



How to Run a Tu b’Shevat Seder in One Hour

A Tu b’Shevat Seder can be adapted to different timeframes that you have available. Your seder will feel more relaxed if you can give them approximately two hours including set-up and conclusion. However, there are times when shorter seders are called for.

It’s not recommended to try to do a whole Tu b’Shevat seder in less than an hour (if you have less than an hour you might want to try doing just one world), but if you have an hour, it is possible to have a nice seder during that time period. Here is a timeline that might help.

NOTE: Before participants arrive, have fruit and wine out on the tables for World 1. Make sure all fruit and wine for world 2, 3, and 4 is cut, plated, and staged somewhere so that it can be brought out efficiently, and ask volunteers to help you do this.

00:00 Allow participants 5 minutes to gather. During this time period, hand out honor cards that individuals will read at different parts of the seder. Honors can be read as an introduction to eating fruit and wine (in place of a blessing after world 1), or at other times. A printable honor card sheet is available [here](#).

00:05 Call the group together. Introduce the Tu b’Shevat Seder, tell them how the seder will run, and let them know that you are going to move quickly through the worlds so that everyone can have the full experience while remaining within the necessary time constraints.

00:10 Give a brief introduction to World 1 (describe the season, the fruit/wine, action/appreciation, etc.) Explain how you will be handling blessings and at what point in the seder they will eat. (3)

Have participants fill their cups with white grape juice/wine. Someone says the blessing and everyone drinks. Then have each participant pick a fruit. Someone says the blessing over fruit, and everyone eats.

00:20 Provide a brief 5-minute activity, a story, or a talk from a community member. It should be related to the first world in some way (by season, environmental action, etc.) Some examples are available [here](#). *NOTE: Instead of having 5 minute activities in each of the four worlds, you might want to have some of the activities be very short so that one or two of the worlds can be a bit longer and more substantive.*

As the participants conclude their activity, immediately at the end of World 1, bring out the fruits and wine for World 2.

0:25 Brief intro to World 2 (describe the season, the fruit/wine, action/appreciation, etc.).

Have participants fill their cups with white grape juice/wine **with a drop of red**. (notice how much one drop of red changes the color!) Someone says a verse (from honor cards) and everyone drinks. Then have

each participant pick a fruit from world 2. Someone says a verse (from honor cards) over fruit, and everyone eats.

00:30 Provide a brief 5-minute activity, a story, or a talk from a community member. It should be related to the second world in some way (by season, environmental action, etc.) Some examples are available here.

As the participants conclude their activity, immediately at the end of World 2, bring out the fruits and wine for World 3.

00:35 Brief intro to World 3 (describe the season, the fruit/wine, action/appreciation, etc.). Have participants fill their cups with grape juice/wine **mixed half red, half white**. Someone says a verse (from honor cards) and everyone drinks. Then have each participant pick a fruit from world 3. Someone says a verse (from honor cards) over fruit, and everyone eats.

00:40 Provide a brief 5-minute activity, a story, or a talk from a community member. It should be related to the third world in some way (by season, environmental action, etc.) Some examples are available here.

As the participants conclude their activity, immediately at the end of World 3, bring out the spices and any additional wine needed for World 4.

00:45 Brief intro to World 4 (describe the season, the fruit/wine, action/appreciation, etc.).

Have participants fill their cups with white grape juice/wine **with all red wine**. Someone says a verse (from honor cards) and everyone drinks. NOTE CHANGE: put your 5 minute activity here, before the spices. **The seder concludes with the spices.**

0:50 Provide a brief 5-minute activity, a story, or a talk from a community member. It should be related to the fourth world in some way (by season, environmental action, etc.) Some examples are available here.

00:55 Now, explain that we've come to such a high level that we have transcended physicality. We no longer need fruit to sustain us so we will be smelling spices. We'll conclude the seder by smelling these spices. We'll have everyone take a moment to savor the spices, the fruits, and what they've learned from this seder. Ask that everyone be quiet until everyone has smelled the spices.

Have everyone stand. Have someone say the blessing, and make sure the spices get around the table to everyone. Allow everyone to have a moment of silence to savor the fourth world.

01:00 Conclude