

Pop's Quick Guide

for
Independent
Learning



THE GOAL

"Learning" is about understanding in a deep and meaningful way: (a) the text, (b) the people we're learning with, and (c) ourselves. It takes partnership between all three.

The goal of this guide is to provide practical steps to any learner on any level to encounter Torah learning in a way that results in a meaningful and uplifting experience through partnership with the text and with each other.

1

GET READY

You have to bring yourself to the learning. So take a breath and think about how you can be present in the moment. Grab what you need to settle in with your learning.

2

CHOOSE A TEXT

Don't get stuck on this.

You can learn from any text that you can ask good questions about. Just open it up and start taking it in!



3

START READING

Read slowly and pause to listen carefully to the text. What do you notice?
What do you wonder about?

DISCUSS

- » If you are with a havruta or group, take turns sharing what you notice or wonder about.
- » Ask clarifying questions to each other to deepen your understanding of what each person is saying.

TRY IT OUT!

Complete the sentence,
"I notice that...", or,
"I wonder about..."

Use specific examples
from the text.

4

GO DEEPER

Now that you've had a chance to hear the text, yourself, and each other, it's time to put it together to think about:

- » What does the text mean? What is it about?
- » Use evidence to answer some of the questions that have come up.
- » Can you apply the text to other areas or to yourself? How so?
- » What questions does the text answer?
- » What questions does it leave you with?

TRY IT OUT!

Ask each other
questions that start with,
"So are you saying that...",
or, "Can you tell me
more about..."

5

REFLECT & SHARE

- » What are your takeaways from the text?
- » What understanding / meaning about (a) the text, (b) yourself, or (c) the others in your group do you have now that you didn't have before?

6

REPEAT

Take this with you wherever your Torah studies take you.

