

READER: What is the meaning of *matzah*?

TOGETHER: *Matzah* is unleavened bread that symbolizes both slavery and freedom. It is our “bread of affliction,” and a symbol of the divine help we received when we were liberated from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12:39).

READER: As God has liberated us from Egyptian bondage, so may God always inspire us to help the afflicted.

READER: What is the meaning of *maror*?

TOGETHER: *Maror* is a bitter herb. It reminds us that the lives of our ancestors were made bitter from the oppression of Egyptian slavery (Exodus 1:14).

READER: As God has blessed us with freedom, so may God always inspire us to be messengers of God’s word to those in need of hope.

קַדֵּשׁ
Kadeish
First Cup of Wine

וְרַחֵץ
Urchatz
Washing Hands

כַּרְפָּס
Karpas
Green Vegetable

יַחַץ
Yachatz
Middle Matzah

מַגִּיד
Magid
Telling the Story

רְחִיצָה
Rochtzah
Washing Hands
before the Meal

מוֹצֵיא/מַצָּה
Motzi/Matzah
Matzah

מְרוֹר
Maror
Bitter Herbs

כּוֹרֵךְ
Koreich
Hillel Sandwich

שְׁלַחַן אוֹרֵיךְ
Shulchan Oreich
The Meal Is Served

“*Watch-Night*”
refers to
Exodus 12:42,
which charges
the children
of Israel to
observe a night
of Passover
through all
generations.

The Seder Service
before the Meal

The Watch-Night of the Eternal

READER: “You shall tell your child on that day: ‘It is because of what God did for me when I came forth out from Egypt’” (Exodus 13:8).

This passage in the Book of Exodus is the inspiration for the most important words spoken during the Passover seder:

TOGETHER:

🎵 In every generation each individual is bound to regard himself or herself as if he or she had personally gone forth from Egypt.

בְּכָל־דּוֹר וְדוֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ
הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם.

*B'chol dor vador, chayav adam lirot et-atzmo k'ilu
hu yatza miMitzrayim.*

Opportunity for a short discussion: How does the idea of living our lives “as if” God brought us out of Egypt impact the decisions we make about what we do for others?

READER: The words we have spoken express the universal experiences we seek from our seder. It is not “each Jew” who must feel as if he or she came forth out of Egypt, but “each individual.”

TOGETHER: “I” am bound, therefore, to live my life “as if” God redeemed me from persecution, oppression, and slavery. As a beneficiary of the miracles that God performed, I discuss the rituals and symbols of Passover to bring the events from the Exodus into my daily life.