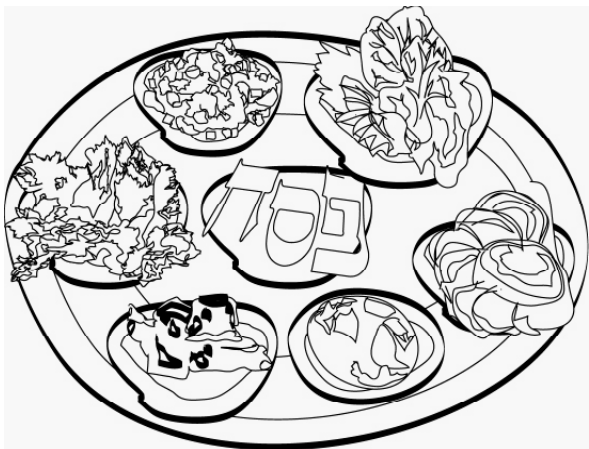


פֶּסַח

Pesach



In the Pesach seder, there are a number of sections which highlight the fact that one of the primary purposes of the seder itself is to teach our children about how God delivered us out of Egypt's slavery. It has become traditional to put the children "center-stage" to ask four questions about why we do the seder, and in asking these four questions, to help them pay attention and learn the answers.

The Four Questions center on four important parts of the seder, and thus four essential aspects of the Pesach event which we hope to pass on to our children. The questions all revolve around an opening question: *Why is this night different than all other nights?*

1 On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread; why on this night do we eat only unleavened bread? (*because God delivered us in haste, so we did not have time to let our bread rise = God's sovereign salvation*)

2 On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs; why on this night do we only eat bitter herbs? (*because it reminds us of the bitterness of slavery = understand and enjoy the benefits of freedom*)

3 On all other nights we do not even dip our herbs once; why on this night must we dip them twice? (*once to remember our salty tears while slaves; once to remember that our work, even as slaves, was done unto the L-rd, and was therefore worthy and, in some measure, satisfying = work is honorable, but work in the context of freedom is always best*)

4 On all other nights we eat either sitting up or reclining; why on this night do we all recline? (*we recline because we are free—we can take our time eating because we have liberty = live out who we are*)

The answers are not given directly so that the children will be listening throughout the rest of the seder. We teach these answers all year long!