



CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE

Escaping the Cave *Evening Experience*

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SUMMARY:	<i>In this session we will PLAY as a team to solve puzzles, find clues, figure out codes, and explore Jewish wisdom and liberation traditions as we attempt to ESCAPE THE CAVE! (this is an escape room experience)</i>
ABC GOALS:	<p>Affective: Participants will feel...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Light, breezy, like this is time to release and have fun• Engaged, concentrated on play• Happy, Warm, like they are part of a team <p>Behavior: Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage effort towards solving complex problems• Try on systematic thinking like a hat they can share• Communicate in plain and specific language what they are thinking towards a problem-solving effort <p>Cognitive: Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A greater understanding of ideas and perspectives on liberation• What liberation means to them in personal and social ways• How much edutainment an escape room activity can be!
AUDIENCE:	Fellows, Teens, adults, 8-15 people; People looking to have fun solving puzzles!
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Detailed in the description
SET-UP DETAILS:	The set-up is similar to an escape game and the room should be set up intentionally without any other things in it other than what is needed for the game.



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Materials:

- Projector
- Laptop
- Connector Cable (HDMI from laptop to projector)
- 1 Deck of cards
- 1 balloon (and extras)
- 1 Scissors
- 1 UV Flashlight
- 1 Invisible ink pen
- 1 roll Duct Tape
- 2 Small Ziplock bags
- Batteries for flashlight
- 4 Lockboxes
- **Locks**
 - Two 3-digit combo
 - Two 4-digit combo
 - Two 4 letter word lock -
 - One 5 letter word lock -
 - One key lock
- **Documents/Printables**
 - Star Chart on a grid
 - List of grid coordinates
 - Paper with hole
 - Aleph Bet with Gmatria
 - Mensches Periodic Table
 - 'Gmatria' clue – ____, ____ you shall pursue
 - Wordsearch and card quote (double sided)
 - Books, Stories & Articles

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:05 - Introductions, setting group norms
- 00:05-00:50 – Escape Room Activity
- 00:50-01:15 - Group Discussion

SESSION OUTLINE:

Introduction:

Host meets participants outside of escape space.

Skript:

Host: Welcome!

Who is familiar with an allegory of Humas stuck in a Cave of their own making?



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There are many...

Here is one version of the story.

Host walks participants into escape space, closes and locks the door behind them.

Opening Prompt:

Enter Socrates and Glaucon, mid-conversation, unawares of the rest of the room

[Socrates] And now, I said, let me show in a figure how far our nature is enlightened or unenlightened: -- Behold! human beings living in a underground cave, which has a mouth open towards the light and reaching all along the cave; here they have been from their childhood, and have their legs and necks chained so that they cannot move, and can only see before them, being prevented by the chains from turning round their heads. Above and behind them a fire is blazing at a distance, and between the fire and the prisoners there is a raised way; and you will see, if you look, a low wall built along the way, like the screen which marionette players have in front of them, over which they show the puppets.

[Glaucon] I see.

[Socrates] And do you see, I said, humans passing along the wall carrying all sorts of vessels, and statues and figures of animals made of wood and stone and various materials, which appear over the wall? Some of them are talking, others silent.

[Glaucon] You have shown me a strange image, and they are strange prisoners.

[Socrates] Like ourselves, I replied; and they see only their own shadows, or the shadows of one another, which the fire throws on the opposite wall of the cave?

[Glaucon] True, how could they see anything but the shadows if they were never allowed to move their heads?

[Socrates] And of the objects which are being carried in like manner they would only see the shadows?

[Glaucon] Yes.

[Socrates] And if they were able to converse with one another, would they not suppose that they were naming what was actually before them?

[Glaucon] Very true.

[Socrates] And suppose further that the prison had an echo which came from the other side, would they not be sure to fancy when one of the passers-by spoke that the voice which they heard came from the passing shadow?

[Glaucon] No question.

[Socrates] To them, I said, the truth would be literally nothing but the shadows of the images.

[Glaucon] That is certain.

[Socrates] And now look again, and see what will naturally follow if the prisoners are released and disabused of their error. At first, when any of them is liberated and compelled suddenly to stand up and turn their neck round and walk and look towards the light, they will suffer sharp pains; the glare will distress them, and they will be unable to see the realities of which in their former state they had seen the shadows; and then conceive someone saying to them, that what they saw before was an illusion, but that now, when they are approaching nearer to being and their eye is turned towards more real existence, they have a clearer vision, -what will be their reply? And you may further imagine that their instructor is pointing to the objects as they pass and requiring them to name them all, -will they not be perplexed? Will they not fancy that the shadows which they formerly saw are truer than the objects which are now shown to them?

[Glaucon] Far truer.



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[Socrates] And if they are compelled to look straight at the light, will they not have a pain in their eyes which will make them turn away to take in the objects of vision which they can see, and which they will conceive to be in reality clearer than the things which are now being shown to them?

[Glaucon] True, they will now.

[Socrates] And suppose once more, that they are reluctantly dragged up a steep and rugged ascent, and held fast until they're forced into the presence of the sun itself, are they not likely to be pained and irritated? When they approach the light their eyes will be dazzled, and they will not be able to see anything at all of what are now called realities.

[Glaucon] Not all in a moment.

[Socrates] They will require to grow accustomed to the sight of the upper world. And first they will see the shadows best, next the reflections of humans and other objects in the water, and then the objects themselves; then they will gaze upon the light of the moon and the stars and the spangled heaven; and they will see the sky and the stars by night better than the sun or the light of the sun by day?

[Glaucon] Certainly.

[Socrates] Last of they will be able to see the sun, and not mere reflections of it in the water, but they will see it in its own proper place, and not in another; and they will contemplate it as it is.

[Glaucon] Certainly.

[Socrates] They will then proceed to argue that this is what gives the season and the years, and is the guardian of all that is in the visible world, and in a certain way the cause of all things which they and their fellows have been accustomed to behold?

[Glaucon] Clearly, they would first see the sun and then reason thus about it.

[Socrates] And when they remembered his old habitation, and the wisdom of the cave and their fellow-prisoners, do you not suppose that they would felicitate themselves on the change, and pity them?

[Glaucon] Certainly, they would.

[Socrates] And if they were in the habit of conferring honors among themselves on those who were quickest to observe the passing shadows and to remark which of them went before, and which followed after, and which were together; and who were therefore best able to draw conclusions as to the future, do you think that they would care for such honors and glories, or envy the possessors of them? Would they not say with Homer, Better to be the poor servant of a poor master, and to endure anything, rather than think as they do and live after their manner?

[Glaucon] Yes, I think that they would rather suffer anything than entertain these false notions and live in this miserable manner.

[Socrates] Imagine once more, I said, such a one coming suddenly out of the sun to be replaced in their old situation; would they not be certain to have their eyes full of darkness?

[Glaucon] To be sure.

[Socrates] And if there were a contest, and they had to compete in measuring the shadows with the prisoners who had never moved out of the cave, while their sight was still weak, and before their eyes had become steady (and the time which would be needed to acquire this new habit of sight might be very considerable) would they not be ridiculous? Humans would say of them that up they went and down they came without their eyes; and that it was better not even to think of ascending; and if any one tried to loose another and lead them up to the light, let them only catch the offender, and they would put them to death.

[Glaucon] No question.

[Socrates] This entire allegory, I said, you may now append, dear Glaucon, to the previous argument; the prison-house is the world of sight, the light of the fire is the sun, and you will not misapprehend me if you interpret the journey upwards to be the ascent of the soul into the intellectual (*cough spiritual) world according to my poor belief, which, at your desire, I have expressed whether rightly or wrongly, G-d knows. But, whether true or false, my opinion is that in the world of knowledge (*cough lovingkindness) the idea of good appears last of all, and is seen only with an effort; and, when seen, is also inferred to be the universal



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author of all things beautiful and right, parent of light and of the lord of light in this visible world, and the immediate source of reason and truth in the intellectual (*cough and of empathy and vulnerability in the spiritual); and that this is the power upon which they who would act rationally, with lovingkindness, either in public or private life must have their eye fixed.

[Glaucou] I agree, as far as I am able to understand you.

Escape Prompt:

[Glaucou] However, such as we find ourselves now, given our current sorry situation of being chained to the walls of this cave, physical yay, and allegorical indeed, for the betterment of our souls and spirits and in pursuit of our collective liberation pray tell, search, find, discover the keys to the mind and UNLOCK THE SPIRIT to escape this Cave. You already have the answer, but yay, what indeed, is the Question?

About the game:

You are here in the Cave. Once he is brought to life, follow him as he leads you out of the room.

Who has played escape games before?

- The game is challenging. Try different options, and don't give up easily.
- It's a game. You are not locked in the room.
- Do not break anything, or use force to open anything.
- Work together. Communicate within your group. This will help you. A LOT.
- There are a variety of puzzles
 - word search
 - combination locks
 - Riddles

You have 45 minutes to Escape the Cave!

There is no one starting point. You can start anywhere, with anything that you find in the room.

I will be right here. If you need help, use the magic word, to be discovered, and ask me a thoughtful question.

The Game:

Participants will have 45 minutes to find clues, solve puzzles, and figure out the codes to unlock the boxes that will lead you to the answer that will get you out of the cave. After the game is finished participants will be guided through a debrief discussion of the team building experience and of the content.

Teamwork Debrief:

Upon unlocking the door....

...

[Socrates] Any one who has common sense will remember that the bewilderments of the eyes are of two kinds, and arise from two causes, either from coming out of the light or from going into the light, which is true of the mind's eye, quite as much as of the bodily eye; and they who remember this when they see any one whose vision is perplexed and weak, will not be too ready to laugh; they will first ask whether that soul of human has come out of the brighter light, and is unable to see because unaccustomed to the dark, or having turned from darkness to the day is dazzled by excess of light. And they will count the one happy in their condition and state of being, and they will pity the other; or, if they have a mind to laugh at the soul



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which comes from below into the light, there will be more reason and love in this than in the laugh which greets them who return from above out of the light into the cave.

[Glaucon] That, is a very just distinction.

[Socrates] But then, if I am right, certain professors of education must be wrong when they say that they can put a knowledge into the soul which was not there before, like sight into blind eyes.

[Glaucon] They undoubtedly say this.

[Socrates] Whereas, our argument (*cough and experience) shows that the power and capacity of learning exists in the soul already; and that just as the eye was unable to turn from darkness to light without the whole body, so too the instrument of knowledge (*cough and lovingkindness) can only by the movement of the whole soul be turned from the world of becoming into that of being, and learn by degrees to endure the sight of being, and of the brightest and best of being, or in other words, of the good.

...

Give participants time to reflect and jot down personal notes to facilitate conversation.

Think about the experience and share how you worked as a group, what you learned, how you learned it, and if and why it matters.

Questions:

- Describe your experience – what happened?
- Why were you successful (or not)?
- What was your favorite part of the game? What did you find to be the most satisfying?
- What was your least favorite?? What did you find to be most stressful?
- How did you, as an individual, contribute to the team?
- How did the group utilize each individual's strengths or interests?
- Did you discover anything about yourself during the activity?
- Were you surprised by any of your actions?
- Was there a time you felt like the team was working exceptionally well together?
- Was there a time you felt like things were a little too unorganized?
- What do you think caused these different situations?
- What would you do differently next time?
- Describe how another member of the team exhibited collaboration? (Or did something impressive)

Themes and Content Debrief

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP:

- Consider space as you bring this session back to camp. What room at your camp would enable you to (1) have a wall to project onto and (2) be big enough for your number of participants without being so big it takes away from the theme?
- With more time, you could expand discussion to revisit the specific items/puzzles in the room, and try to understand what each might contribute to our understanding of liberation.
- You might consider creating extra booklets or binders with the text/image content involved the inactivity for participants to then read (in the hours, days, weeks) after the activity has finished to continue the journey they started.

Commented [JC1]: Robbie can you do this part?



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- Similarly, this activity could take place in the context of a seminar about freedom or liberation, with the texts leading into a different activity looking at these ideas more directly.
- Add whatever texts feel relevant and important to you about liberation, freedom, and being more real with each other!
- You may also consider adapting the activity to fit a different theme but with similar escape room content (this activity was based on a previous Golem escape room!).

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