

8 WAYS TO INCREASE FREEDOM THIS HANUKKAH



FREEDOM & HANUKKAH

Having emerged from slavery in ancient Egypt, the Jewish people are forever connected to the plight of slaves and the promise of freedom. This Hanukkah, we hope you'll join you'll join The Passover Project of Free the Slaves as we set out to provide liberation and education to formerly enslaved children. Here is one idea for each night of Hanukkah to increase freedom for those trapped in slavery this holiday season!

1 Chocolate Gelt & Freedom

Approximately 70% of cacao beans around the world are picked by slaves. If you are not eating fair trade chocolate, then you are probably eating slave trade chocolate. [Click here](#) to order fair-trade gelt, wholesale or retail, and make the Festival of Freedom even more free.

2 Clothing & Freedom

Clothing is a frequent gift during Hanukkah. Since all Jews use electronics during Hanukkah weekdays, you can take a few minutes to pull out tablets, laptops or phones and calculate everyone's "slavery footprint." [The survey](#) is fun to take – and enlightening.

3 Dreidls & Freedom

Dreidl is a game of chance. Imagine if you had been born a Jew under the rule of Antiochus or Brezhnev. Imagine if you were born into slavery today. It is an accident of birth that we have so much freedom.

The acknowledgment of random luck in dreidl, as in life, is balanced by the larger message of the Hanukkah story. God is in control, even if we aren't. If you are living in dark and shadow, don't give up on the light.

Play a dreidl tournament tonight with cash and donate the winnings to [Free the Slaves](#). A reminder of the rules is available [here](#).

4 "The Few Against the Many" & Freedom

Traffickers make approximately \$150 billion annually from trafficking. We spend about \$150 million to end slavery each year. To win against traffickers, we will need, like the Maccabees, to outwit an enemy with greater resources.

After you light candles, invite each person present to tell a story about a time when you were one of a few people who prevailed against a larger enemy or mighty obstacle.



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PASSOVER PROJECT?

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Toys & Freedom

About 25% of slaves working in the world today are children. The U.N.'s Declaration of Rights for Children includes the right to play. Child slaves and children living in extreme poverty are deprived of that right, among others. With children – and adults – receiving new toys during this season, it is a good time to enjoy the blessing of play and to bring it to those who have been stripped of it.

If part of a group, take a vote on how you will a) exercise the “right to play” at tonight’s Hanukah gathering and b) help others to exercise their “right to play.” If celebrating alone, play a game of solitaire or invite someone to join you in an online game. Then, choose how you will enable children now enslaved to play in freedom.

7

Imagination & Freedom

The Lecha Dodi prayer says, “sof ma’aseh bemachshavah techillah – the end of the deed has its beginnings in thought.” No material thing comes into being without first coming into thought. If we are going to end slavery, we will need to imagine an entirely free world. Seeing light in dark times, literally and figuratively, is what Hanukkah is all about.

Tonight, play this [short interview audio piece](#) and discuss the image and goal it offers.

As you watch the candles burn, take a few moments of quiet to imagine a perfected, fully healed world. Then share one detail, especially delightful to you, that would let you know the world of tikun olam (repairing the world) had been completed. Once everyone has shared their ideas, break out the jelly donuts!

6

Time & Freedom

This year, Shabbat falls on the sixth night of Hanukkah. Shabbat is called “a memorial to the Exodus from Egypt” because Shabbat is a holiday of freedom. Only a free person can celebrate a day of rest. Only a free person can control their own schedule. Deuteronomy 5:13 teaches that everyone who works deserves a Shabbos, “that he may rest, just like you.”

To celebrate the luxury of managing your own time, enjoy “The Five Minutes-es,” a practice introduced by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi: Each member of the family gets five minutes to be a benevolent dictator/Maccabean King or Queen. What do you want to do as a group (as long as it’s not destructive or dangerous)? Play Simon Says, put on some music and dance, go outside and play soccer in the dark. Anything goes. Parents get a turn, too.

8

Political Authority & Freedom

Hanukkah commemorates the bravery of a small group of people who stood up against unjust political authority. The example of the Maccabees is an example that we need to follow – still and always. You can advocate for equality and justice in your own community and around the world. Visit the [advocacy pages for the United Nations](#) and the [advocacy pages for Free the Slaves](#).

If you have a paper version of this flyer, all the links referenced are live in the online version at www.FreeTheSlaves.net/Judaism

WHAT WE DO

THE PASSOVER PROJECT is a collaboration between Jewish communities and Free the Slaves dedicated to ending slavery and promoting freedom. We shine a light on the 50+ million people trapped in slavery today. We help raise awareness about the causes and solutions of modern slavery. [Click here](#) to donate to Free the Slaves in honor of Hanukkah!

