



A “FIFTH CUP” FOR JUSTICE

And other new rituals to bring social justice to your Seder table

Greens dipped in saltwater tears... Four cups of wine for freedom... An open door ushering in redemption.

These Passover rituals remind us that we were once slaves in Egypt and inspire us to act in the ongoing fight for justice.

This year, we invite you to add a new tradition to your Seder—to represent your commitment to *tikkun olam*, our responsibility to repair our broken world.

Choose one or more of the following ideas for a Seder dedicated to advancing freedom for all people:

- 1. “Let all who are hungry come and eat.”** This year, act on this invocation from the Haggadah and invite someone in need to your Seder—perhaps a friend who is alone for the holiday or a refugee family that has settled in your neighborhood.
- 2. Add a new food or other symbolic object to your Seder plate that represents freedom.** You may be familiar with adding an orange for women’s rights. How about an olive to represent peace? Or a feather for the ability to rise above oppression? Explain why the symbol is meaningful to you and ask each guest to share what represents freedom to them.
- 3. Place an empty “Fifth Cup” in the center of the Seder table.** Ask each person to pour a small amount of their own wine to help fill the cup, representing their commitment to do their part to build a better world. Once the cup is full, raise it up in honor of the powerful impact we can have when we pursue justice together.
- 4. Ask your friends and family: What would a world where all people were free of persecution look like?** Racism, anti-Semitism, and discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation are still devastating realities for many of us—within and beyond the Jewish community. What role can we each play to uproot bigotry and ensure comfort, equality, and respect for the diverse spectrum of identities within Jewish communities and in society at large?
- 5. Ask kids at your Seder to sing a song or put on a play about the freedoms they are lucky to enjoy in their lives.** Offer young children suggestions like the freedom to go to school or choose what they want to be when they grow up. Older kids might focus on civil liberties like the right to vote or participate in peaceful protest.
- 6. Raise up women’s role in history.** Fill a cup for Miriam along with the one for Elijah, and ask everyone at the table to share a story about a powerful woman who has fought for freedom and inspired them to do the same.
- 7. Open your door to symbolically “welcome the stranger.”** Make a firm commitment to aid and be an ally to people seeking refuge from persecution around the world.
- 8. Lead a discussion about a social justice issue you’re passionate about and take action together.**

Visit www.ajws.org/action and www.ajws.org/blog for ideas.

To download AJWS’s social justice Haggadah and other original resources for Passover, visit www.ajws.org/passover

