

Pesach/ Passover
5779

April 19th,
2019

have a Nageela Shabbos

Have a happy,
healthy,
FREEDOM
FILLED and
uplifting
Pesach!

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Season 3
Episode 29

Free-smart by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Two toddlers are playing outside their house which happens to be near the state prison. Suddenly, a man in an orange jumpsuit climbs over the wall, and sprints down the road, shouting, "I'm free! I'm free!"

The older of the children looks at the other one and says, "Big deal! I'm Four!"



Not even a giggle? Tough crowd, today.

We all make the same mistake as that little boy. We hear the word freedom used in connection to Passover. Like, all the time. We celebrate our freedom. The festival of freedom. Freedom from slavery. But we don't always understand what it means. Like the kid, we think freedom is just some state of being that happens naturally, like an age. You can **DO** anything to change your age. You get older at the same pace whether you're sitting in front of a video game console or driving a Bugatti. Most people think freedom is something that happened to us. We used to have to work for Pharaoh. Now we don't. Hooray! Party! Add excited emojis here!

That's not what freedom is. Not really. In the modern world, most countries allow Jews complete freedom to live as Jewishly as we want. Yet fewer Jews by percentage are living like Jews than at almost any point in our history.

Quick quiz: What were the words Moses used when he asked Pharaoh to let the Jews out of Egypt...

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What kind of boat helps Jewish
kids on the West Coast?
A sponsor-ship!

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continued
from front

What did you say?
“LET MY PEOPLE GO!”

You're not wrong, but
you've conveniently
left out half of the statement.

“LET MY PEOPLE GO, SO THEY MAY SERVE ME.

Yup. God's goal in letting us out was not just
a humanitarian effort (Goditarian?) to aid
oppressed people. It was a plan to help us make the
right decisions. To have the chance to use the Torah
to choose right from wrong. To recognize the Creator
who has provided our lives and everything we have.

“Let my people go, so they may serve me.”

In our world of ultimate freedom, people are more
consistently trapped by their habits. It's a world
of addictions (I'm not even talking about the chemical
kind. Addictions to technology, to certain behaviors,
to unhealthy relationships, to inappropriate content).
It's a world of NEED. We are people who need much
more than anyone in history has ever possessed. A
world where a teenager who has hundreds of clothes
items, a comfortable house, free schooling and a phone
that can do almost anything, NEEDS more; the newer
phone, that pair of shoes, a cooler vacation.

We're not free at all.

God gives us the ability to choose freedom, yet that
freedom comes through discipline and a commitment
to moral values and thinking before acting.

Pausing before we eat to thank God gives us the
freedom to appreciate what we have.

Praying daily gives us the freedom to recognize
there's a power way beyond our own.

Celebrating the holidays in a meaningful way gives
us the freedom to put our own problems and
accomplishments in perspective.

Studying Torah thoroughly give us the freedom
to get a deeper understanding of how the world
works, people work, and just how much more we don't
understand.

Teaching our children (and learning from our parents)
gives us the freedom from stress, in knowing
that we're part of a massively long and strong chain
of transmission that goes back thousands of years
to direct divine revelation, and some of the greatest
human teachers ever.

This is the freedom of Passover.
“Let my people go, so they may serve me.”

This year, focus on your true freedom. Not the
freedom of doing nothing, or not working.
The freedom of living the best, most accomplishing,
meaningful life, possible!



What mythical creature should not
be eaten on Passover, unless your
Sephardic?

A uni-corn!

OUCH! GROAN!

got a better joke? email it to dlocker@hageelawest.org

Remember the key mitzvot to
do on the Seder night:

1. Say Kiddush
2. Eat your matzah (at least
onewhole square, or half a
round matzah).
3. Drink 4 cups of wine or grape
juice.
4. Eat the marror (romaine
lettuce or horseradish).
5. Tell the story of the Jews
leaving Egypt. Best to use a
question and answer format.

Do these both Friday night and
Saturday night.

**CAMP
DATES
2019**

**GIRLS
JUNE 25-
JULY 15**

**BOYS
JULY 18-
AUG 7**