

Urchatz Explanation

Contributed by [The Seder Creators](#).

Source:

By Rabbi Rona Shapiro

The beginning of the seder seems strange. We start with kiddush as we normally would when we begin any festive meal. Then we wash, but without a blessing, and break bread without eating it.

What's going on here?

It seems that the beginning of the seder is kind of a false start. We act as if we are going to begin the meal but then we realize that we can't – we can't really eat this meal until we understand it, until we tell the story of the exodus from Egypt. So we interrupt our meal preparations with *maggid* (telling the story) . Only once we have told the story do we make kiddush again, wash our hands again (this time with a blessing) and break bread and eat it! In order to savor this meal, in order to appreciate the sweet taste of Passover, we must first understand it.