

Insights from the Haggadah

There is Seder after all!

STRUCTURE OF MAGGID (Rimon)	QUESTION	ANSWER	PRAISE	THEME/ METHOD
Part One	Mah Nishtanah?	<i>Avadim hayinu/</i> We were servants	<i>Baruch Hamakom</i>	Physical Redemption
Part Two	The wise one, what does he say?	<i>Mit'chila ovdei avodah zarah/</i> In the beginning, we were idolators	<i>Baruch Shomer Havtachaso</i>	Spiritual Redemption
Part Three	What did Lavan attempt to do?	<i>Tzei ul'mad</i> (the verses that are expounded)	<i>Kamah ma'alos tovos.. dayeinu</i>	Textual study
Part Four	This Matzah that we eat, for what purpose?	<i>Rabban Gamliel</i> would say, anyone who did not understand...	<i>L'fichach anachnu</i>	Visualization through the objects

Choose Your Own Adventure

- a) Personal transformation by picking a personal item to “break free” from
- b) Discussion-oriented (read [Maggid](#) by Marge Piercy etc.)
- c) Child-friendly (lots of props and costumes)
- d) ????

The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker: a) Start with a clear purpose b) The host should lead c) Create a Strong Opening d) Encourage Honest Interactions e) End with Intention

Urechatz

- Netziv: Home is the Bais Hamikdash (OG)
- The challenges of gathering with family/ no family

Karpas

- Saltwater and Saladmate
- Bach and R' YT Rimon: Whet your appetite and don't eat for two hours = freedom

Ha Lachma Anya

- Avudraham: “Ben Ezra was in captivity in Turkey and was fed Matza”
- Opening the door to guests
- Avudraham: “You (the poor) and we are all subjugated”

Mah Nishtana

- Shibalei Haleket: A suggested structure to encourage dialogue
- Tosafos Q and A - answers cannot be appreciated unless we have questions

Avadim Hayinu

“B'yad chazakah”

- Rabbi Dr. Joshua Berman, Ani Maamin: cultural appropriation

“V’ilu lo hotzi HKBH... m’shubadim...”

- Ritva: Assimilation

Maaseh

- On the run from the Romans

“Baruch Hamakom”

- Rav Soloveitchik: The One who fills the voids

Four Sons

- Sefas Emes: The many conflicting components of every human being
- Sefas Emes: Don't be such a chochom (adventures in Tzfat)

“Kafar ba’Ikar”

- Removing oneself from Klal Yisrael is the greatest heresy

Tzei Ul'mad

Structure: The second generation experiences Yetzias Mitzrayim by connecting to the previous generation and we do the same.

“Arami Oved Ovi”

- Rav Michel Twerski on the Lavans among us destroying their children's conception of H'

“Goy gadol”

- Avudraham: Through clothing
- 'Bageling' is beautiful and Rav Tzadok on the essence of Yiddishkeit

“Vayoreu”

- Rav Soloveitchik and Ramban on the dehumanization of the Jewish People and the Ritva on why we eat lettuce

“Vanitzak el Hashem... ‘va'yei'anchu”

- A child only cries in the presence of her mother

“B'yad Chazakah' shtayim”

- Ritva: Midas Hadin and Midas Harachmim at the same time - do we see it?

“D'tzach adash b'achav”

- Ritva: Creator, Providence, and Prophecy

How many makkos?

- Rabbi Dr. AJ Twerski: How many times has Hashem reminded us?

Pesach, Matzah, Marror

- Rabbi Dr. AJ Twerski: A night of meaning-making and marror

Tzafun

- Rav Kook: Eaten on a full stomach as an expression of sublime eating (kedusha)

Nirtzah

“Chad Gadya”

- Is Hashem guilty? Rabbi AJ Twerski - did the dog really have pure intentions?
- / Ben Ish Chai - we do not know how He runs the world

Rav Kook: There is no directive; *nirtzah* is a feeling of being accepted and welcomed by G-d.

This is the height of our spiritual ascent on the Seder night. Who Knows One and Chad Gadya are the equivalent of Hashem Hu HoElokim at the end of Neilah; we are attempting to take the message of G-d's Oneness and our recognition of his mastery over history into our lives.