

BEYOND THE HAGGADAH...

Enhancing your seder to its maximum pride-fulness

What additional questions could you add to the 4 questions?

- What can we take from this night and add to all other nights to create a more expansive table?
-Ari Fernandez, Jewish Communal Professional & Community Advocate
- How can we better show up for the more marginalized members of our community? How can we show up for BIPOC queers? The trans community? Queer elders?
-Adam Eli, Writer and Community Organizer
- What's different on this night from all other nights? That on all other nights, we differentiate between him and her. On this night, we are all equal! For one night, we will escape the gender categorization.
מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות?
שבכל הלילות אנו מבחינים בינו לבינה - הלילה הזה, כולנו שווים, ללא הבדלים, ללא הגדרות.
-Nadav Shachmon, Westchester Shaliach
- What is your first step to freedom? What are you leaving behind now that you are free? Who is celebrating your freedom with you? Now that you are free, what do you need in order to stay free? This is an affirmation to say at the end: I owe no one my coming out story/transition story. People should respect me when I say who I am and if they don't, I can choose not to engage with them. I am who I am and I am becoming who I am meant to be.
-Kadijah Spence, College Student
- The events we honor with the Seder were tragic, and yet we gather to celebrate. Just like with Pride-- tragedy remembered by celebration. An interesting question might be: Why on this night do we gather to celebrate instead of to mourn?
-Leah Robinson, College Student
- How does the history of oppression against the Jewish people inform us about the history of LGBTQ+ people in our own time?
-Joel Davidson, School Counselor
- How can we celebrate differences all year round?
-Fawn Mendel, Temple Administrator
- How is my family different from all other families? Yet, how is it also the same?
-Rabbi Ben Goldberg, Congregation KTI in Port Chester, NY
- Why do we treat LGBTQ+ people not as equal?
-Teenager
- The 4 questions serve more as a reminder of what is important than actual questions, so I would say something along the lines of "Does God love all of God's children regardless of what they look like or who they love?"
-Teenager
- What groups of people are currently persevering through oppression that we can honor?
-Anonymous
- Why is it that there's still so many people who don't have a Seder to be at simply because of their gender and sexual identity?
-Abby Stein, Author, Activist, Speaker and Educator

Pride-full additions:

- Include writings and poetry from the queer community like Abby Stein and Rabbi Sandra Lawson to bring a more diverse perspective. -Ari Fernandez, Jewish Communal Professional & Community Advocate
- Add the narrative of Stonewall to the Exodus story because it is the point that started the liberation, the redemption of Gay people...our narrative from oppression to redemption. -Nadav Shachmon, Westchester Shaliach
- Talk about modern examples of injustice, especially in the LGBTQ+ community. -Teenager
- Everyone says something they can do to help the LGBTQ+ community. -Teenager
- Add a 5th child to the "4 Children" to represent those who don't feel comfortable asking their questions. -Leah Robinson, College Student
- Accurately depict the history and contributions of the LGBTQ+ Jewish community. -Teenager
- A comparison timeline of the history of LGBTQ+ people in America with significant dates of oppression leading to liberation with a timeline of the Exodus from Egypt to Eretz Yisrael -Joel Davidson, School Counselor



Check out wjcouncil.org/lgbtq-seder for Pesach videos with LGBTQ+ Jews as well as more resources.

