



Areyvut

**PESACH WHILE  
ISRAEL IS AT WAR  
2026 / 5786**

As we approach Pesach 2026 / 5786, we find ourselves once again sitting at the Seder table with hearts that are full, complicated and deeply connected to the world around us. This year, the themes of the Haggadah—freedom, resilience, faith and responsibility—feel especially immediate and personal.

We are living through a time of profound uncertainty and challenge. As conflict continues and tensions escalate, including the ongoing war with Iran, we are mindful of the sacrifices being made every day. Our thoughts and prayers are with the brave American soldiers serving with courage and commitment, and with the chayalim of the IDF who are defending Medinat Yisrael and Am Yisrael, the Jewish people, with extraordinary strength and sacrifice. We also carry in our hearts the families who wait, worry and hope, and all those whose lives have been upended by war and instability.

Pesach reminds us that the journey from slavery to freedom is never simple or complete. It is a process filled with uncertainty, fear, faith and growth. This year more than ever, we are reminded that freedom is not only something we celebrate, but something we must protect, strengthen and deepen.

At Areyvut, we have developed these questions to help you meaningfully engage those around your table—not only during the Seder, but throughout Pesach. These Conversation Starters are designed to spark thoughtful dialogue, encourage reflection and create opportunities for connection across generations. They can be used at the Seder, during meals throughout the holiday or at any point during the year when you seek to engage others in meaningful conversation.

We recognize that each person comes to the table with their own experiences, perspectives and emotions. We encourage you to create an environment that is open, respectful and sensitive, where participants feel comfortable sharing and equally comfortable passing. The goal is not to have all the answers, but to ask meaningful questions and to listen deeply.

The themes and ideas reflected in these questions are not limited to Pesach. They are meant to inspire ongoing reflection, conversation and action well beyond the holiday itself. In this way, the Seder becomes not just a moment, but a catalyst for living with greater purpose, awareness and responsibility.

If you find these resources meaningful, we encourage you to support Areyvut's commUNITY building efforts so we can continue to educate, engage, motivate and inspire.

We welcome your feedback, thoughts and additional questions. Please feel free to reach out to us at [info@areyvut.org](mailto:info@areyvut.org).

Wishing you a Chag Kasher V'Sameach, continued health, strength and meaningful conversations.

Daniel Rothner  
Founder & Director

## **Faith Under Pressure**

- Does crisis deepen or challenge your faith?
- What is harder — trusting God or trusting people?
- How do we understand Divine justice in a complicated world?
- Is doubt a threat to faith or part of it?
- What prayers feel different this year?
- Where have you seen quiet miracles?
- What does redemption look like when it unfolds slowly?
- How do we model faith for the next generation without oversimplifying reality?
- What does “Next Year in Jerusalem” feel like this year?
- How do we sustain hope responsibly?

## **Freedom in a Time of War**

- What does freedom mean when a nation is defending itself?
- Can a people feel free while living under threat?
- How do we celebrate redemption while still amid uncertainty?
- What emotional freedom feels hardest to access this year?
- Does resilience count as a form of freedom?
- How do we hold pride and strength without losing sensitivity to suffering?
- What does Jewish freedom require of us during wartime?
- How do we balance hope with realism?
- Is security a prerequisite for freedom or part of it?
- What responsibility does diaspora Jewry carry during Israel’s struggle?

## **Gratitude & Perspective**

- What feels like a Dayenu this year?
- What have we taken for granted until recently?
- What blessings feel amplified in uncertain times?
- What does abundance look like beyond material comfort?
- Who supported or protected you this year?
- What strength did you discover within yourself?
- What are we celebrating tonight that previous generations could not?
- How do we cultivate gratitude without ignoring pain?
- What freedom do we experience daily that deserves recognition?
- What does “enough” look like for you?

## **Iran, Power & Global Threats**

- If Pharaoh represents tyranny, who represents it today?
- What lessons does the Exodus teach about confronting existential threats?
- When is strength a moral obligation?
- How should Jews think about power in 2026?
- What distinguishes defensive power from destructive power?
- How do we pray for peace while preparing for war?
- What is the Jewish approach to deterrence?
- Does faith shape how we interpret geopolitics?
- What would Moshe say to world leaders today?
- How do we teach children about conflict without instilling fear?

## **Jewish Unity & Internal Tension**

- Why does crisis sometimes unite us — and sometimes divide us?
- What conversations are we avoiding within our own commUNITY?
- What does Areyvut (responsibility for one another) look like right now?
- How do we disagree agreeably without weakening one another?
- Is unity the same as uniformity?
- What is one way you can strengthen Jewish solidarity this year?
- What weakens Jewish morale?
- How do we respond to Jews who feel disconnected this Pesach?
- What does communal courage look like?
- How do we ensure Jewish identity feels empowering, not defensive?

## **Personal Egypts**

- What fear is currently limiting your growth?
- Where in your life are you waiting for someone else to act?
- What comfort zone feels like Egypt?
- What narrative about yourself needs rewriting?
- What are you ready to leave behind this year?
- What would courage look like in your personal story?
- Where are you spiritually “in between”?
- What would liberation feel like emotionally?
- What would it take to move from survival to purpose?
- What is one small step toward personal freedom this year?

## **Moral Responsibility & the Jewish Mission**

- What does it mean to be a moral people under scrutiny?
- Does Jewish survival depend on strength, ethics or both?
- What does “Chosen” demand in 2026?
- How do we uphold our values under pressure?
- What does Kiddush Hashem look like today?
- How do we fight antisemitism without becoming hardened?
- What role should Jews play in shaping global moral conversations?
- How do we remain compassionate without being naive?
- What does Jewish leadership require right now?
- What legacy do we want this generation to leave?

## **The Next Generation**

- What do we most want children to remember about this year?
- How do we teach complexity without overwhelming them?
- What questions do you hope children will ask this year?
- What Jewish value matters most in unstable times?
- What does Jewish courage look like for teenagers?
- How do we ensure Jewish identity feels strong and proud?
- What stories must be told clearly and honestly?
- How do we build resilient Jewish children?
- What will Jewish history say about this moment?
- What responsibility does this generation carry forward?