How should I know where you put the keys? I’m stuck on this stupid Zoom call with these idiots.”

← To the Wise Person you should offer all of the Zoom Pro Optional Add-On Plans.



To the Wicked Person you should say: “Had you been in charge, we would still be in Egypt.”

To the Simple Person you should say: “Try the call-in number instead.”

To the One Who Does Not Know How to Mute you should say: “Why should this night be different from all other nights?”

(Source: unknown, but obviously someone very clever and on Zoom)

# IDEAS: MY FOUR QUESTIONS THIS PASSOVER:

BY RABBI AARON WEININGER

1. **Our hearts are broken.** How will they reach neighbors while keeping six feet apart?
2. **Our skin is broken.** Will our poor hands endure more washing at the Seder?
3. **Our matzah is broken.** Must we go hide and seek the afikoman alone?
4. **Our souls are broken.** Do we have it in us to celebrate this season?

# DON'T COME FOR THE SEDER

Don't come for the seder,  
I tell you, do not.  
There won't be hot chicken soup  
simmering in the pot  
I wish you could come here  
Oh really, I do  
But Elijah just cancelled,  
And nixed it for you.  
Don't come for the seder,  
Don't come to our house.  
Don't bring your children,  
Your parents or spouse.  
I wish you could come here,

So strongly I wish.  
Need someone to chow through  
Six jars of gefilte fish!  
Don't come for the seder,  
I say there, don't come.  
No service, no singing,  
In masks we'd be glum.  
I wish you could come here,  
Oh really, it's so  
But the governor said stay home:  
Non-essential, no go.  
Don't come for the seder,  
There won't be one here.

No brisket, no matzah,  
No exodus, I fear.  
I wish you could come here.  
I'll miss you so badly.  
The prep and the clean-up,  
I'd do them all gladly.  
Don't come for the seder,  
Words I hate to say.  
But stay healthy, stay sane,  
And we'll see you all someday.

# MOUNT ZION'S RESOURCES

- Email on Monday
- Recording of this session
- **Videos** from clergy and staff to include in Seder or use in advance.
- **Music** – Spotify playlist to listen to as you prepare.
- **Music** – Click and sing-a-long with all the blessings and songs. Plus PDF of all texts so you can practice in advance. <https://mzion.org/pray/holy-days/passover/passover-resources/>
- **Links** - To all references here (haggadot and more.)
- **Another zoom training by URJ** Monday at noon. <https://bit.ly/3dPLshK>