

Setting Up Your Virtual Seder Workbook

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I. Haggadah

A. Make sure all guests are familiar with which Haggadah will be used and how it will be used.

1. Decide if the Haggadah will be a book, printed or on a screen.

a) Reasons to use a book

(1) Reliable, paginated, familiar

b) Reasons to use a printed Haggadah from online

(1) Everyone has easy access, with some of the advantages of a book

c) Reasons to use the Haggadah on a screen

(1) The host can control through the “screen share” function for everyone, though this can make the faces smaller

(2) Guests will be more likely to look at the camera, and essentially, at one another

II. The space

A. Test your technology before the Seder itself, perhaps have a “test dinner” with a guest or two.

B. Make sure your camera is framing what you want it to look like.

C. Be thoughtful of the lighting and angle of the camera.

1. You could choose to focus tight on the host, or you could have a broader angle of the table with other physical guests.

2. Natural light is best. Second best is making sure that the camera is capturing what the light is shining on, and not the source of light itself like a lamp or canister light. Getting the camera higher I find helps alleviate that challenge.

D. Think ahead of time how you want the screen or screens to be used.

1. Do you want your guests to appear on a television screen instead of a small laptop so they could be better seen?
2. Would you like tablets like Ipads used for Haggadot?
3. Would you like the camera / screen setup to be the same like in a laptop so that it could be moved from place to place during the Seder?
4. Would you like several cameras in one space? In zoom a phone could be connected to the same zoom room that moves around while a stationary camera is the “main view”

III. The Seder

A. Know ahead of time the real purpose of what you are trying to accomplish with this gathering.

1. Are you sharing the story with children?
2. Do you want adults to be intellectually stimulated?
3. Do you want to get as close as possible to approximating in-person traditions?

B. Give some homework

1. If there are skits, have a rehearsal
2. If there are questions to guide conversations, share them ahead of time
3. If there are songs to sing, send the lyrics or a recording

C. Assign parts

1. Good hosting is using your authority well, let your guests know who is doing what when, they'll appreciate you for it.
2. You can also delegate authority for different guests to lead different parts as they wish.
3. Below is a sample outline, feel free to copy and modify as you wish

D. Plan who will be talking to who, and when

1. For example, if there are many virtual guests, you may want to utilize the “rooms” feature on Zoom to get smaller groups able to talk.
2. Alternatively, if each home has more than one physical person, account for times when in-person conversation takes precedence over the “host→everyone” leadership.

<u>Seder Section</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Welcome			
<i>Order of the Seder song</i>			
Kadesh (First Cup)			
Urchatz			
Karpas			
Yachatz			
Maggid			
<i>Ha Lakhma Anya</i>			
<i>Ma Nishtana (4 questions)</i>			
<i>Avadim Hayinu</i>			
Four children			
Ten Plagues			
<i>Dayenu</i>			
Pesach/Matah/			

Maror			
In every Generation			
<i>B'tzeit Yisrael</i>			
Second cup of wine			
Rachtza			
Motzi Matza			
Maror			
Korech			
Shulchan Orech			
Tzafun			
Barech (3rd cup)			
Elijah's Cup			
Hallel			
4th cup			
(Sefirat Ha-omer)			
Songs			
Echad Mi Yodeah			
Adir Hu			
Chad Gadya			

Nirtza			
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