

## Welcome!

Rabbis and scholars over the centuries have offered many interpretations to the stories and passages contained in the Haggadah. This Leader's Guide for *Sharing the Journey: The Haggadah for the Contemporary Family* focuses on practical suggestions for an inclusive family seder. It also includes explanations of seder traditions and suggests a few additional rituals that, when included in the service, can add meaning and increased understanding of our Passover celebration.

### **PAGE 15/16: WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PASSOVER?**

An introduction for those attending their first Passover seder and a reminder of why we come together to celebrate Passover each year.

To help create a more inclusive experience, the seder leader may explain that everyone at the seder table has a responsibility to:

- Help create a joyful seder experience;
- Help each other better understand the story of the Exodus;
- Help each other to draw upon the story of our deliverance from Egypt for discovery (and rediscovery each year) of the spiritual foundation of Judaism; and
- Help each other to renew and strengthen our commitment to the pursuit of freedom, tolerance and justice. (See also *The Four Children*, p. 32)

Reciting together, “Blessed are you who come” in Hebrew (*B'ruchah habaah* and *Baruch haba*) is an opportunity for all family members and guests to exchange traditional words of welcome and to introduce a few words of Hebrew to those attending their first seder.

### **PAGE 16/17: HINEIH MAH TOV: A SONG OF HARMONY**

A short, joyous song in Hebrew at the beginning of the seder that celebrates living together in harmony. After the verses of *Hineih Mah Tov* are sung responsively, they may be repeated several times in unison and may also be sung in a round.