

# Leader's Guide

**SAMPLE**



## The MODEL SEDER



### INCLUDES:

A Model Seder Outline  
A Model Seder Checklist  
Press Release and Flyer  
Easy Evaluation Forms  
A Sample Model Seder  
on Audio



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# THE *MODEL SEDER* OUTLINE

## Overview: Preparing the *Model Seder*

### Publicizing the Event:

- ❑ If your synagogue is running *Shabbat Across America/Canada (SAA/C)*, make sure to have the rabbi/leader "pitch" the *Model Seder* at SAA/C.
- ❑ Make certain that your synagogue's outreach committee sends invitations to the "outreach" mailing list, inviting them to attend your *Model Seder*. (See Sample Invitation). If you don't have an outreach mailing list, call NJOP for the names and addresses of *Hebrew Reading Crash Course* participants from your area.
- ❑ The rabbi/leader should be encouraged to enthusiastically promote the *Model Seder* from the pulpit, and encourage your members (our would-be "ambassadors" ) to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, classmates and anyone else who might benefit from the program.
- ❑ A convenient time to run the *Model Seder* is on a Friday before Passover, although a weeknight is also suitable.

### The Players:

- ❑ Just like *Shabbat Across America/Canada*, putting together a *Model Seder* provides many opportunities for many people to get involved.

### Outreach Committee

- Your outreach committee should be responsible for preparing the *Model Seder*, ordering the food and setting the tables. Remember to include all the necessary trappings of a Seder. Each table should have a full Seder plate including a roasted shank bone, roasted egg, etc., as well as salt water and matzah. Remember to include extra celery, romaine lettuce and *charoset*, (use the included checklist to organize your *Model Seder*). You'll also need to have a washing cup, towels and a bowl. Remember to have some other refreshments (cake, coffee, etc.) on hand to serve participants after the *Model Seder*.
- For the leader's table, bring a kittel, pillow, silver goblet, a fancy Seder plate, Elijah's cup, candles and candlesticks as props in order to provide participants -- especially those who haven't been to a Seder before -- with an experience of what a "real" Seder might look like.

### Hosts:

- Your committee should invite several knowledgeable members to join you to serve as hosts at the *Model Seder*. Encourage them to warmly welcome participants, to explain some of the elements of the Seder and to mix with the participants at their respective tables.

## The Second Cup

- ❑ Fill the second cup with wine/grape juice. Read (in English) "**V'hi sheh'amda**," the promise of redemption that was made to our people. Then sing it in Hebrew.
- ❑ Everyone should raise their cups as "**V'hi sheh'amda**" is sung and then read in English.
- ❑ Discuss the uniqueness of the Passover holiday in that it is the only festival that was celebrated by the Jewish people before the miraculous salvation occurred. They showed great faith in G-d, defying their Egyptian masters by slaughtering the lamb (an Egyptian god), placing the blood on their doorposts and having their Passover Seder while their loins were girded and their matzah was on their shoulder. Even though there was a chance that twelve o'clock would arrive and they would still be slaves, the Jewish people had faith that G-d would fulfill his word and redeem his people.

Message: Passover represents the idea that even in darkness, when things seem so bleak, we have faith that G-d will redeem us.

Today in Israel the Jewish people are experiencing a bleak period and there is a great deal of darkness and pain. Many people have been killed and there has been tremendous suffering. Do not give up hope. "**V'hi sheh'amda**" represents our defiant belief that G-d will, indeed, be a redemption.

## The Ten Plagues

- ❑ We now recite the ten plagues. "**Dam, Va'esh, Vitimrot Ashan**" -- blood, fire and pillars of smoke are the three basic means of destruction.
- ❑ Ask participants, why they think we remove a drop of wine from the glass with our pinky when reciting each of these basic elements? Whereas other nations have no compassion for those they have vanquished in battle, the Jewish people recognize that our victory came at the expense of human life, the lives of the Egyptians, who are also G-d's creations. We cannot therefore be completely happy and consequently, we remove the drops of wine from our cup.

Explain that this is also one of the reasons why we recite only half the Hallel after the first two days of Passover, based on a Midrash that relates that G-d, as it were, says; "My creations (the Egyptians) are drowning in the sea, and you are singing praise?"

- ❑ Why were these ten plagues chosen? Because each has a particular meaning to the Egyptians:

The Egyptians worshiped the Nile, so the Nile turned to blood.

The Egyptians forced the Jewish people to work and carry heavy items from place to place, so the plague of frogs forced the Egyptians to carry the dead frogs away.