

# Traditional Four Children

Contributed by [Lowell Perry](#)

Source:

*Host:*

Blessed is the Omnipresent One, blessed be He! Blessed is He who gave the Torah to His people Israel, blessed be He! The Torah speaks of four children: One is wise, one is wicked, one is simple and one does not know how to ask.

The wise one, what does he say?

*Reader 1 (in a wise voice):*

"What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes and the laws which the Lord, our God, has commanded you?" (Deut 6:20)

*Host:*

How should you answer the wise child?

*Reader 2:*

"We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and sore upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore to our fathers. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God as He hath commanded us." (Deut 6:21-25)

*Host:*

The wicked one, what does he say?

*Reader 3 (in a wicked voice):*

"What is this service to you?" (Ex 12:26)

*Host:*

He says 'to you', but not 'to him'! He thus excludes himself from the community and denies God.

How should you answer the wicked child?

*Reader 2:*

"It is the sacrifice of the Lord's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses." (Ex 12:27)

*Host:*

Our houses but not his. He would not have been redeemed.

The simple one, what does he say?

*Reader 4 (in a simple voice):*

"What is this?" (Ex 13:14)

*Host:*

How should you answer the simple child?

*Reader 2:*

"With a strong hand the Lord took us out of Egypt, from the house of slaves. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the Lord slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all male firstborn, but the firstborn of my children I redeem." (Ex 13:14-15)

*Host:*

As for the one who does not know how to ask, you must initiate. But what should you say to him?

*Reader 2:*

"This is done because of that which the Lord did to me when I came out of Egypt." (Ex 13:8)