

There are four children: the wise, the wicked, the simple and the one who doesn't know how to ask.

MIDRASH MEKHILTA 13:14

**You
absolutely,
positively,
cannot have
a Seder
without...**

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Embracing Optimism and Opportunity

No matter what the future brings, we believe it offers opportunity. Change offers each of us the chance to grow and for the world to flourish.

Privileging People Over Ideology

No single ideology can be more valuable than even one person. People take priority, and if there is a conflict between the two, we will always choose the welfare of people over the promotion of an ideology.

Championing Pluralism and Partial Truth

Clal's call to action is this: it is only through listening and connecting to others that we will be able to make life's inevitable disagreements and conflicts productive.

Building Public Good and Communal Wellbeing

We embrace questions, doubts, and change, alongside answers, beliefs and traditions, as paths to sustain us now, and help realize what is yet undreamed.

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You may answer:
“Can’t make a Seder without matzah, wine and bitter herbs.” Perhaps you would respond that it’s not a Seder without questions, at least the “famous 4”, and conversation—the more the better. For others, it’s just not a Seder without family and friends. And while a Seder for 1 is mentioned in the Talmud, it sounds less than ideal, to say the least.

Because welcoming the 4 Children, or anybody for that matter, as they are, not as we wish them to be, **strengthens us as individuals, as a people, and as a nation.** Because welcoming the 4 Children moves us from bemoaning polarization to doing something about it. **Try it and see for yourself.**

What if we also cannot have a Seder without genuinely different types of people at the table? The tradition of the 4 children—wise, simple, wicked and utterly unknowing—is, after all, as ancient as any of those other things most of us consider indispensable to the Seder.

Why bring 4 distinct, and not altogether positive, personalities—despite contemporary attempts to be less judgmental, and gentler in our approach to each—to the center of our Seders?

Invite those at your table to name someone wise, and to explain why they made that choice.

Ask people to consider something positive we can learn from those we label as wicked, or at least from ideas we deem hostile to our own.

Consider where you wish you could simplify things, and how appreciating complexity sometimes over-complicates them.

What is a topic about which you really wish people would stop talking, and why? What might be the benefits, and the costs, of such silence?

Imagine needing each other—even when they are really the other—and that knowing this is the beginning of being truly free