

HAVRUTA WARM UP

Havruta study is a way of learning Jewish texts in which you act both as a teacher and a learner, helping your partner learn while also learning yourself. This type of learning requires you to pay attention to the text and your partner, in order to understand them both.

In preparation for learning in your own havruta, please read the list below and follow the questions on the reverse side.

Havruta Skills

- ▶ Facing my partner to communicate that I am paying attention and listening.
- ▶ Taking turns talking and listening.
- ▶ Using "Attentive silence."
- ▶ Asking for clarification when I don't understand.
- ▶ Helping my partner articulate by saying: Can you tell me more about that?
- ▶ Explaining myself when I don't think my partner is understanding me.
- ▶ Explaining to my partner how my idea is similar and/or different from theirs.
- ▶ Building onto what my partner said.
- ▶ Slowing down in order to re-read the text and noticing its many details and patterns.
- ▶ Asking questions about the text.
- ▶ Recognizing when I am rushing to make a judgment about the text or about what my havruta is saying.
- ▶ Finding evidence in the text to support my interpretation and my partner's interpretation.
- ▶ Challenging an idea by pointing out evidence in the text that disproves the idea or by bringing a different idea that is better supported.

1. Answer questions a and b on your own.

a. What two skills from the list are strengths of yours that you can bring to your havruta study to be helpful to your partner's learning?

b. What two skills from the list do you find most challenging?

2. Take turns sharing what you wrote with your havruta.

3. Discuss the following with your havruta:

Given what you just heard from each other, identify 1-2 goals for your havruta. For example, if you both said that asking questions is challenging, then a goal might be to help each other ask questions. If one of you is very good at finding evidence in the text and one of you is not, then a goal might be for the person who is good at it to give the other person time to find evidence in the text as well.

4. Write down your havruta goals and discuss why they will be important:
