

HAVRUTA Warm Up

Havruta study is an approach for studying Jewish texts in which you can function both as a teacher and a learner, helping your partner learn while also learning yourself. This type of study requires you to read the text carefully and pay attention to your havruta partner, in order to engage with both. This type of study also requires reflecting on both your own and another person's learning process and how you can affect another person's learning.

In preparation for working in your own havruta, please read the list below and follow the questions and prompts on the other side.

▶ SOME OF THE PRACTICES OF GOOD HAVRUTA PARTNERSHIP:^[1]

- Listening closely to your havruta partner and asking clarifying questions to make sure you understand what your havruta partner is saying.
- Asking your partner questions to help draw out their ideas, such as 'Tell me more...'
- Asking many questions about the text such as:
 - What does this mean?
 - Is there another way of understanding that?
 - What does this add to our understanding?
- Revisiting the text many times together with your havruta partner in order to further understand it, "test" your ideas, and revise ideas when faced with compelling information.
- Asking for help and/or looking up what you don't know and/or understand.
- Wondering aloud about your ideas so your partner can get inside your thinking.
- Articulating your ideas and interpretation of the text, even if you are not 100% sure.
- Finding support for your havruta partner's ideas in the text.
- Building onto or extending your partner's ideas.
- Challenging your havruta partner's interpretation with evidence from the text.
- Suggesting an alternative interpretation based on textual evidence and being clear about how your interpretations are different.

[1] These are taken from a larger theory of six core havruta practices: listening, articulating, wondering, focusing, supporting and challenging as discussed in "A Theory of Havruta Learning" by Orit Kent. For another version of this exercise, see [A Philosophy of Havruta](#).

▷ TAKE TURNS SHARING YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS WITH YOUR HAVRUTA PARTNER:

- Describe two things that help you learn.
- Choose two bulleted points in the list of "Practices of good havruta partnership" that are strengths of yours and that you can bring to your havruta study to help your learning together. Please explain.
- Choose two bulleted points in the list of "Practices of good havruta partnership" that you think are most challenging for you. Please explain.
- I enjoy Jewish text study most when... because...

▷ DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER:

- Given what you have learned about your partner, what is one thing you can do to contribute to your partner's learning?
- Given what you both shared, what is one goal that you can work on as a partnership in your study together?

