

Haggadah Shel Pesach: The Fifth Son

The Lookstein Center

Student Worksheets

Four seems to be the “magic” number of the *Seder* night. We have four questions, four glasses of wine, four sons and four expressions of redemption.

In this lesson we will see that “five” is the real magic number of the *Seder* night. We will discover the fifth question, the person who drinks the fifth glass of wine, the fifth expression of redemption, and ask the identity of the fifth son. We will then examine the theme of five to understand why the fifth was left out and examine whether it should be re-inserted.

Therefore, your objectives for this session are to:

- a) Find out what the fifth question is.
- b) Find out what happened to the fifth glass of wine.
- c) Find out the fifth expression of redemption.
- d) Postulate as to who the fifth son might be.
- e) Examine the common theme in all these categories.
- f) Question whether the fifth category should be inserted.

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1. The Gemara in *Messechet Pesachim* 117b records:

“*Hallel Hagadol* is said on the fourth (glass of wine)...

Tosafot writes: “The text should say ‘fourth (glass)’ and not the ‘fifth (glass)’.”

- a) What conclusion can we draw from Tosafot’s statement?
- b) Why do you think Tosafot insists that the Talmud editions that write “fourth” are correct? Explain your answer.

a) _____

b) _____

2. Nevertheless, Rambam writes in *Hilkhot Hhametz U’Matsah* Chapter 8:

“One should pour a fifth glass and recite on it ‘*Hallel Hagadol*’... but this glass is not obligatory (to drink) like the (other) four glasses.”

- a) Explain the conclusions that we can draw from Rambam’s statement.
- b) Explain the questions that arise from Rambam’s ruling.

a) _____

b) _____

3. Hazal instituted the four glasses of wine because of the four expressions that God used to describe how He would redeem us. Read the text below and highlight the appropriate expressions:

“**6** Wherefore say unto the children of Israel: I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with great judgments; **7** and I will take you to Me for a people, and I will be to you a God; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. **8** And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning which I lifted up My hand to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage: I am the LORD.” *Shemot* 6:6-8

4. Write the expressions below:

Haggadah Shel Pesach: The Fifth Son
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- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____

5. There are five expressions of redemption. How does the fifth expression differ from the other four? Explain your answer.

6. Using this information, explain Rambam's ruling about the fifth cup.

7. There are more examples of the Land of Israel being censored from the *Haggadah*. Examine the following Mishna (*Pesachim* 10:4):

“We begin with the bad points and end with the good. We say *derashot* (analyze and explain)—from ‘An Aramite tried to kill my father’ (*Devarim* 26:5)—until the end of the *parasha*.”

Explain what we are meant to do on *Seder* night according to this Mishna.

8. Examine *Devarim* 26:5.

- a) Where does the *parasha* end?
- b) Which verses do we say *derashot* on on the *Seder* night?
- c) What is the content of the verses that we do not say *derashot* on?

Explain.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

Haggadah Shel Pesach: The Fifth Son

The Lookstein Center

We will now examine the fifth question.

9. Read the following Mishna (ibid.) and answer the question and answer the question below:

“Why is night different to all other nights? On all other nights we eat *hametz* and *matzah*. On this night we only eat *matzah*? On all other nights we eat other vegetables, on this night we eat *maror*? On all other nights we eat roasted, fried cooked and boiled meat, on this night we only eat roasted meat? On all other nights we dip (our food) once, on this night twice.

- a) Which question do we not ask anymore?
- b) Why do you think this is the case? Explain your answer.

a) _____

b) _____

10. We have seen that “five” was intended to be the key number of the original *Haggadah*, but because of the exile from the Land of Israel, the fifth component of each point was removed. If that is the case:

- a) Where do you think the fifth son is?
- b) Do you think that today, with the re-establishment of the State of Israel, we should actually drink the fifth glass of wine? Explain your answer.

a) _____

b) _____

