

# BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS



## Freedom in Quarantine

### DAY 11 - THE FOUR SONS



FINISH THE DRAWING

In 1970, Jewish Federations around the world suggested that we leave a chair empty at the seder as a reminder of the plight of Soviet Jewry. It was intended to be a moving reminder to Jews everywhere about their brothers and sisters suffering under Soviet oppression.

The idea was presented to the The Lubavitcher Rebbe. He agreed Soviet Jewry needed American Jewry's attention, but disagreed with their campaign. "It's a powerful idea," he responded, "but the chair shouldn't be empty--it should be filled." The greatest testament of Jewish unity is having everyone at the table.

The Rebbe's response was not surprising. On his birthday in 1957, he sent a letter to his followers about the Four Sons at the seder. He wrote:

*The four sons of the seder all have something in common--they're at the seder. But there is another type of child: the one who is not at the seder at all.*

The presence of all four types of children at the table is certainly a reason for comfort. No matter the background, no matter the disposition, there is room at the seder for everyone. But, sadly, not everyone joins. It's important to remember the fifth child as well.

This year especially, there are those who will be absent from our seder. Whether it is a grandparent, parent, sibling or friend -- the seder is not just about celebrating who is with us, it's also about recognizing who is absent.



### Join the Conversation

What is something you will do to recognize those who are absent this year from your seder?

#### Submit Your Answers

Email: [sedertochoas@ncsy.org](mailto:sedertochoas@ncsy.org) | Twitter/ FB: #sedertochoas

[Click here to join the WhatsApp Group \(2\)!](#)