



Reclaiming Shabbat

On this Shabbat before Passover, many of us are looking to vacation, or just relishing the last bite of challah before 7 (or 8) days of creativity with matzah! But why not take this Shabbat as a time for reflecting backward rather than thinking ahead?

Where did our ancestors come from?

What does the story of Passover tell us about what their experiences might have been like?

How can we learn to appreciate our present by learning from the stories of the past?

At the seder we have 4 cups of wine, representing God's promise, through Moses, to the Jewish people:

"I shall take you out [of Egypt]"

"I shall rescue you [from Pharaoh]"

"I shall redeem you [from slavery]"

"I shall take you to me [in Israel]".

Consider these questions, or the concepts behind them, as a family. What does it mean to be, or feel, enslaved? What people are enslaved today and what can we do to help to free them as our ancestors were freed from Egypt?

And of course, how can we have fun while we look back on all of this? For fun ideas for the seder this year, check out familyfun.go.com and check out their Passover tips or log on to sederfun.com. Oytoys has some great gimmicky toys and games you should look at as well (just fedex them overnight!)

Shabbat shalom and Chag Sameach,

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