



FOUR QUESTIONS

on

Israel and Our Jewish Values

PASSOVER 2010

For Jews, Passover is our story. The Exodus story is at the foundation of our Jewish values. How does the Passover narrative resonate with our global struggle to define what Israel will be in the 21st century? This seder insert (also available as a stand-alone program) frames four discussion questions around Passover-related texts representing deeply held Jewish values. Israel, social justice, and self-protection – these values sometimes come into tension in world Jewry's relationship with Israel. Bring together many voices in your family or community for a discussion about our values and the choices we face today.

Tips for leading this discussion at your seder:

- You don't have to be the seder leader – if your cousin or aunt or friend is leading the seder, ask in advance if you can bring in some discussion questions to the festivities.
- Adapt this supplement for different seder dynamics:
 - *Short and sweet:* If you don't have time for a longer discussion, just focus on question #4.
 - *Talkers:* If a few voices tend to overshadow others at your seder, try pairing people off for the discussion – then everyone will get a chance to speak.
 - *Jews and non-Jews:* While these questions do ask people to reflect on their Jewish values and identity, everyone is of course welcome in the discussion. If there are several non-Jews present, encourage them to reflect on how these values and issues resonate with them. Do they see any parallels in their own experience?

Four Questions on Israel and Our Jewish Values

Seder Insert – Leader's Guide

- Depending on your seder, you can use this material in several different formats:
 - Intersperse the discussion of the Four Questions on Israel and Our Jewish Values throughout the seder. Suggested times:
 - Question #1: After the Four Questions (Ma Nishtana)
 - Question #2: After the Four Children
 - Question #3: After the Ten Plagues
 - Question #4: After Dayenu
 - If you have a longer chunk of time during the seder—perhaps after the Four Questions (Ma Nishtana) or at the end of the Maggid section—read the passages and discuss all at once.
 - Raise questions as the relevant passage comes up in the seder liturgy. Here's where the texts fall in the seder order:
 - Maggid*
 - This is the promise / V'hi sheamda: Question #3
 - In every generation / B'chol dor va'dor: Question #2
 - Blessed... Who redeemed us / Baruch... asher ga'alanu: Question #1
 - Barech*
 - Pour out Your wrath / Shfoch chamatcha: Question #3
 - Nirzah*
 - Next year in Jerusalem / L'shanah haba'ah: Question #1
 - If you just have time for one piece, offer question #4 and discuss.
- Consider sending out the insert a few days before the seder and inviting people to come with their thoughts.
- You may want to hand out copies of the insert to everyone (or every other person)—or just hold on to the insert and raise questions more fluidly during the seder. Print two-sided and fold down the middle for a booklet format.
- If asked “what is J Street?” here's a brief explanation:
 - J Street is the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans. The organization gives political voice to mainstream American Jews and other supporters of Israel who, informed by their progressive and Jewish values, believe that a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is essential to Israel's survival as the national home of the Jewish people and as a vibrant democracy. J Street's mission is two-fold: first, to advocate for urgent American diplomatic leadership to achieve a two-state solution and a broader regional, comprehensive peace and, second, to ensure a broad debate on Israel and the Middle East in national politics and the American Jewish community.

 **Get involved in J Street! Visit www.jstreet.org or email info@jstreet.org**

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