

How is this Passover different from all other Passovers?

At Passover seders each year, family and friends gather to tell the ancient Jewish story of freedom and liberation, to ask questions inspired by our tradition, and to express hope for a world of greater wholeness and peace. As we gather for Passover, we pray for the safe return of those held hostage, and our hearts break for all those who suffer.

This year, the October 7th attacks in Israel and the war in Gaza have created a rupture in our Jewish communities as people struggle in their relationships with those who hold differing viewpoints. Many of us may worry that the conversations around our tables this year will be fraught, or even impossible. But now, more than ever, it is critical to ask questions and to listen to one another.

Here are four questions to help all who gather to engage with open hearts and open minds.

- 1 Passover is a holiday of storytelling, and the Haggadah commands us to tell the story as though we had been present in it. What is one story that has shaped how you understand the war in Gaza?
- 2 Passover warns that great suffering comes from hardening our hearts. How are you feeling hard-hearted right now? How are you feeling tender-hearted?
- 3 Passover is a time to ask questions. When you think about the current war in Gaza, what questions come to mind? What is something you'd like to understand?
- 4 The seder ends with the aspiration: "Next Year in Jerusalem." What do you hope will be true one year from now? How do you hope you will feel?

You can find more questions and a guide for having productive conversations around divisive topics in our *Talk for a Change* resources, linked at the QR code.

Find more Passover resources at ReformJudaism.org/Passover.



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