

10 Sacred Acts of Liberation
Passover Seder Supplement 2018/5778
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In the traditional seder, we are instructed to take one drop of wine for our cups to “reduce our joy” over the pain God inflicted upon the Egyptian people through the 10 plagues. Tonight, we choose to increase our joy by taking a sip of wine as we acknowledge 10 sacred acts of liberation we learn from the Exodus story. May we heed these lessons in every generation!

With each act, we take a small sip of wine or juice:

1. Civil Resistance

The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live. (Exodus 1:17)

2. Reaching out to the Other

When (the daughter of Pharaoh) opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She had compassion for him and said “This must be a Hebrew child.” (2:6)

3. Turning toward Truth

Moses said, “I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn’t the bush burn up?” (3:3)

4. Heeding the Cries of the Oppressed

“Now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me; moreover I have seen how the Egyptians have oppressed them.” (3:9)

5. Humility

But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?” (3:11)

6. Speaking Truth to Power

Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says God: ‘Let My people go that they may celebrate a festival for Me in the wilderness.’” (5:1)

7. Memory

“This day shall be to one of remembrance: you shall celebrate it as a festival to God throughout the ages; you shall celebrate it as an institution for all time.” (12:14)

8. Taking the First Step

The waters were split and the Israelites went into the sea on dry ground... (14:21-22)

9. Joy and Celebration

Then Miriam the prophetess took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her in dance with timbrels. (15:20)

10. Pledging to Create a More Just World

Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain. (20:17)