

The Four Questions:

In Mishnah Pesachim (the earliest, 2000 year old teaching about what seder should be), it describes the order what we would now call the “seder”. When it gets to the point of telling the story, it says, “and here the child questions the parent. If the child lacks the knowledge to ask, the parent coaches [the child to say four questions].

These four questions are now part of the Seder, and it is traditional for the youngest child who is able to ask them:

Intro: What differentiates this night from all [other] nights?	מה נשתנה הלילה הזה מכל הלילות?
On all [other] nights we eat <i>chamets</i> and <i>matsa</i> ; this night, only <i>matsa</i> ?	שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין חמץ ומצה, הלילה הזה – בלול מצה.
On all [other] nights we eat other vegetables; tonight (only) <i>marror</i> .	שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין שאר ירקות – הלילה הזה (בלול) מרור.
On all [other] nights, we don't dip [our food], even one time; tonight [we dip it] twice.	שבכל הלילות אין אנו מטבילין אפילו פעם אחת – הלילה הזה שתי פעמים.
On [all] other nights, we eat either sitting or reclining; tonight we all recline.	שבכל הלילות אנו אוכלין בין יושבין ובין מסבין – הלילה הזה בלנו מסבין.

But these four questions are no substitute for our own questions! The original idea from the Mishnah is that the Seder should be full of so many strange things that we naturally ask questions.

What questions do YOU have about the seder?

**Assignment for JEWL: A recording of you chanting the 4 questions, plus asking a question of your own!**