

MODERN SEDER PLATE ADDITION: THE BEET FOR UKRAINIAN JEWS

Why a Beet? The Hebrew word for beet — **selek** — comes from a root meaning to remove. By placing a beet on our Seder plate, we connect our ancient story of liberation to a modern one: the hope that hardship, fear, and danger will be removed from Ukrainian Jews and all people living through war.

DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know that Ukraine has been home to Jewish communities for **more than 1,000 years?** Many beloved Jewish foods, melodies, and traditions originate from Ukrainian Jewish life.*

DISCUSSION QUESTION

*What is something you hope could be “lifted away” from people in the world today— just as the Hebrew word **selek** asks for hardship to be removed?*

THE READING

Tonight, we add a beet to our Seder plate.

In Hebrew, a beet is called **selek**, a word that comes from a root meaning to remove — to lift away hardship, to clear obstacles, to move us from narrow places toward freedom.

We place this beet here to remind us of a modern plague: **the fear, displacement, and challenges faced by Ukrainian Jews during this long and difficult war.**

Like a root that holds fast in the earth, the Jewish community of Ukraine has remained strong, connected, and hopeful — even in the harshest seasons. And just as the Hebrew name asks for hardship to be removed, we offer our prayers and hopes that safety, stability, and peace will take its place.

*May all who are still waiting for freedom find it soon.
May all who seek safety be protected.
And may the roots of Jewish life — everywhere —
continue to hold strong.*

DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know that Jews have lived in Kharkiv for **more than 250 years?** Before the war, it was one of the largest Jewish centers in Ukraine, with synagogues, schools, camps, and a vibrant JCC — including the one we partner with today.*

DISCUSSION QUESTION

As Jews, what responsibilities do we have toward Jewish communities around the world?

JCC GLOBAL FROM GOOD TO GREAT

The Marcus JCC in Atlanta, GA and JCC Cares in London, England have partnered with JCC Beit Dan in Kharkiv Ukraine through JCC Global to provide support, mentoring and friendship during this challenging time in Ukraine's history. JCC Beit Dan has kept its doors open, running school for children, celebrating holidays, and housing the Chesed center that provides food and essential support to Jewish families in need during this very long and difficult time.