
CHARITY-PAYING IT FORWARD

Learning Goals

1. NCSYers will understand that charity is a mitzvah.
2. NCSYers will consider if they are “givers” or “takers”

Advisor Toolbox:

ACTIVITIES/GAMES

- Rambam’s Tzeddakah Ladder
- Give & Take Game

VIDEOS/ARTICLES

- Lance Armstrong – Charity on Steroids (page 200)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the limits of charity?
- Can you give charity with your time?
- If you have \$100, is it better to give \$1 for 100 days, or \$100 for 1 day? (see explanation)

Activities/Hooks

- Rambam’s Tzeddakah Ladder
 - Cut out the 8 levels of charity according to Rambam. Have the teens organize them in order. Then compare to what Rambam writes in the Mishneh Torah (Matanot Le’evyonim 10:7-14). This is also in the session.

- Give & Take Game

- By the way...
The word מתן
in Hebrew is a
palindrome –
spelled the
same in both
directions!*
- Gather enough pens for every person in your group.
 - Give half the teens in your group a pen. Give the rest to one person. (at least 2 people shouldn’t have pens).
 - Ask the group to write something down (perhaps their answer to a discussion question?), and when half the group can’t (because they don’t have pens) – recommend that the “rich” person give pens to those without.
 - Takeaway: YOU gave the pens to whomever you chose – the person with more pens wasn’t really “rich”, it was only as a means for every person to receive a pen.

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A Little Explanation

1. This session takes us through a most central bein adam lechavero mitzvah.
2. Pay particular attention to the levels and consider why a loan or getting someone back on their feet might be better than direct giving.
3. In Rambam’s commentary on Avot he points out that it is not as important to give large sums of money as it is to give often. This is in contrast to Rabbi Yaakov Emden (יעבי"ץ) who says we should give all at once. Discuss the differences between the two opinions. Rabbi Emden is focusing on the receiver, and Rambam is focusing on the giver – to develop a giving personality.