

THE BIG CLEAN

1

Before Passover begins, we make sure to clean our houses thoroughly for all traces of Chametz.

But instead of throwing away items we can still use, we pack and lock away the food we don't want to discard, and authorize a Rabbi to sell it to a non-Jew until after the holiday ends. This is called SELLING THE CHAMETZ.

JOIN THE SEARCH PARTY

2

To make sure there is no visible Chametz left in the house, before Pesach we make a Grand Search. This year, the search for Chametz will take place on Sunday night, March 24 after 7:55PM.

How to search for Chametz:

- Wrap up 10 pieces of bread • Hide them but don't forget where they are!
- Say the blessing **Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-hainu Melech Haolam Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu al biur chametz**

Blessed Are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us concerning the removal of chametz

- Collect the 10 pieces

BURN THAT CHAMETZ

3

The next morning (Monday, March 25 before 11:45AM) we take the bag of Chametz that we found the night before and burn it. The latest time to eat Chametz is 10:30AM that morning.

Chametz VS. Matzah

Matzah is what Pesach's all about, and that means Chametz is on its way out for 8 whole days. Not only do we not eat Chametz during Pesach, we also don't want to see it, own it, or get any benefit from it either.

But what is Chametz?

Chametz is leaven - any food that's made of grain and water and been allowed to ferment and rise for more than 18 minutes.

Bread, cereal, cake, cookies, pizza, pasta, bagels, doughnuts...all these are perfect examples of Chametz.

In fact, any processed food that is not certified "Kosher for Passover" may include Chametz ingredients, especially if it contains one of the five grains: wheat, barley, spelt, oats and rye.

Instead of Chametz, we eat Matzah:

A hard, cracker-like bread made from a dough of only flour and water which has not been allowed to rise. We eat Matzah to remember how quickly we left Egypt, and the pure faith we had in G-d, that He would save us.

When G-d told us it was time to leave Egypt, we left straight away, without stopping for a second! Our ancestors had so much faith in G-d that they put their dough in sacks on their backs, and left- without giving it time to rise. The hot desert sun baked the dough on their backs into cracker-like Matzah we eat today. That is one of the reasons why Matzah is also called: "Michlah DeMeHemnutah" - The Bread of Faith, in Aramaic.

On Pesach we remember the miracles G-d performed for us, by putting the CRUNCH on Chametz and getting the MUNCH on Matzah!

Aleph Learning Center

Pesach Guide 5773



The 6 Items on Your Seder Plate

At the head of the table is the beautiful Seder Plate. In Hebrew, we call it a "Ka'arah". We arrange the Seder Plate by placing three whole Matzot in a cover or special compartment. Then we arrange six items, each one reminding us of the Passover Story:

1. **Zeroah:** A Roasted Bone. This reminds us of the Pesach offering we used to bring in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.
2. **Beitzah:** A hard-boiled Egg. This reminds us of the festival offering which was brought to the Holy Temple on Pesach
3. **Maror:** Bitter Herbs (Romaine lettuce). These bitter herbs symbolize the harsh suffering and bitter times we endured when we were slaves in Egypt.
4. **Charoset:** A mixture of chopped apple, walnuts, dates and red wine. Ground up together, Charoset resembles bricks and mortar, reminding us how hard we were forced to work when we were slaves in Egypt.
5. **Karpas:** A small vegetable, like celery. We dip the Karpas into salt water at the beginning of the Seder, representing the salty tears we cried when we were slaves.
6. **Chazeret:** Romaine Lettuce. This is the 2nd portion of bitter herbs which we eat during the Seder. This is eaten in a Matzah sandwich together with Maror.

15 Steps of The Pesach Seder



1. **Kadesh**—We recite Kiddush over a cup of wine or grape juice. Tonight we are like royalty, so lean to the left in the manner of kings and queens.



2. **Urchatz**—Wash your hands by pouring water on your right hand 3 times, and 3 times on your left hand, but don't make a blessing.



3. **Karpas**—Take a small piece of vegetable (celery) and dip it in salt water to remember the many tears the Jews shed when they were slaves in Egypt. Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Borei Pri Ha'Adama (who creates the fruit of the land).



4. **Yachatz**—Take the middle Matzah from the Seder plate and break it in two. The larger piece is called the Afikoman.



5. **Maggid**—Ask the Four Questions. Then read and relive the entire story of Pesach. After we finish telling the story we drink the 2nd cup of wine, leaning to the left.



6. **Rachtza**—Wash your hands a second time, just like you did in the beginning—only this time, remember to say the blessing: Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu Al Netliat Yadayim (commanded us to wash our hands).



7-8. **Motzi-Matzah**—Recite the blessing for Matzah, and eat leaning to the left. Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Hamotzi Lechem Min Ha'aretz. Baruch Ata Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Haolam Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu Al Achilat Matzah.



9. **Maror** Take bitter herbs and romaine lettuce which reminds us of the bitter times in Egypt, dip them into Charoset. Baruch Ata Adonai Elo-heinu Melech Ha'olam Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu Al Achilat Maror.



10. **Korech**—Fill 2 pieces of Matzah with Maror and Romaine lettuce, make a special prayer and eat it while leaning to the left.



11. **Shulchan Orech**—We eat and enjoy the festive meal. Bon Appetit!



12. **Tzafun**—Take out the Afikoman. Every person eats a piece for dessert. Remember not eat or drink anything afterwards.



13. **Berach**—We thank G-d for the delicious meal, and drink the 3rd cup of wine leaning to the left.



14. **Hallel**—We fill Elijah's cup and our 4th cup, open the door for Elijah who comes to visit every Seder. We sing songs of praise for the great miracles G-d preformed and drink the 4th cup.



15. **Nirtzah**—We finish with a heartfelt "Next year in Jerusalem!"