

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT ON SATURDAY NIGHT SEDER?

When Passover begins on a Saturday night, as it does this year (April 12th, 2025), we change the schedule of preparation and adjust the rituals that take place.

### BEFORE SHABBAT

**Bedikat Hametz** (the search for leavened foods), commonly done the night before the holiday, takes place this year on Thursday evening, April 10th, once it is night. **Bi'ur Hametz** (the final destruction and disposal of leavened foods) must take place by Friday morning, April 11th.

**You can find a printable sheet with the ritual on the Exploring Judaism website.**

**One should light a candle before Shabbat** that will last until Passover begins Saturday night. This can be a seven-day candle or a long-lasting yahrtzeit-style candle. This will allow you to transfer the flame from that candle Saturday night, after Shabbat, as a pre-existing flame.

### WHAT DO I EAT ON SHABBAT?

When Passover begins on a Saturday night, there is a tension between the need to dispose of hametz before the holiday and the desire to eat challah in honor of Shabbat before the holiday. While one is technically permitted to consume hametz until mid-morning on the Shabbat morning of April 12th, it is recommended to choose another option, because **bittul hametz** (the declaration nullifying hametz) must take place before.

In light of this timing, the recommended practice is to **recite HaMotzi (the blessing over bread) over two full pieces of *Kasher I'Pesah* egg matzah**, just as you would normally over two loaves of challah. Enriched egg matzah honors Shabbat and does not violate the prohibition of eating matzah shortly before Passover begins.

### THE SATURDAY NIGHT SEDER

On Saturday night, you are moving to a Yom Tov from Shabbat, rather than from a regular weekday. As a result, you need to make a havdalah, marking separation from one holy time period to another. We want to complete Shabbat and enter Passover and we do that all in one moment.

Before your seder begins but after Shabbat has officially ended, it is customary to light candles. We cannot light directly from a match, thus we take advantage of a Yom Tov rule that we can transfer flames from one place to another (Mishneh Torah, Shevitat Yom Tov 4:1).

After candlelighting, we begin Kadesh, as part of the seder. On the other side of this sheet you will find the text and blessings for the rituals in order.



Learn more about Saturday Night Seders with Exploring Judaism!

[ExploringJudaism.org](https://ExploringJudaism.org)

# THE CHANGES FOR A SATURDAY NIGHT SEDER

Use this page on Saturday night as you begin your seder.

## YOM TOV CANDLES

At this point, transfer the flame from your long-lasting candle to your two Yom Tov candles and recite the blessing marking the beginning of the holiday.

*Barukh atah adonai, eloheinu, melekh ha-olam,  
asher kidd'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivvanu  
l'hadlik neir shel yom tov.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב:

Praised are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who, sanctifying us with divine commandments, has commanded us to kindle the festival lamp.

## KADDESH - YAKNEHAZ

All of the following takes place during the first section, Kadesh, of the seder. The blessings should be written in full in your Haggadah. The rabbinic mnemonic **YaKNeHaZ** provides us the framework for which blessings to recite and in what order and is explained below:

**YAYIN - WINE** First, we recite the blessing over the wine itself.

*Barukh atah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam,  
borei peri hagafen.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם.  
בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן:

Praised are you Adonai, sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

**KIDDUSH** Next, we recite the blessing over the holiday, in this case, Passover. See your Haggadah for the text.

## NER - LIGHT

Your Yom Tov candles should be lit at this point. The flame transferred from your long-lasting candle to your two Yom Tov candles before your seder began. After you have said kiddush, recite the blessing marking the end of Shabbat.

*Barukh atah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam,  
borei me'orei ha'esh.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם.  
בּוֹרֵא מְאוּרֵי הָאֵשׁ:

Praised are you Adonai, sovereign of the universe, who creates the lights of the fire.

## ZMAN - TIME

Finally, we recite the blessing over our gratitude for reaching this moment.

*Barukh atah adonai, eloheinu, melekh ha-olam,  
she-heheyyanu, vekiyamanu, vehigiyanu lezman hazeh.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה:

Praised are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this occasion.