

## Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach 5783

### **Mishnah Pesachim 10<sup>4</sup> (Blackman)**

The child asks a parent, and if the child has insufficient understanding the parent instructs the child to ask: *Wherefore is this night different from all other nights, because on all other nights we may eat both leavened and unleavened bread but on this night only unleavened bread? Because on all other nights we may eat any kind of herbs, but on this night bitter herb? Because on all other nights we may eat flesh which is roasted, cooked or boiled, but on this night entirely roasted? Because on all other nights we might dip once but on this night twice? And according to the knowledge of the child the parent instructs.*

### **Torah (JPS)**

#### **Exodus 12:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>And when your children ask you, “What do you mean by this rite?” <sup>27</sup>you shall say, “It is the Passover sacrifice to Adonai, because God passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when smiting the Egyptians, but saved our houses.”

#### **Exodus 13:8**

<sup>8</sup>And you shall explain to your child on that day, “It is because of what Adonai did for me when I went free from Egypt.”

#### **Exodus 13:14**

<sup>14</sup>And when, in time to come, your child asks you, saying, “What does this mean?” you shall say, “It was with a mighty hand that Adonai brought us out from Egypt, the house of bondage.”

#### **Deuteronomy 6:20-21**

<sup>20</sup>When, in time to come, your children ask you, “What mean the decrees, laws, and rules that Adonai our God has enjoined upon you?” <sup>21</sup>you shall say to your children, “We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and Adonai freed us from Egypt with a mighty hand.”

### **Mekhilta of Rabbi Ishmael, Tractate Piskha (Lauterbach)**

There are four types of children: the wise, the simple, the wicked, and the one who does not know enough to ask. The **wise**—what does this one say? “What mean the decrees, laws, and

rules that Adonai our God has enjoined upon you?” (Deut.6:20). You explain, in turn, the laws of the Passover and say that the company is not to disband immediately after partaking of the paschal lamb. There should follow *Epikomon*. The **simple**—what does this one say? “What is this?” And thou shalt answer: “It was with a mighty hand that Adonai brought us out from Egypt, the house of bondage” (Ex.13:14). The **wicked** one—what does this one say? “What do you mean by this rite?” (Ex.12:26). Because the wicked one excludes himself from the group, do thou also exclude him from the group, and answer: “It is because of what Adonai did for me” (Ex.13:8)—for me but not for you. Had you been there, you would not have been redeemed. As for **the one who does not know enough to ask**, you should begin and explain. For it is said: “And you shall explain to your child on that day” (Ex.13:8).