

Why is this decade different to all other decades?



Climate change is happening. The best science tells us that if we get to 2030 and haven't fundamentally changed the way our society and civilisation functions, it may be too late to avoid the worst. Our world is warming and our food, air and lives are at risk.

The ice block represents the rapidly melting ice throughout the world caused by our energy, industry, travel and agricultural systems. As the ice block melts on our seder table, we are reminded that time is running out for action. *This decade is different to all other decades.*

Why an ice block on Pesach?

Brave questions are the crux of Judaism and Pesach - the Festival of Freedom. As the late Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught: 'Liberty means freedom of the mind, not just of the body'. Slowing and reversing global warming needs us to free our minds and ask the biggest questions we ever have - not only about the way we live, but above all the actions governments and corporations must take to fix this.

Pesach is also about reflecting on what the Jewish People have experienced each generation, *bechol dor va'dor*, and our vision for the future. After all we have sacrificed and preserved, we must now act boldly if we are to enjoy future generations of seders together in peace and health.

So what can I do about it at my seder?

Place an ice block on your seder table this year for all to see and get the conversation going. On the next page are some points to help expand the conversation.

How to make your ice block

- Find a small container, preferably plastic over glass
- Fill it with water
- Place the container in the freezer
- Once frozen, place the ice block on a dish or platter on the seder table for all to see.

Visit JCN's Instagram for ice block tips and tricks: [instagram.com/jewishclimatenetwork/](https://www.instagram.com/jewishclimatenetwork/)

Four activities for your seder table.

Ask. Read. Act. Dream.

ASK

After the "Four Children", ask these out loud.

Allow a few minutes to discuss each one:

What's one question you have about climate change?

Are you more *hopeful, angry* or *confused* about climate change? Why?

How might climate change affect your life, family or the Jewish community?

What skills, resources or relationships do you have that could help solve the problem?

ACT

After the "Ten Plagues", read these actions. They are some of the most impactful in responding to climate change. As individuals or a table, consider committing to one of them.

Put your assets to work: After getting advice, move your savings and superannuation to a climate-responsible institution. Or use your shareholder vote and customer voice to let companies know what you want. Visit: Responsible Returns, Market Forces & ACCR.

Tell your MP this matters: MPs work for *us*. They'll only act if they know climate change matters to you. Meet them, write to them, call them. You don't need to be an expert, just share your honest views.

Hold a Climate Conversation: The more you talk openly about climate change, the more you shatter the silence necessary for inaction. Jewish Climate Network provides a facilitator, you provide the nosh. Visit: jcn.org.au

READ

After "Ma Nishtana", read this out loud.

Allow a few minutes to discuss:

In all other decades, we leaned on nature to decide on the safety of our planet and all living things. **This decade**, we can no longer lean. Through action or inaction, we will decide.

In all other decades, CO2 in our atmosphere stayed within a certain range, sustaining nature's delicate balance. **This decade**, we are in crisis. CO2 levels exceed any seen on Earth in 800,000 years.

In all other decades, Jews have made significant contributions to the progress of civilisation. **This decade**, the contributions we are asked to make will last forever.

In all other decades, the objects on our seder tables remind us of what we care about - so that we don't forget. **This decade**, we add an ice block to our table to remember what's at stake in the task ahead.

This decade is different to all other decades.

DREAM

After "Next Year in Jerusalem" read this out loud:

אם תרצו, אין זו אגדה - "If you will it, it is no dream"

Theodor Herzl had the courage to *will* the modern State of Israel into existence. His dream became reality for the Jewish People. When it comes to a safe climate, what is the world that you dream of?

Four Pesach Questions For The Kids

After Ma Nishtana, read this sentence and ask the kids these questions:

Tonight there are lots of objects on the table - matza, maror, karpas - that get us thinking and asking questions.

This year, we are putting an ice block on the table to think about a challenge we are facing.

1. Can you guess what the ice block represents?
2. Why is it important that we talk about it?
3. If you could have one wish for the world, what would it be?
4. What is your favourite outdoor place, and why?



Grow plants

Indoor, outdoor, wherever you like!



Play outside

Loving the places we live in is the first step to protecting them.



Make stuff

What can you make from bottles and boxes? A rocketship? A windmill? The Ten Plagues?



Look after your favourite park or beach

Ask this question to the kids:

What are some things we can do to protect the places we love?

Your family might already be doing some of these things. What others can you think of?



Plant flowers for the bees



Meet with a local leader

Ask them what they're doing to protect your future, and how can you help?



Bring your friends along

All of these actions are way better when they're shared.

Go exploring

What birds, reptiles, animals and insects live in your neighbourhood?

