

Mishloach Manot*: Gift Giving as a Form of Advocacy

Facilitator Guide

**How can the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot on Purim,
be used as a tool for action and advocacy for the hostages?**

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the value of Mishloach Manot?
- Why do we give Mishloach Manot on Purim?
- How can Mishloach Manot connect with advocacy?
- How do we receive gifts?

FRAMING THE ISSUE

Purim is the only Jewish Holiday where the story fully occurred outside of Israel. Where can we, as Jews who live in and outside of Israel, get inspiration from the story of Purim to motivate us to advocate for the Jewish people?

What is the connection between giving and receiving gifts and celebration?

How does the act of Mishloach Manot build community?

How can we connect the simple act of Mishloach Manot to advocate to bring the hostages home?

Info For Facilitator



Target Audience:

All ages

Note: this unit can either be done as a community program with learning + Mishloach Manot packing, or it can be used as a resource to supply hostage cards and information to individuals packing Mishloach Manot at home.



Length Of Program:

10-60 minutes, depending on setting



Materials & Prep:

- Your own supplies for Mishloach Manot (food, treats, bags, packaging, etc)
- Printed cards with information about the hostages.



Additional Resources:

- [These](#) are various templates for cards about the hostages. Note there is a file with a separate card for each individual hostage, with their name, photo, etc. The cards also include calls to action, such as contacting the White House, hashtags, etc. There are cards which include psalms or prayers. You can use these actual cards or use them as a basis to create and design your own.



* **Mishloach Manot (משלוח מנות)** literally means "sending of portions" (also spelled and pronounced mishloach manos, or shalech mones, and also called a Purim basket), are gifts of food or drink that are sent to family, friends and others on Purim day. The mitzvah of giving Mishloach Manot derives from the Book of Esther. It is meant to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast held later in the day, and to increase love and friendship among Jews and their neighbors.



LET'S EXPLORE

Depending on the context, use the short source sheet with its discussion questions, to explore the ideas of gift giving on Purim, as described in the *megillah*, the Book of Esther. This can be done in small pairs or groups, or in a full group setting.

Following the text study and discussion, move to the next section to create your own hostage advocacy *Mishloach Manot*.

TAKE ACTION!

Depending on the setting in which you are engaging with this unit, and whether you are doing it in a communal or individual context, here are a few actions you can choose from:

- 📦 Package your own *Mishloach Manot* (homemade or community-made), and add a card with information about the hostages and action items that the receiver can do (1 min a day, hashtags, etc). You can use [this card template](#) or create your own.
- 📦 Give *Mishloach Manot* to your non-Jewish neighbors, friends, colleagues with cards about the hostages and action items for them to do (1 min a day, hashtags, etc). You can use [this card template](#) or create your own.
- 📦 [Sign up here](#) to join an effort to send *Mishloach Manot* to a family of a hostage, so they know you are thinking of them.
- 📦 Send virtual *Mishloach Manot* to your representatives and the [White House](#) urging for the release of the hostages.

CLOSING INTENTION

Close the activity with the following prompts:

- One value that I am holding onto as a result of this conversation is:

.....

- One action item that I am committing to as a result of this conversation is:

.....

