

Yachatz - Breaking the Middle Matzah

Contributed by [MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger](#)

Source: Mazon: Hunger Seder

(Leader breaks matzah and holds up the smaller broken piece. The larger piece is set aside as the Afikomen.)

LEADER: This broken matzah reminds us that our world is broken. We recall those who are poor, whose uncertainty about their future compels them to put aside the “broken half” for later use. We are shaken out of our complacency as we recall God’s words: “Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt.”

Through service to others, we meet the immediate needs of those who are struggling. But direct service can only alleviate some of the pain of hunger.

Charity alone is not the answer. We cannot food bank our way to an end to hunger. The charitable sector provides important but insufficient resources to meet the substantial needs of those experiencing food insecurity in this country. Only the government has the capacity to address and solve a problem with the magnitude of hunger.

We must advocate for effective and enduring public policies to ensure that our nation’s families need not worry about providing themselves and their children with the sustenance they need. Raising our voices on behalf of the most vulnerable among us helps protect and strengthen nutrition programs that provide vital assistance to struggling families and individuals.