**Pesach**:

From Freedom ***FROM***

to Freedom ***TO***

**

**#1**

The **Siddur (prayer book)** refers to the holiday of Pesach as the *“Season of our Freedom.”*

**Question: Pesach celebrates the departure of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery, embarking on a journey to receive the Torah at Mount Sinai and to live in the land of Israel as free individuals following G-d's commandments. Is it truly freedom if, upon leaving Egypt, we became servants of G-d by accepting His Torah?**

**#2**

**The Gap and the Gain, by Dan Sullivan**

*Freedom* ***from*** is lack of obstacles - **you’re not a slave** to someone or something.

*Freedom* ***to*** is the presence of control - **you’re your own master.**

**Questions:**

* **What are some examples of these two types of freedom?**
* **How do these concepts relate to Source #1 and its accompanying question?**

**#3**

**The Disciplined Path to Freedom, by** [**Judy Gruen**](https://torah.org/author/judy-gruen/)

*In his riveting autobiography, “Fear No Evil,” Natan Sharansky recalled one of the many Passovers he spent in a Soviet prison. When his captors confiscated the small piece of matzoh a fellow prisoner planned to slip him in his punishment cell, Sharansky simply used salted sprats as his bitter herb, a cup of hot water in place of the wine-apple-nut mixture of charoset. He recited some Psalms he had memorized from the book that he had smuggled in, but which his captors eventually discovered and confiscated.*

 *“I tried to recall everything I could from the Passover Haggadah,” he wrote, “starting with my favorite lines: ‘In every generation a person should feel as though he, personally, went out of Egypt. . .”*

**Passover & Jewish Destiny, by Rabbi Benjamin Blech**

*“Remarkably enough, the Jews in Egypt were commanded to celebrate the Seder on the very night before their departure and deliverance.*

*They were not yet free.*

*Nevertheless they ate the matzah and the bitter herbs and they fulfilled the required rituals.”*

**Question: How can one celebrate Pesach, a holiday of freedom, in prison, which symbolizes the opposite of freedom?**

**#4**

**Man’s Search for Meaning, by Victor Frankl**

*We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way….*

*And there were always choices to make. Every day, every hour, offered the opportunity to make a decision, a decision which determined whether you would or would not submit to those powers which threatened to rob you of your very self, your inner freedom; which determined whether or not you would become the plaything of circumstance, renouncing freedom and dignity to become molded into the form of the typical inmate…*

**Questions:**

* **Did your understanding of freedom change after reviewing the sources on this sheet?**
* **How can you apply this understanding to your daily life?**