



MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

(Read this after the Four Questions)

What can we accomplish as a country if 47 million of us were not struggling with hunger?

Again and again in the Pesach story we find hope — and perseverance — against impossible odds. A sister places a baby in a basket, not knowing he will be lifted out by a prince. A shepherd, haunted by his past and his people, goes out to tend his flock, and finds himself confronted with a burning bush and a calling. A walk into a forbidding sea with no path before them and no option behind, opens up into a miracle, and the forging of a people.

The beats of this story are so familiar, from dog-eared and wine-stained Haggadahs, from a canon and indeed a country steeped in the narrative arc of the Exodus, that it's easy to forget that these were moments of uncertainty. The simmering potential to unfold was unknown.

During Passover, when our community says in one voice, "Let all who are hungry come and eat," how can we not stop and wonder: what can we accomplish as a country if 47 million of us were not struggling with hunger?

What advances have gone unrealized because structural poverty suffocated our intellectual and creative energy? And in light of this staggering injustice, what can I do — what can we do together — to shift this framework, to change minds so that everyone believes, without qualification, that no one deserves to be hungry? To change structures and support systems, so that no one who finds themselves struggling need worry where their next meal is coming from? What remarkable possibilities could our future then hold for everyone?

YOU CAN HELP THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY

Programs like the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP) provide essential support for millions of Americans, and yet they are simply not enough. We want so much more for our country — we want every person to feed themselves with dignity, and all of the incredible growth that would follow. But during the Passover Seder, we grapple with the "table" that is set before us, and it includes ongoing dangerous threats to narrow, weaken, and withhold resources from 47 million hungry Americans.

This is a moral failure and a call to action. Collectively, we must call upon our leaders to prioritize policies that expand nutrition assistance programs, strengthen the safety net for the most vulnerable, and tackle the root causes of hunger.

Our voices, our hope in the fray, our perseverance in the flood throw into sharp relief when our leaders are serving the people, and when they are failing the people. We have never, and will never let anything silence our voices.

Together, we will hold our leaders to account. Together, we can reverse the course of hunger in this country. Together, we can change *how it is*, into **how it should be**.



A Jewish Response To Hunger

For more Passover resources,
visit mazon.org/passover

Visit mazon.org to join us in our
fight to end hunger.

