



PASSOVER

פסח

## Leader's Guide

### Text Study: A Community of Equals

Who are the Israelites' most important citizens?

#### I. Exodus Ch. 10 (Translation: JPS)

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says G-d, the G-d of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go that they may worship Me. For if you refuse to let My people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts on your territory...'"

With that he turned and left Pharaoh's presence.

Pharaoh's courtiers said to him, "How long shall this one be a snare to us? Let the men go to worship their G-d! Are you not yet aware that Egypt is lost?"

So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh and he said to them, "Go, worship your G-d! Who are the ones to go?"

Moses replied, "We will all go, young and old: we will go with our sons and daughters, our flocks and herds; for we must observe G-d's festival."

But he said to them, "...No! You men go and worship G-d, since that is what you want." And they were expelled from Pharaoh's presence.

#### Rabbi Freedman's responses to Text Study questions on handout

- Pharaoh was afraid they would all leave and never return. At the beginning of the story he targets the men by commanding that the baby boys be drowned. Here he is concerned about everyone else.
- Moses demands that all be allowed to leave because he intends for them to never return to Egypt. By naming the other Israelite populations, Moses clarifies that all are equal in Israelite society, not just male soldiers.

#### II. Leviticus Ch. 19:33, 34

When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them.

The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I Hashem am your G-d.

#### Rabbi Freedman's responses to Text Study questions on handout

- The Torah takes the intensely negative experience of Egyptian slavery and turns it into a positive engine that demands the Israelites do better when they are in power.
- "Love" is not meant to convey a feeling but a discrete set of actions that assure the other person will be treated as an equal under the law.



## Seder Numbers Trivia!

Feel free to offer snacks or first dessert to those who answer correctly.

**1. Where in the Haggadah does the number four appear?**

>> (4 cups of wine, 4 questions, 4 sons, 4 expressions of redemption)

**2. How many times does the name of Moses appear in the Hebrew text?**

>> (1: see the Midrash of the 50 plagues at the sea)

**3. How many times does the Haggadah instruct we dip food?**

>> (2: Karpas in salt water, and Maror in Charoset)

**4. How many Haggadah texts are in Aramaic, the ancient vernacular, instead of Hebrew?**

>> (2: *Ha Lachma Anya*, and *Chad Gadya*)

**5. How many drops of wine do we spill from our cups?**

>> (16: the ten plagues, three before, and three after)

**6. How many Matzos are placed by the Seder leader and covered?**

>> (3: representing the Jewish People – *Kohen*, *Levi*, and *Yisrael* - Priests, Levites, and Israelites)

**7. How many items does Rabban Gamliel say are essential for the Seder?**

>> (3: Pesach lamb, Matza, and Maror bitter herbs)

**8. How many steps are there to the Seder?**

>> (14: *Kadesh*, *Urhatz...*)

**9. How many days are there between the second night of the Seder and the holiday of Shavuot?**

>> (50: this is known as counting the Omer)

**10. What is the highest number in "Echad Mi Yodea/ Who Knows One?"**

>> (13: the attributes of G-d. The song begins [1] and ends [13] with G-d.)