

Pre-Pesach Zoom Seder Options

(Based on ideas shared by Rabbi Adam Starr of Ohr HaTorah in Atlanta)

There has been lots of discussion regarding permitting the use of Zoom for the Seder under certain circumstances. Beyond the fact that there is a lot of misinformation and without getting into all the details in this forum, **I want to unequivocally state that I do not believe that using Zoom for seder is a Halachically/Orthodox Traditional viable option, nor is it the way that we are accustomed to creating a Shabbat/Yom Tov atmosphere in our home.**

Given the Halachik issues with a Zoom seder and our not being able to be with family that lives outside of our home, we have a real challenge this year on Pesach. Pesach more than any other holiday is supposed to be intergenerational as we are obligated "*Vehigadeta livincha*" to teach the next generation the Jewish people's national story. I would therefore recommend for those interested, a "Pre-Seder" using Zoom, Facetime or other technology with family members and or friends who may be alone for seder. **I believe this is a way to truly share the seder experience with parents, grandparents, children and single friends so that we can come into Yom tov feeling connected even as we are apart.** This will then be followed by a Halakhic seder following nightfall.

I have seen two general approaches to this that I will suggest. Please see both options below and determine which will best serve you or your families needs.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have about implementing these ideas.

Option #1--Haggadah based Pre Seder followed by abridged Halachik seder based on Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern's suggestions.

Daven Mincha earlier in day

6:30pm (or you can begin earlier)--Pre-Seder begins dressed in Yom Tov clothing sitting around a set Seder Table

- Sing Traditional Kaddesh UrChatz Song
- Don't say traditional Kiddush, but have a fun/tasty (alcoholic) drink prepared and make a L'Chaim and a Beracha (Shehakol Niyeh BiDvaro) instead. Kids can have grape juice.

- Continue with UrChatz, washing the hands w/o a Beracha then eat Karpas with the Beracha (Borei Pri Haadama), or maybe have potato chips/sticks dipped in saltwater instead
- Continue with rest of the Seder all the way through as you would normally do it every other year (Break middle Matzah, Mah Nishtana, hide Afikoman, Divrei Torah etc.) Stop after singing "B'Tzeit Yisrael Mi'Mitzrayim" (right before the Beracha on the 2nd cup of wine at the end of Maggid)
- *Sing Nirtzah songs: "Who knows one?"; Chad Gadya (*Time Permitting) Wave goodbye to your family members, friends and neighbors - Wish them a Chag Sameach and send your love before the onset of the Chag

Now, Turn/Log Off your computers and phones (7:44pm)

7:45pm - Light Yom Tov candles and Daven Maariv

[8:30pm- Abridged Halachik Seder*](#)

- Recite Kiddush and drink the 1st cup of wine
- Say Mah Nishtana; Avadim Hayinu; Baruch Hamakom; Mi'T'chilah Ovdei Avodah Zarah; Baruch Shomer Havtachato; The Primary verses of Tzai U'Imad, Kama Maalot Tovot; Rabban Gamliel Hayah Omer...("He who has not said these 3 things on Pesach...")
- Say L'Fichach Anachnu through B'Tzeit Yisrael and the Beracha on the 2nd cup
- Wash with a Beracha
- Matzah, Marror, Koreich (Hillel sandwich)
- Eat festive meal followed by eating the Afikoman & Birkat Hamazon
- Drink the 3rd cup Sing the rest of Hallel (Lo Lanu through Baruch...Melech Mehullal Ba'Tishbachot)
- Drink 4th cup and recite Al HaGefen Chasal Siddur Pesach and sing l'Shana Haba B'Yerushalayim...in good HEALTH!
- **Sit back, relax and discuss Yetziat Mitzrayim until they wake you for Keriat Shema in the morning :)**

**[Click HERE](#) for an abridged Haggadah for this purpose though, if you'd

like to do/say more, you are more than welcome to do so, in the spirit of “*V'kol HaMarbeh Harei Zeh Me'shubach*” All who say more about the Exodus story are praiseworthy.

Option #2- Informal Pre Seder with songs and divrei Torah followed by complete Halachik Seder. [Based on Rav Rimon's suggestions.](#)

Pray Mincha prayers early in the afternoon.

6:30pm--Everyone is dressed in holiday clothes and doing a family gathering together through technology.

- Informal Seder songs and discussions
- Sing Seder songs - children will sing Ma Nishtana.
- Each family member can prepare something short on the Haggadah. Share words of Torah or riddles for the children.
- You can continue with your favorite Seder songs, such Vhi Sheamda, Dayeenu. Echad Mi Yodeah, Chad Gadya, etc. (on Seder night, we will repeat all these songs).
- Wave goodbye to your family members, friends and neighbors - Wish them a Chag Sameach and send your love before the onset of the Chag

Now, Turn/Log Off your computers and phones (7:44pm)

7:45pm - Light Yom Tov candles and Daven Maariv

8:30pm- Begin your the Seder going through the entire Haggadah as you normally are accustomed to.
