

Alternative Questions

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Source: JewishBoston



A NIGHT OF QUESTIONS 20 TABLE TOPICS FOR YOUR PASSOVER SEDER

- 1** What do you consider your “promised land,” or heaven on earth?
- 2** In Hebrew, the word for Egypt is “Mitzraim,” which literally means “narrow place.” What is one way that you wish for our society to be more open?
- 3** Moses is considered one of the greatest leaders in our history—he is described as being smart, courageous, selfless and kind. Which of today’s leaders inspires you in a similar way?
- 4** Miriam was a prophetess and the sister of Moses who, after crossing the Red Sea, led the women in song and dance with tambourines. She is described as being courageous, confident, insightful and nurturing. Which musician or artist today inspires you in a similar way?
- 5** More recent and ongoing struggles for freedom include civil rights, GLBTQ equality, and women’s rights. Who is someone involved in this work that you admire?
- 6** Is there someone—or multiple people—in your family’s history who made their own journey to freedom?
- 7** Freedom is a central theme of Passover. When in your life have you felt most free?
- 8** If you could write an 11th commandment, what would it be?
- 9** What’s the longest journey you have ever taken?
- 10** How many non-food uses for matzah can you think of? Discuss!
- 11** Let’s say you are an Israelite packing for 40 years in the desert. What three modern items would you want to bring?
- 12** The Haggadah says that in every generation of Jewish history enemies have tried to eliminate us. What are the biggest threats you see to Judaism today?
- 13** The Passover seder format encourages us to ask as many questions as we can. What questions has Judaism encouraged you to ask?
- 14** Israel is central to the Passover seder. Do you think modern Israel is central to Jewish life? Why or why not?
- 15** The manna in the desert had a taste that matched the desire of each individual who ate it. For you, what would that taste be? Why?
- 16** Let’s say you had to swim across the Red Sea, and it could be made of anything except water. What would you want it to be?
- 17** If the prophet Elijah walked through the door and sat down at your table, what’s the first thing you would ask him?
- 18** Afikoman means “dessert” in Greek. If you could only eat one dessert for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- 19** What is something you wish to cleanse yourself of this year? A bad habit? An obsession or addiction?
- 20** The word “seder” means “order.” How do you maintain order in your life?

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Please use these alternative questions to spark conversation during dinner and for the rest of the evening.