

# The Four Questions

Contributed by [Jewish Boston](#)

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The formal telling of the story of Passover is framed as a discussion with lots of questions and answers. The tradition that the youngest person asks the questions reflects the centrality of involving everyone in the seder. The rabbis who created the set format for the seder gave us the Four Questions to help break the ice in case no one had their own questions. Asking questions is a core tradition in Jewish life. If everyone at your seder is around the same age, perhaps the person with the least seder experience can ask them – or everyone can sing them all together.

**מה נִשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל הַלַּיְלוֹת**

*Ma nishtana halaila hazeh mikol haleilot?*

Why is this night different from all other nights?

**שֶׁבֶּכֶל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חֲמֵץ וּמָצָה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה כָּלוּ מַצָּה**

*Shebichol haleilot anu ochlin chameitz u-matzah. Halaila hazeh kulo matzah.*

On all other nights we eat both leavened bread and matzah.  
Tonight we only eat matzah.

**שֶׁבֶּכֶל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יִרְקוֹת הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מָרוֹר**

*Shebichol haleilot anu ochlin shi'ar yirakot haleila hazeh maror.*

On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables,  
but tonight we eat bitter herbs.

**שֶׁבֶּכֶל הַלַּיְלוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מְטַבִּילִין אֶפְּלוֹ פְּעַם אַחַת הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פְּעָמִים**

*Shebichol haleilot ain anu matbilin afilu pa-am echat. Halaila hazeh shtei fi-amim.*

On all other nights we aren't expected to dip our vegetables one time.  
Tonight we do it twice.

**שֶׁבֶּכֶל הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מְסֻבִּין. הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה כָּלוּנוּ מְסֻבִּין**

*Shebichol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin. Halaila hazeh kulanu m'subin.*

On all other nights we eat either sitting normally or reclining.  
Tonight we recline.