

MAZON PEULAH: Making Hunger Real to Judeans
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Theme: Making the issues that revolve around hunger real to Judeans.

Goal: By learning about hunger issues and the work MAZON does to combat these issues it will inspire chanichim to get involved in the cause (and organization).

Total Time: Before the meal- about 15 minutes After the meal- 15-20 minutes

Materials: Arm braces (to keep their arms straight)-folders, the info kit (what is in it is listed below)-including ideas of things for them to actively do, explanation of Busking and Pitchon Lev, Fact cards and posters to be placed everywhere.

Implementation:

Trigger--

Before a meal have all of the chanichim get situated at tables (as if they are about to eat) SIT BY REGIONS/ whoever you will have the sicha/ sikkum with.-this is IMPORTANT. Stall for a few minutes and let them “get ready to eat” (maybe even put a few maz members in with them and have them complain about how hungry they are). (3 minutes)

Inform the chanichim that there has been a problem with scheduling and that they will actually have to wait an hour and ½ before they get to eat. Hopefully people will be mad and whine a bit.

After a couple of minutes of complaining Tell them that we have found a little snack to hold them over (4 minutes).

We then pass out the arm braces and ask them to put them on and only then will they be able to eat. Pass out most or part of the meal (Do not let them feed themselves!!) However they will obviously have to help to feed each other because they wont be able to reach their own mouths. (20 minutes)... while collecting the braces we tell the story

Tell a short version of the rabbinical story-. (2 minutes)...

The Rabbinical Story

A righteous person was permitted by God to get a premature glimpse of the world to come. On arrival at the celestial palace the person was ushered into a large room, filled with people sitting at a banquet table. The table was laden with the most exquisite china and the scent of most delectable foods. Yet, not a morsel had been touched. The righteous person gazed in wonder at the people seated at the table, because they appeared to be emaciated with hunger. They moaned constantly for food, even though the delicious foodstuffs were spread before them.

:If they are hungry, why is it that they don't partake of the food that is before them?" asked the righteous person.

"They can not feed themselves," said the heavenly guide, "If you will notice, each one of them has their arms strapped straight, so that no matter how they try they can not get food into their mouths."

“Truly, this is hell!”, said the righteous one as they left the hall.

The heavenly attendant escorted the person across the corridor into another room, and the righteous person observed another table, equally beautiful, and laden with the same delicacies and delectable foods. Here it was noticeable that the people around the table were well fed, happy and joyous. To the person’s amazement, these people too had their arms strapped straight.

The righteous person turned to the heavenly guide and asked in perplexity: “How is that these people are so well fed seeing that they are unable to transport the food to their mouths?”

“Behold,” said the heavenly attendant. The straps were tied so that no one could feed themselves, but their hands had enough freedom so that they could provide for others.

“In truth”, said the righteous person, “this is really heaven.”

“In truth it is,” the attendant agreed. “As you can see, the difference between hell and heaven is a matter of serving one’s fellow – it’s a matter of cooperation.

PART ONE IS OVER—eat the rest of dinner

During the meal there will be many not so subliminal messages to get them sort of understand where all of this is going.

Possible HINTS

- Statistics read every 10ish minutes over the microphone
- Little cards on either/or the tables and the food (like on the containers)
- Posters on the wall with statistics

PART TWO- Directly After dinner

Sicha

For the sicha they should stay with their Region or city (we don’t want the groups to be HUGE- so make sure they are spaced out with adequate number of sicha leaders). They can stay at the tables if it is easy for them to talk to eachother.

-This is really important because after the sicha (for the sikkum) they will be discussing concrete goal/EVENT they will do to combat hunger in their clubs or regions- or discussing when or how they will do BUSKING ☺ and/ or Pitchon Lev (This needs to be taken much more seriously than the SA peulah last year)

Sicha Questions

1. When it was first said that we wouldn’t be eating for a couple of hours what was your reaction and the reaction from the people around you? Did you think about how hungry you felt?

2. What did helping each other eat while wearing the arm braces represent?
3. On Yom Kippur we fast in order to concentrate on atoning but we also get a very small taste of what it feels like to really yearn for food, can you imagine this feeling every day?
4. Remember some of the hunger facts that were shared (or look at some now), what statistics shocked you and why?

Sikkum

What can you do when you get home?

Pass out the Info packets and discuss the things that are in it.

Come up with a **concrete** social action even that combats hunger (there are many ideas given to you in the packet, so try to develop them)

Combating Hunger

What can you do?

Concrete ideas for activism against hunger

- ❖ **BUSKING AND Pitchon Lev (Open heart)!!- You can do one of these things are both at the same time!!**

HOW TO BUSK:

Materials: shironim, or a homemade packet of songs and a few guitars (or other musical instruments), A few big signs saying what the money is going to (some type of hunger relief place).

1. Find a busy place to do this in, like a downtown or public area (depending on where you live, location will differ)
2. Sing your heart out and explain to people that money is going towards the fight to end hunger.
3. Dress nicely/ presentable or if everyone has the same Young Judaea shirt it might look nice and uniformed.

Pitchon Lev:

Materials: Signs explaining what the cause is and also explaining what they have to do, big bags or boxes to put the food in

1. While standing outside a grocery store ask people to get one or two extra items (nonperishable) while they are in the store. Timing
2. Make sure they understand this it is going to a good cause. – this is very easy way to get people to contribute because they don't have to make any extra effort to bring the goods anywhere they just drop it off to you when they leave the store.

Other suggestions

- Go to a local soup kitchen and volunteer
- Do a nonperishable food item drive and donate it to a food bank
- Go to a local Salvation Army or Crisis Center and help them stock and organize food.
- In a big city (or a small one) make a lot of sandwiches and distribute them to homeless people you see on the streets

Make up your own active idea for combating hunger!!!!!! BE CREATIVE!

Shocking Hunger Facts

In the US

- Over 38 million Americans, including 14 million children, suffer from hunger or live on the edge of hunger.
- The US has the highest child poverty rate of any other industrialized nation.
- 17.6% of children in the U.S. live in hungry or food insecure households.
- 3.5 percent of U.S. households experience hunger. 9.5 million people live in these homes.
- 7.6 percent of U.S. households are at risk of hunger. 25.5 million people live in these homes.
- Infant mortality, poor cognitive development and increased risk of disease are all consequences of chronic hunger in children.
- Over 10% of Americans 65 years of age and older live in poverty.
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food Stamp Program is the nation's single most important resource in the fight against hunger. Eligible individuals must earn a net income below 100% of the federal poverty line.
- The average amount of money that food stamp recipients receive per meal is \$0.96.
- 40% of food stamp recipient households have at least one adult working a minimum of 40 hours per week.
- Over 26 million children receive free or reduced price lunch at school every day. To be eligible for free school lunches, children's families must earn at or below 130% of the federal poverty line.

International

- More than 852 million people around the world suffer the indignity of hunger.
- More than 153 million of those who are hungry are under the age of 5.
- 5 million children under the age of 5 die every year as a result of hunger.
- The world produces 20% more food than the entire world population can consume.
- Of the 6.2 billion people on the planet, more than 1.2 billion earn less than \$1 per day.

In Israel

- 22% of Israeli citizens – approximately 1,100,000 people – are food insecure.
- Of those Israeli citizens who are food insecure, 60% are Jewish, 20% are Arab, and 20% are new immigrants.
- According to the National Insurance Institute, nearly 34% of Israeli children – approximately 738,000 – live below the national poverty line.
- Over 20% of Israel's elderly live below the national poverty line.

Hunger Resources

Alliance for Justice

The Alliance for Justice is a national association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's and consumer advocacy organizations. Their Nonprofit Advocacy Project provides legal guides, workshops, and technical assistance for charities involved in advocacy.

www.afj.org

America's Second Harvest

America's Second Harvest is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. Through a network of over 200 food banks and food-rescue programs, they provide emergency food assistance to more than 37 million hungry American's each year.

www.secondharvest.org

Bread for the World

Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian citizens movement seeking justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers.

www.bread.org

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a nonpartisan research organizations and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and programs, with an emphasis on those affecting low-and moderate-income people.

www.cbpp.org

Center for Community Change

The Center for Community Change is committed to reducing poverty and rebuilding low-income communities. To do this, they help people to develop the skills and resources they need to improve their communities as well as change policies and institutions that adversely affect their lives.

www.communitychange.org

Center for Law and Social Policy

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1968, conducts research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and advocacy on issues related to economic security for low-income families with children.

www.clasp.org

Community Food Security Coalition

Dedicated to building strong, sustainable, local and regional food systems that ensure access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food for all people at all times.

www.foodsecurity.org

Food Research and Action Center

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is a leading national organization working to improve public policies to eradicate hunger and under-nutrition in the United States.

www.frac.org

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Founded in 1985, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national, nonprofit agency that allocates donations from the Jewish community to prevent and alleviate hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds.

www.mazon.org

United States Department of Agriculture

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services: The FNCS mission area works to harness the nations agricultural abundance to end hunger and improve nutrition and health in the United States.

www.fns.usda.gov/fncs

www.usda.gov

An Article on Hunger in Israel



A homeless man in Tel Aviv. (Uriel Sinai)

State report: More than 1 in 3 Israeli children live in poverty

By [Ruth Sinai](#), Haaretz Correspondent

The number of poor in Israel has risen sharply since 2000, with a staggering 34.1 percent of children now living in poverty, according to a report issued Monday by the National Insurance Institute.

A total of 1.58 million people now live in poverty in Israel, half a million more than in 2000, when Prime Minister Ariel Sharon took office. The number of poor children has reached 738,000, up from 714,000 last year and 482,000 in 2000.

The report shows that 24.1 percent of Israelis are currently living under the poverty line, up from 18.8 percent in 2000.

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The report, which covers the first half of 2005, reveals that there are 403,000 poor families in Israel, representing 20.5 percent of the families in Israel - a figure that is up 9,000 families from last year's report. Almost half of these families include at least one wage earner.

During Sharon's tenure as prime minister, the number of poor Israelis grew by 45 percent against an eight percent recorded growth in population. The poverty line, defined as half the median disposable income in Israel, has not changed by much in recent years. In 2000 it was NIS 1,753 per person per month, and has only risen to 1,804 or 5,411 for a family of five.

MKs blast the government for new poverty statistics

The poverty report prompted sharp responses from within the political establishment. In light of the report's findings, Meretz gathered the 25 signatures necessary to call the Knesset to a special debate, despite its recess, to take place on Thursday.

Labor MK Yuli Tamir said that the poverty report "proves that the Bibi [Netanyahu]-Olmert government has abandoned one-fourth of the public, pushing it beneath the poverty line. The government's policy is turning Israel into a third world nation, where the middle class practically does not exist."

Likud sources said in response to the figures, "Only the Likud, under the leadership of Netanyahu, who rescued Israel from collapse, can lead the struggle to overcome poverty now that the national coffers have been filled as a result of the economic policy."

Likud called on Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to pass the 2006 budget before elections in order to "give an immediate response to a string of social issues."

MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor), said in response to the report, "Olmert is deceiving the public, for instead of the plan he promised to fight poverty, he made do with press conferences and PR visits to soup kitchens. In the name of growth, Kadima and Likud are managing an opaque economic policy that is crushing Israeli society and hurting the middle class, many of whose members are approaching the poverty line."

MK Eli Yishai (Shas) said that the current government "turned poverty into a lethal bacteria that paralyzes the immune system. Everyone is saying what I've been screaming for three years. Attacking government allowances is like disconnecting a patient from a respirator. The government chose to destroy the poor instead of poverty."

Hadash-Ta'al Chairman MK Mohammad Barakah said that the government "declared a war on the poor and the weak instead of on poverty. In utter impudence, it robbed the remains of the allowances and transferred money to the wealthy."

"Whoever behaves cruelly to another nation will eventually behave cruelly to his own. The poor and the weak will pay the price of the occupation and the settlements."

Attorney Yuval Elbashan (Labor), a social activist that helped draw up Amir Peretz's plan for legal accessibility, said to Israel Radio, "The social policy that was spearheaded by the rightist government in the last five years has pushed the middle class under the poverty line. This is an intentional policy to make Israel attractive to investors by creating a cheap workforce. This is not a natural disaster or the hand of fate or anything else, except for a policy intended to make the rich richer and increase the poverty of the poor."

Meretz MK Zahava Gal-On said, "The government that threw so many people into poverty must be thrown out by the public."

MK Haim Oron, also of Meretz said, "The numbers are terrible - a world record in the poverty rate among developed nations, a world record in the gap between the poor and the rich."

A spokesperson from the Association for Civil Rights said that the NII report "proves that the economic policy of the government in recent years, which included the cutting of pensions, the failure to raise the minimum wage and the low wages of workers from the weaker sectors of society, has harmed the basic right of Israeli citizens to live in dignity."