Basic Seder Meal

Preparing for the Seder:

Make sure you fill an extra plate and cup for the prophet Elijah who traditionally may come to visit to proclaim the Messiah. Also make sure each place has access to a small bowl of salt water, Bible and a copy of the script

 Ritually wash your hands before the meal (be sure to provide a basin of water and towel)

Each participant puts 6 items on the Seder Plate as follows:

 *Maror and/or Chazere:* Two types of bitter herbs symbolize the bitterness and harshness of slavery which the Jews endured in Ancient Egypt. For Maror , Many people use radishes or horseradish. Chazene is typically romaine lettuce. Either or both may be eaten in honor of the Mitzvah of eating bitter herbs during the Seder

*Charoset:* A sweet, brown, pebbly mixture of 6 apples (finely cut), 1 cup walnut, ½ cup honey or sugar, 1 T cinnamon, and ¼ cup red wine representing the mortar used by the Jewish slaves to build the storehouses of Egypt.

*Karpas:* A vegetable other than bitter herbs, usually parsley but sometimes something such as celery or cooked potato, which is dipped into salt water at the beginning of the Seder. It represents spring and renewal.

*Z’roa:* roasted lamb symbolizing the paschal lamb

*Beitzah:* A roasted or hard-boiled egg, symbolizing the *Korban chagigah* or festival sacrifice and life

 *2 matzah-* each representing the poverty and affliction of slavery and the haste of their flight out of Egypt.

The Seder Meal:

Begin by having the Mistress of the house light a candle and pray this prayer:

Praised are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who have sanctified us by your commandments and commanded us to kindle the festival light. May our home be consecrated, O god, by the light of your countenance, shining on us in blessing and bring us peace. We pray that the brightness of these lights may inspire us and bring spiritual joy and promise to all of us.

Drink a glass of wine or grape juice for the little ones (there are 4, so make them small as you are expected to consume the whole glass before proceeding)

Dip the vegetables 2 times into *salt water,* a reminder of the tears shed by their enslaved ancestors.

It is customary for the youngest child present to recite the four questions:

 Why is it that on all other nights we do not dip our food even once, but on this night we dip them twice?

 Why is it that on all other nights during the year we eat either leavened bread or matzah, but on this night we eat only matzah?

 Why is it that on all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on this night we eat bitter herbs?

 Why is it that on all other nights we dine either sitting upright or reclining, but on this night we all recline?

The story of Passover, all of Exodus 12, is read followed by [Deuteronomy](file:///C%3A%5Cwiki%5CDeuteronomy) 26:5-8

Recite the Ten Plagues, with each, participant removes a drop of wine from his or her cup using a fingertip. Although this night is one of salvation, the oldest explains that one cannot be completely joyous when some of God's creatures had to suffer.

the [Ten Plagues](file:///C%3A%5Cwiki%5CPlagues_of_Egypt):

*Dam* (blood)—All the water was changed to blood

*Tzefardeyah* (frogs)—An infestation of frogs sprang up in Egypt

*Kinim* (lice)—The [Egyptians](file:///C%3A%5Cwiki%5CEgyptians) were afflicted by [lice](file:///C%3A%5Cwiki%5CLouse)

*Arov* (wild animals)—An infestation of wild animals (some say flies) sprang up in Egypt

*Dever* (pestilence)—A plague killed off the Egyptian livestock

*Sh'chin* (boils)—An epidemic of [boils](file:///C%3A%5Cwiki%5CBoil) afflicted the Egyptians

*Barad* (hail)—Hail rained from the sky

*Arbeh* (locusts)—Locusts swarmed over Egypt

*Choshech* (darkness)—Egypt was covered in darkness

*Makkat Bechorot* (killing of the first-born)—All the first-born sons of the Egyptians were slain by God

Drink of the Second Cup of Wine

Recite a blessing (Psalms, 113-114) before the meal.

Consume 1 matzah ,then combine matzo and charoset like a sandwich, and eat.

Then the Leader says:

 With song and praise and with the symbols of our feast, let us renew the memories of our past. Praised are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has chosen us from all people and exalted and sanctrified us with your commandments. In love have you given us, o Lord our God, solemn days of joy and festive seasons of gladness. You have chosen us for your service and made us sharers in your blessings. Blessed are you, Lord, who sanctifies us.

Then the list of the parts of the Seder meal and what they symbolize is read.

Pour another glass of wine

The festive meal is then eaten. Traditionally it begins with the hard-boiled egg on the Seder plate followed by the rest of the Seder plate. This is followed by Matzah ball soup.

Fill another cup (the cup of blessing) and conclude with the reading of psalm 136:

 Leader: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good

 All: His love is everlasting

 Leader: the Lord did not forget us when we were defeated

 All: His love is everlasting

 Leader: the Lord freed us from our enemies

 All: His love is everlasting

 Leader: The lord gives food to every living thing

 All: His love is everlasting

 Leader: Give thanks to the God of Heaven

 All: His love is everlasting. Amen