



Bridging the Distance: Creating an Engaging Virtual Seder Experience

Rabbi Cara Weinstein Rosenthal
Family Engagement Specialist

March 30, 2019



Why is this Passover Different from All Other Passovers?



- How can we use online platforms to connect with the relatives, friends and community members that we won't be able to see in person at our Seder tables?
- How can we use this moment to connect more deeply with the story and themes of Pesach, and how can we use those themes to find deeper meaning in this current challenge?

Why is this Passover Different from All Other Passovers?



Rabbinical Assembly letter on [Streaming Seder](#)

Planning the Virtual Seder Experience

- Identify your guiding purpose: Why are you choosing to have this virtual gathering?
- Choose your platform – Zoom, WebEx, etc.
- Choose your setting carefully
- End your online Seder well to create a meaningful experience



Planning the Virtual Seder Experience

- Online Haggadot
 - [Feast of Freedom](#) by the Rabbinical Assembly
 - [PJ Library Haggadah](#)
- Let people know what they need to have at their own Seder tables
 - [Seder checklist](#)





Helping People Feel Connected

- Find ways for people to share what's going on at their own Seder tables, or to help lead parts of the Seder.
- Use the tools that your Web platform provides (if it's not Yom Tov).
 - Polls
 - Chat Box
- Create shared documents ahead of time and use them during the Seder.
 - [Haggadot.com](https://www.haggadot.com)
 - Google Docs



Connecting to the Themes of Pesach in the Age of COVID-19

Elements of the Haggadah that may hold new meaning this year:

- The Ten Plagues
- Dayenu
- The Four Children
 - [The Four Children and Covid-19](#)
 - The Four Children artwork in *A Different Night*
- Yachatz (the broken middle matzah)



Connecting to the Themes of Pesach in the Age of COVID-19

How can we engage with the needs of others in order to realize the true meaning of Passover – and put our own experience into perspective?

Resources on modern-day slavery:

- The [Passover Project](#) by [Free the Slaves](#)
- Learn about the work of the [Tomato Rabbis](#), sponsored by [T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights](#)



Questions?