

CHILDREN

The Four Children

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Source: UJC & The Federations of North America Haggadah

The Torah describes four children who ask questions about the Exodus. Tradition teaches that these verses refer to four different types of children.

The wise child asks, "What are the laws that God has commanded us?"

The parent should answer by instructing the child in the laws of Passover, starting from the beginning and ending with the laws of the Afikomen.

The wicked child asks, "What does this Passover service mean to you?"

The parent should answer, "It is because of what God did for me when I came out of Egypt. Specifically 'me' and not 'you.' If you had been there (with your attitude), you wouldn't have been redeemed."

The simple child asks, "What is this Seder service?"

The parent should answer, "With a mighty hand God brought us out of Egypt. Therefore, we commemorate that event tonight through this Seder."

And then there is child who does not know how to ask.

The parent should begin a discussion with that child based on the verse:

"And you shall tell your child on that day, 'We commemorate Passover tonight because of what God did for us when we went out of Egypt.'"