



## WHY IS THIS COUNTRY DIFFERENT?

For thousands of years, Jews have used the Passover Seder to remember our history and recount the journey from slavery to freedom. On the eve of Israel's 75th anniversary, we invite you to include the following additions to your Seder and consider how modern Israel fits into the Jewish people's story.



### 1 FOUR QUESTIONS

For many, the highlight of the Passover Seder is the Four Questions which, along with their answers, reveal how the Seder is different from all other nights.

Come up with four questions about Israel's unique identity and discuss the answers around the Seder table.

You can use the same format as the original Four Questions: "Why in all other countries do we \_\_\_\_\_, but in Israel we \_\_\_\_\_?"

### 2 FOUR CHILDREN

The Haggadah speaks of Four Children—archetypes for four different attitudes toward the Passover Seder and, more globally, engaging with the story of the Jewish people.

Now imagine these four children: one who supports Israel unconditionally, one who is very critical of her, one whose relationship wavers, and one who does not know what role Israel can play in their life. What value does each of these "children" bring to the Israel conversation? How can we do a better job of making each feel like they have a stake in Israel's future?

### 3 SEDER PLATE

The Passover Seder plate contains six items considered essential to the Passover Seder.

If you were to choose six symbols, ideas, or values which best represent what Israel means to you, what would they be and why?

### 4 TEN DROPS OF WINE

When reciting the Ten Plagues, it's traditional to remove ten drops of wine from our own cups as a way to diminish our own joy in light of the Egyptians' suffering.

Think about someone, or a group, whose vision for Israel differs from your own. How would this person or group's "joy" be diminished if Israel were to be more like your vision for the country, and less like theirs?

Even if you don't agree with their point of view, can you appreciate the sacrifice they'd be making?

**Brought to you by Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt, co-authors of ISRAEL 201.**



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