

# BIRKAT HAMAZON: MEZUMAN AND MINYAN

## Birkat HaMazon: Reason for Mezuman

Saying birkat ha'mazon with a mezuman (or a minyan) is important since it gives honor to God.

## Birkat HaMazon: Seating for Minyan or Mezuman

You may join with other men to make a minyan or mezuman (a mezuman is any group of 3 or more Jewish men 13 years old or older and so a minyan is also a kind of mezuman) for birkat ha'mazon if, while you are eating:

- You can see any other tables at which the other men are eating, or
- You had the same waiter as the other men, even if you could not see the rest of the group (such as in an L-shaped room).

## Birkat HaMazon: Eating for Mezuman

Say birkat ha'mazon as a mezuman if:

- You don't have enough men for a minyan (see above), AND
- Two men wash, said ha'motzi, and ate bread, AND
- One or more other men ate any food other than water and salt.

**NOTE** If the three men's eating overlapped in time with each other, they MAY say birkat ha'mazon with a mezuman.

If the three men began eating at the same time, they MUST say birkat ha'mazon with a mezuman.

## Birkat HaMazon: Eating for Minyan

You may say birkat ha'mazon with a minyan if:

- At least seven men washed, said ha'motzi, and ate bread, with
- Enough other men who ate some food (anything other than water or salt) to total 10 men.

**NOTE** If the 10 men's eating overlapped in time with each other, they MAY say birkat ha'mazon with a minyan.

If the 10 men began eating at the same time, they MUST say birkat ha'mazon with a minyan.

## Birkat HaMazon: Women's Mezuman and Minyan

Women (even if 10 or more) do not make a minyan, only a mezuman. So do not say the birkat ha'mazon's minyan introduction but simply say the mezuman introduction if:

- 10 or more women ate together, without men present;
- At least two women washed, said ha'motzi, and ate bread; AND
- At least one more woman ate some type of food.

**NOTE** Women are never required to make a mezuman. So when three women are eating together and no men are present, they may say birkat ha'mazon as a mezuman but they are not required to do so.

## Birkat HaMazon: Until When To Join Mezuman

You may join a mezuman by eating any food (except water and salt) up until the leader says “rabotai nevareich.”

## **Birkat HaMazon: How To Join Mezuman and Continue Eating**

To join a mezuman and continue eating:

- 1) Reply to “rabotai nevareich,” etc.,
- 2) Say amen after the leader says the first paragraph's final blessing, and then
- 3) Finish eating and say birkat ha'mazon on your own.

## **Birkat HaMazon: How Many Men Needed for Baruch Hu U'Varuch Shemo**

Say baruch hu u'varuch shemo before birkat ha'mazon even if only three men are present; you don't need a minyan.

**NOTE** Only the leader (mezamein) says this, not the other two men.

## **Birkat HaMazon: Standing Up to Honor God**

Stand up a little to honor God when you say God's name in the introduction (nevareich eloheinu) if you ate with 10 men. This is a non-binding custom, not a halacha.