

אפיקומן Halfikomen



Afikomen, based on the Greek word for “dessert,” is a half piece of matzah, broken in two during the Seder and set aside to be eaten at the conclusion of the ritual. It has become a ‘hide and seek’ game to keep the kids awake. Halfikomen is Sayder’s version of this tradition, used to walk the Seder talk, up the game, and invest resources in real change.

PART 1

- > After the 1st question, the host(s) asks guests to list names of organizations that are helping to increase freedom in the world. Write down all the names.
- > Pass around a hat (or empty matzah box), inviting each guest to place pledges or monetary donations inside.
- > The host breaks a piece of matzah in two and hides one of the halves – the Halfikomen. Guests are encouraged to search for the Halfikomen throughout Sayder.

PART 2

- > The Halfikomen should be eaten with dessert. Between question 3 and 4 (after the main course and before dessert), the host(s) calls for the missing matzah.
- > Whoever found (or stole) the hidden matzah is invited to display it and choose which organization listed by the guests the collected pledges and donations will go towards.
- > Share the Halfikomen with everyone to close the night with the oldest taste of oppression and the highest hopes for freedom. See ya’ next year!



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What if the Passover Seder was not just the world's longest build-up to a feast? What about re-activating it, back to what it was meant to be: an amazing celebration of life, liberty, and lively conversation about what matters most?

Sayder is an alternative, everybody-friendly, and God-optional Seder recipe, a new spin on an ancient ceremony that celebrates Passover’s best and gets rid of the rest. Featuring Haggadah highlights structured around a new version of the Four Questions, Sayder preserves the drama of storytelling, rituals of retrospection, depth of conversation, and courage of optimism found in the traditional Seder, re-mixed and adapted for this generation.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Sayder hosts facilitate the feast, leading the guests in four rounds of questions. Each round features one question, one topic of conversation, and one beverage refill. Food gets integrated in between rounds. Other readings, musical musings, and personal stories are optional and recommended. Sayder can be in a family or public context, for any duration of time. It can be used as an addition to your traditional Seder or an alternative to all other nights.

Sayder was created by Amichai Lau-Lavie in 2009 and has been co-created and developed with teams from Storahelling, Reboot, and Lab/Shul. Sayder 2016 is produced by Lab/Shul, in creative design with Hillel Smith.

WHAT YOU NEED

- People
- Food, Beverage, Passover Gastro-Essentials
- Sayder Host/s
- Printed Sayder Booklets
- Optional: Blank Index Cards, Writing Utensils



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The Four New Questions

1 **מה נשתנה** MA NISHTANA: WHAT'S NEW *How is this night different than all other nights?*

What significant change has occurred in your life since this time last year? Name one meaningful piece of news. Or ask: How has the world changed this past year, for better or for worse?

Host Note: This question serves as an introduction and icebreaker – a good opportunity to get names and meet everyone.

Ritual: Introduce Elijah's Cup, passed around from guest to guest during the opening round, then filled and placed at the center of the table.

Feast: Karpas comes early in Sayder. Serve creative appetizers right from the start, along with question one.

Activate: Halfikomen Part 1 (see back page)

2 **עבדים היינו** AVADIM HAYINU: OUR SLAVERY *We were enslaved by the Pharaoh in Egypt, and redeemed by Divine might.*

This story is timeless. What enslaves you today? What's holding us back from being more free, happy, and creative?

Host Note: Before diving into Question 2, retell the Exodus story in under 3 minutes (any way you want). This can be done by host/s or as a collaborative storytelling activity with all your guests. The Exodus story is often read in religious, historical, and national Jewish contexts. It can also be seen as a human metaphor for personal or universal redemption from oppression, slavery, and restriction on the journey towards more freedom, opportunity, and autonomy. In each generation we are invited to imagine as though we ourselves were enslaved in Egypt – think about what that means to you today.

Ritual: As an optional ritual activity to accompany this conversation, give out blank cards and writing utensils. Invite guests to write or draw on one

אנשים שונים
לשאלות שונות
על השאלות

מאמץ
לשאלות
שונות

side their replies to the question 'HOW AM I FREE,' and on the other side their replies to the question 'HOW AM I NOT FREE.' Collect, shuffle, pass around, and share with each other.

Food: Matzah, maror and charoset can be introduced after the second question. Discuss, bless, and consume.

3 **דיינו** DAYENU: ENOUGH ALREADY *It would have been enough just to be free.*

Enough with our slavery. What can you do to help end your enslavement and reduce that which holds you back from more freedom and creativity? What will help us fight the Pharaohs within and beyond?

Host Note: This third round can be about personal or societal slavery – or both.

Ritual: Sing Dayenu.

Feast: If you haven't hit 'Shulchan Orech' and served the main course yet, now's the time.

Activate: Halfikomen Part 2 (see back page)

דיינו – דינו
אנחנו
מאמץ

4 **לשנה הבאה** L'SHANA HA'BAA: FUTURE VISION – NEXT YEAR *Next year in Jerusalem*

The Seder ends with a hopeful intention. Jerusalem is at the heart of Judaism and is a symbol for eternal peace. What is your vision of a world with more freedom? What is one wild hope you have for the world this next year? What can you commit to in the coming year to help reduce slavery and oppression in the world?

Host Note: Bring it all to a close with final words of gratitude.

Ritual: Open the front door to Elijah the Prophet and to all your new visions.

Feast: Dessert!

לשנה
הבאה
דינו