



15 SEDER STEPS

1 *Kadesh* - THE BENEDICTION

The Seder service begins with the recitation of kiddush, proclaiming the holiness of the holiday. This is said while holding a cup of wine, the first of the four cups we will drink (while reclining) throughout the Seder.

2 *Urchatz* - WASHING

Wash your hands by pouring water on your right hand 3 times, then 3 times on your left hand, but don't make a blessing!

3 *Karpas* - THE "APPETIZER"

Take a small piece of vegetable (parsley, onion or potato) and dip it in salt water to remember the many tears the Jews shed when they were slaves in Egypt.



4 *Yachatz* - BREAKING THE MATZAH

The middle matzah on the Seder plate is broken in two. The smaller part of the middle matzah is returned to the Seder plate. This broken middle matzah, the "bread of poverty," remains visible as we tell the story of Exodus and will be eaten shortly thereafter. The larger piece is put aside for later use as the afikoman. This unusual action of breaking the matzah not only attracts the child's attention once again, but also recalls G-d's splitting of the Sea of Reeds to allow the children of Israel to cross on dry land.

5 *Maggid* - THE HAGGADAH

After a short introduction, at the beginning of the Haggadah, a second cup of wine is filled. The child who wonders "What's Going On" asks the time-honored four questions: "Mah nishtanah...?" The child's questioning triggers one of the most significant Mitzvahs of the Passover eve. In response to the child's questions, the Haggadah includes a brief review of the suffering imposed upon the Israelites by the Egyptians, and the miracles performed by the Al-mighty for the redemption of His people. We drink the second of cup of wine, reclining.



6 *Rachtzah* - WASHING BEFORE THE MEAL

Wash your hands a second time, just like you did in the beginning – only this time, remember to say the blessing over washing your hands!

7 *Motzi Matzah* - WE EAT THE MATZAH

Before eating the matzah, we say the "Hamotzi," the usual blessing for bread, followed by the special blessing for the mitzvah of eating matzah. We then eat the matzah while reclining.



9 *Maror* - THE BITTER HERBS

Take at least one ounce of the bitter herbs which reminds us of the bitter times in Egypt. Dip it in the charoset, then shake the latter off and make the blessing "al achilat maror." Eat without reclining.

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10 *Korech* - THE HILLEL SANDWICH

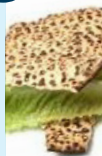
In keeping with the practice of Hillel, the great Talmudic sage, a sandwich of matzah and maror is eaten. Break two pieces off the bottom matzah, which should be at least one ounce together. Again, take at least one ounce of bitter herbs and dip them in the charoset, which is shaken off. Place this between the two pieces of matzah, say "kein asah Hillel..." and eat the sandwich while reclining.

10

11 *Shulchan Orech* - THE PASSOVER FEAST

The holiday dinner is now served. We begin the meal by eating the hard-boiled egg dipped into salt water. Traditionally associated with mourning, the egg reminds us that our meal lacks the sacrificial lamb.

Note: The zeroa (the leg of lamb or chicken leg or neck on the Seder plate), is not eaten at the Seder.



12 *Ezafun* - OUT OF HIDING

After the meal, the half-matzah that had been "hidden" and set aside for the afikoman ("dessert") is taken out and eaten. It symbolizes the Paschal lamb, which our ancestors ate at the end of their Passover Seders.

Everyone should eat at least 1½ ounces of matzah, reclining, before midnight. After eating the afikoman, we do not eat or drink anything except for the two remaining cups of wine.

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13 *Berach* - BLESSINGS AFTER THE MEAL

A third cup of wine is filled and Grace After Meals is recited. After the Grace, we recite the blessing over wine and drink the third cup while reclining.

Now we fill the cup of Elijah and our own cups with wine. We open the door and recite the passage that is an invitation to the Prophet Elijah, the harbinger of the coming of Moshiach, our righteous Messiah.

13

14 *Hallel* - SONGS OF PRAISE

At this point, having recognized the Almighty and His unique guidance of the Jewish people, we go still further and sing His praises as described in the Haggadah.

After reciting the Hallel, we again recite the blessing over wine and drink the fourth cup, reclining.

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15 *Nirtzah* - ACCEPTANCE

Having carried out the Seder service properly, we are sure that it has been well received by the Almighty. We then say "Leshanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim—Next year in Jerusalem."

15

GENERAL NOTE: When drinking the four cups and eating the matzah, we lean on our left side to accentuate the fact that we are free people. In ancient times only free people had the luxury of reclining while eating.

Adapted from Chabad.org