THE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Time period	When	Halakhic significance	When it falls on first seder nighy in NYC
*Plag (*or *Plag Hamincha*)	1¼ halakhic hours before sunset	Considered to be connected to the next day. Ma'ariv may be said at this time, and one can accept early Shabbat or Yom Tov starting	6:14 PM
Shkiyah	sunset	The start of the next halakhic day. Shabbat (or Yom Tov) begins now.	7:32 PM
Bein HaShmashot	dusk	Considered to be possibly day, possibly night.	7:32 PM - 8:17 PM
Tzeit (or Tzeit HaKokhavim)	Approx. 42-45 minutes after sunset	Corresponds to when 3 stars are visible. Considered to be definitely night.	8:17 PM

Halakhic Times—Definitions

See the chart below for the definitions of the relevant halakhic times. Times below are given for New York for the **first seder night**. Please be sure to find the times that are relevant for you in your shul's notices or online (e.g., https://www.chabad.org/calendar/zmanim_cdo/)

Guidelines regarding the saying of maggid:

1. The haggadah will be said **in order**.

2. You will **stop and wait** at **רבן גמליאל היה אומר** until it is full nightfall.

3. Once it is nightfall, you will repeat the key parts of the hagaddah that constitute the mitzvah of *sippur yetziat mitzrayim* that you have said earlier. These are:

   a. The מה נשתנה section —The mitzvah of telling the story is to do so in response to questions.

   b. מתחילה עובדי עבודה זרה and עבדים היינו—These two sentences represent two versions of the story of redemption, in distilled form: (1) that we were physically redeemed from slavery to freedom, and (2) that we were spiritually redeemed from idolatry to be in a covenant with God (see Pesachim 116b).

   c. The entire section of צא ולמד section up through דצ"ך עד"ש באח"ב. Chazal wanted the story to be told in the form of explicating Biblical verses. T*his part can be read through relatively quickly.*

4. After repeating those key parts, continue from the רבן גמליאל section.

5. We begin with the רבן גמליאל section once it is night, as this section explains the symbolism of the matzah and marror that you are about to eat.

6. Continue through the rest of *maggid* ending with hallel and the *brakha* that concludes *maggid* and which mentions the eating of matzah and marror. Then proceed to the eating of the matzah and the marror.

7. To summarize: At *tzeit hakokhavim*, repeat the key sections of *maggid*: מה נשתנה, עבדים היינו, מתחלה, צא ולמד and continue onward from רבן גמליאל היה אומר.

The Early Seder, Step-by-Step

1. At Sunset (7:32 PM in NY)

a. Set the table.

b. You may reheat fully-cooked food that is not liquid on a blech or warming plate even taking it directly from the fridge.

c. **You may NOT** do any *melakha di'oraita* you may not do on Shabbat—cooking, lighting a flame, etc. until **45 minutes after sunset** (or whatever is your normal *tzeit hakokhavim*). This is true both for the first seder (Shabbat leading into Yom Tov—since it might still be Shabbat) and the second seder (the first day of Yom Tov leading into the second day since you may not do *melakhah* on the first day of Yom Tov for the second day).

2. Start the Seder

a. You may start at sunset if necessary.

b. On the first night of Yom Tov (Sat. night), make kiddush with havdalah, but **do not light a fire and do not say בורא מאורי האש**.

c. Someone should announce: "Although we are making havdalah now, Shabbat is not over until *tzeit* (7:32 PM in NY). So we will not be using a havdalah candle now and we will only light Yom Tov candles at *tzeit.* Everyone should remember that no using fire or cooking can be done until that time."

d. Proceed with the Haggadah, but **do not start רבן גמליאל היה אומר** until *tzeit hakokhavim*.

3. Once it is *tzeit hakokhavim* (8:17 PM in NY)

a. Light Yom Tov candles with a *berakhah* (להדליק נר של יום טוב) but **without** שהחיינו as you will have already said שהחיינו during kiddush.

b. On the first night of Yom Tov (Sat. night), say בורא מאורי האש on the Yom Tov candles.

c. If you have already recited any of the following, repeat them:

   i. The מה נשתנה section—this can be a single reading by one person without all the production

   ii. "עבדים היינו לפרעה במצרים ויוציאנו ה' א-לקנו משם ביד חזקה ובזרוע נטויה"

   iii. "מתחילה עובדי עבודה זרה היו אבותינו ועכשיו קרבנו המקום לעבודתו"

   iv. From צא ולמד through דצ"ך עד"ש באח"ב (you may read this section fairly quickly)

d. Continue from where you left off—either from רבן גמליאל היה אומר or, if you haven't gotten to that yet, from wherever you are up to.

In cases of pressing need, you may start the seder at *plag* (6:14 PM in NY). In this case:

1. At *Plag*:

   a. Set the table (this does not violate the prohibition to prepare on Shabbat for after Shabbat since you are setting the table for the seder which you are beginning now).

   b. **Do NOT do any food preparation**, including reheating, until sunset (since you will not be eating the food until it is nightfall and this would violate the prohibition of preparation on Shabbat for after Shabbat, or on the first day of Yom Tov for the second day).

   c. Start the seder.