

# 3.

## ■ The Bare Bones Basic Seder

Bare Bones Basics\* offers a basic structure for a **1 hour** seder before eating and for a recommended **20 minutes** of singing after the meal. The B.B.B. before

the meal should take a little over 30 minutes, leaving another 30 minutes or more of enrichment materials. These creative additions can be geared for young kids, for teenagers, or for adults. Generally the children deserve attention in the earlier parts of the seder, but adults are also very important participants who deserve to learn and discuss at more sophisticated levels.

We suspect you will probably want to vary and expand on the B.B.B., but this is a good way to get started.

\* The B.B.B. Seder does not meet the halachic minimum but it does highlight the most popular and essential stations of the Seder. For a discussion of the halachic minimum rules, see page 22-23 of the *Leader's Guide*

Before you start . . . we recommend you read "Preparing for the Seder Night: A Practical Manual," **Leader's Guide**, p9-15  
**Pagination Key:** red type refers to *A Different Night compact (red) edition*; black is *A Different Night classic (white) edition*.  
**Bold italics** refer to other sources, including the **Leader's Guide (LG)** and **Reliving the Exodus** workbook.

Bare Bones Basic Seder*	For Pre-Schoolers	For School Children	For Teenagers	For Interested Adults
<b>PRE-SEDER</b>	See "Young Children at the Seder" in <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p16-19	See <i>Reliving the Exodus: Text &amp; Activity Book</i>	<b>DELEGATE assignments IN ADVANCE</b> to 3-4 strong personalities at the seder: 1) Four Questions p14/40-43/LG24-25 2) Storytelling p56,86-92/48-55 3) Four Children p18-33/56-71 (esp. for artists, psychologists, teachers) 4) Symposium p81 Classic only/LG63-65	
<b>The Search for Chametz</b> <i>inside cover/13</i>	Cartoon Search p3/13 Sherlock and Chametz			
<b>Candle Lighting</b> p4/16	Blessing the Children p5/18	Blessing the Children p5/18	Blessing the Children p5/18	Traditional Woman's Prayer p4/16
<b>THE SEDER: Sign Posts/Kadesh</b> p6/20				
<b>FIRST CUP: Kadesh</b> p7/24	Rags to Riches: A Folktale p9/27	Rags to Riches: A Folktale p9/27	Rags to Riches: A Folktale p9/27	Spilt Wine p7/25
<b>KARPAS — DIPS</b> p10/30	Eat, dip expanded hors d'oeuvres p10/30	Eat, dip expanded hors d'oeuvres p10/30	Eat, dip expanded hors d'oeuvres p10/30	Eat, dip expanded hors d'oeuvres p10/30
<b>YACHATZ — Break the Middle Matza</b> p10/32	Hiding the Afikomen p35	Hiding the Afikomen p35	Story of the Compulsive Saver p11/33	A Personal Thanksgiving p11/33
<b>HA LACHMA ANYA The Bread of Affliction</b> p12/36	Passover Skit p13/35	Passover Skit p13/35	Schindler's List p37 Classic only	
<b>FOUR QUESTIONS</b> p14/40	See <i>Leader's Guide</i> p24-25	Izzy, Did You Ask A Good Question? p15/41	Four Answers p15/42	Questions in Many Languages <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p25-26
<b>AVADIM HAYENU We Were Slaves</b> Storytelling p16/44	David Hartman, p86/48 <b>or</b> Tell the Exodus Story Using Puppets or pictures, see <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p16-17	<i>First Seder:</i> Baby Moses, p88/50 <i>Second Seder:</i> Moses Comes of Age p90/52	Not By Bread Alone p87/49 Chronicles, p91/54 Midrash, p40/87 <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p41-43	Recollections, p17/47 Prejudice, p39/85 Women's Resistance, p42/91 I.B. Singer, p87/45 Shifra Award, p89/51
<b>THE FOUR CHILDREN</b> p18,20,22 p56,58,60	The Art of the Four Children p24/62 The Silent Child p22	The Art of the Four Children p24/62 Child's Perspective p23/61	The Art of the Four Children, p24/62 Generation Gap, p23/61 Contemporary Four Children, p23/61 Embarassing, p20	The Art of the Four Children, p24/62 Who Is Wise, p21/59 Beyond Labels, p23/57 Beating the Bounds, p21/59 <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p58-62
<b>V'HI SHE-AMDA Standing Up for Us</b> p35/76				Great Exoduses and Seders of the Past <i>Leader's Guide</i> , p47-54
<b>THE TEN PLAGUES</b> p46/98	Pharaoh's Frogs, p45/97 Plague Bag or Pantomime	"Let My People Go" p47/99	Recount the Plagues p45/97	Recount the Plagues p45/97
<b>DAYEINU</b> p48/104		The Afghani Onion Free-for-All, p50/107		Dayeinu Update p51/109
<b>PESACH, MATZA, MAROR</b> p52-53/110,112		Not by Bread Alone p87/49		
<b>B'CHOL DOR V'DOR In Every Generation</b> p54/114			Natan Sharansky p56/115	Victor Frankl, p55/119 Slavery and Freedom <i>Leader's Guide</i> p63-65
<b>HALLEL-U-JAH</b> p55-57/116,118,120	Introduce Songs from end of Haggadah now for younger children: Adeer Hu p75/154 Echad Me Yode'a p76/155 • Chad Gadya p80/160		When Not to Sing p57	
<b>THE SECOND CUP</b> p58/112				Miriam's Cup p58/122
<b>EATING THE MATZA</b> p59/124 <b>EATING THE MAROR</b> p60/126		Charoset Taste Test p60/113	Union Soldiers p60/113	Bergen-Belsen p61/125
<b>THE HILLEL SANDWICH</b> p62/128			English Sandwich p62/128	Soviet Sandwich p62/128
<b>MEAL</b>	<b>MEAL</b>	<b>MEAL</b>	<b>MEAL</b>	<b>MEAL</b>
<b>EATING THE AFIKOMAN</b> p63/130	Hidden Pesach Fours Cartoon p63/130	Hidden Pesach Fours Cartoon p63/130	It's Recommended — 10% Tzedakah p63/130	Meditation p63/131
<b>BIRKAT HAMAZON</b> p65/133 (abbreviated)				
<b>THE THIRD CUP</b> p67/137				
<b>ELIJAH'S CUP</b> p68/138	Open Door p68/139	Dress Up as Elijah; Songs, p69/140	Anne Frank p69/139	Pour Out Your Love p68/142
<b>THE FOURTH CUP</b> p73/149				<i>SECOND NIGHT:</i> Count the Omer p73/150
<b>SONGS: Adeer Hu</b> p75/154 <b>Echad Me Yode'a</b> p76/155 <b>Chad Gadya</b> p80/160		The Advanced "Who Knows One" p79/155	Singing Activity p79-80/155	
<b>NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM</b> p85/165		Peace Song: Oseh Shalom p85/169	Peace Song: Oseh Shalom p85/169	Peace Song: Oseh Shalom p85/169

This Seder Planner is based on *A Different Night, The Family Participation Haggadah*, published by the Shalom Hartman Institute, and its accompanying *Leader's Guide*. It works with either the Classic edition (white cover, 180pp) or the Compact edition (red cover, 92pp). All three books are available at major Jewish bookstores in the U.S. and Canada. Also by Noam Sachs Zion:

- *Reliving the Exodus: A Gateway to the Haggadah Text and Activity Book*
- *A Different Light: A Hamukah Seder and Resource Book* (2 volumes)
- *A Day Apart: Shabbat at Home* (forthcoming in 2004)

All books can be mail-ordered from Haggadahs-R-Us, 1888 So. Compton, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118. Tel. 877-308-4175. Fax 216-321-6717. E-mail [thumpers@apk.net](mailto:thumpers@apk.net) — on the web at [haggadahsrus.com](http://haggadahsrus.com). Multiple copies are available at a significant discount.



# A Seder Planner

In planning your basic seder whether long or short, whether with little children or senior citizens, both editions of *A Different Night, The Family Participation Haggadah* offer multiple possibilities. To help get started we identified a Bare Bones Basic seder and listed it down the side of the chart below. This Bare Bones Basic Seder (B.B.B.) hits all the highlights of the traditional seder. Along with it we have suggested added activities and readings from which you may choose to enrich your seder, depending on the age bracket to whom you feel most committed. You can browse our suggestions and note them in advance, and then guide the family through the seder. *Do not of course try to do all these suggestions on any one night.* Pick and choose according to taste but do not overdo it. It is recommended to change no more than 10-20% of your seder in any given year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [zionsacs@netvision.net.il](mailto:zionsacs@netvision.net.il).

We hope this will allow you to maximize the benefit from this new haggadah.

Chag Sameach,  
Happy Passover  
**Noam Zion**

**Proposals for Customizing Your Readings and Activities using**  
**A DIFFERENT NIGHT** Classic (white cover) edition — 180pp  
**The Family Participation Haggadah** Compact (red cover) edition — 92pp

## Short Cuts through the Haggadah: How to Pick and Choose

red = page number in Compact edition • black = page number in Classic edition

### Setting Priorities

The leader's dilemma: "How can I recite all the sections of the traditional Haggadah, add creative activities and discussions, and still get to the meal in a decent interval that doesn't exasperate many of the less patient participants?" For many families the answer will be: you can't! Therefore priorities must be set. In this section we provide guidelines for seder leaders on how to pick and choose; how to recognize the essentials of the seder which must not be dropped or done superficially.

This Seder Planner is divided into three sections:

- A review of the basic four-cup structure of the seder.
- The essential building blocks of the storytelling (Maggid) section of the Haggadah.
- A list of recommended activities, readings, and songs from which you may choose — and vary at each seder.

Maimonides enjoins us to be creative: "to make a change in the routine on that night" so as to engage actively all the participants in a genuine search for meaning and understanding.

### 1. The Four Cups: The Key to the Overall Structure of the Seder

At first glance the traditional Haggadah may seem like a hodge-podge of texts and activities. That first impression is not surprising, for the Haggadah is an eclectic anthology constructed by many hands over two thousand years. Therefore we have brought out the basic structure of the Haggadah built around the four cups which punctuate the four basic sections. Each of the four major sections is keyed on the side of the page by a graphic representation of a cup:



#### First Cup: "Kiddush"

The evening opens with sanctification of the holiday by an initial invocation.



#### Second Cup: "Maggid"

Questions and storytelling fill this longest part of the seder. After telling the story of Exodus and explaining the symbolic foods that trigger memories of Egypt, we sing a song of praise to God our liberator.



#### Third Cup: "Shulchan Orech"

The meal begins with matza and maror and concludes with the long blessing after eating called "Birkat HaMazon."



#### Elijah's Cup

The opening of the door expresses messianic expectation.



#### Fourth Cup: "Hallel"

The psalms and their blessings are sung responsively.



#### Concluding Songs

The famous medieval folksongs like "Chad Gadya" constitute an appendix to the rabbinic four cup structure.

### 2.

#### 'Maggid' — The Second Cup in Depth

The most important landmarks of the seder from an educational point of view occur within the Maggid — the Second Cup devoted to storytelling. Four aspects invite greater depth and enrichment:

- 1) initiating a questioning process at *Ma Nishtana* / Four Questions (p14/40).
- 2) retelling the story of the Egyptian Exodus and subsequent exoduses in history and in our lives at *Avadeem Hayeenu*/"We Were Slaves" (p16/44).
- 3) opening up a dialogue between parents and children at the Four Children (p18/56).
- 4) reflecting philosophically on slavery and freedom at the Rabbinic Midrash *Arami Oved Avi* (p36/81).

#### Planning the Itinerary of Your Seder

The leader's planning task is twofold:

- (1) to select the traditional texts and supplementary readings and activities appropriate for the family and friends who will attend this year's seder; and
- (2) to maximize the involvement of others in the seder as well as make it easier on yourself.

Begin by skimming the Table of Contents of *A Different Night*, noting its basic structure built around the Four Cups. Choose a section you like and leaf through the texts and supplements to familiarize yourself with them.

Now select an appropriate length of time for reading the Haggadah up to the meal. Consider the essential features traditional to your family seder.

The chart on the other side is an introductory itinerary through the seder: the Bare Bones Basic Seder.

