

# THE POWER OF DAILY GIVING

A PILLAR OF JEWISH LIFE



## VALUE

# GENEROSITY

## *Chesed v'Tzedakah*

This session invites participants to embrace the transformative power of daily giving as a way to cultivate purpose and connection. Grounded in Jewish values and the themes of Shavuot, we will explore how consistent acts of generosity can strengthen our sense of community and meaning.



## TIMELINE: 90 MIN

BEGIN WITH INTENTION | 5 MIN

WELCOME AND TEXT STUDY | 35 MIN

VIDEO AND DISCUSSION | 15 MIN

CREATIVE RITUAL ACTIVITY | 30 MIN

END WITH MEANING | 5 MIN



## WHO LEADS THE SESSION

Encouraging participants to take on facilitation roles enhances engagement and fosters shared learning. For this session, one key role is hosting which includes securing a space with a screen for viewing Lori's video and ensuring AV setup. Invite volunteers to take on different aspects of the session. Roles can include:

- Hosting the gathering
- Introducing the text study (reading the framing, guiding discussion)
- Moderating the video conversation (posing reflection questions and inviting responses)
- Facilitating the ritual-building activity (explaining the steps and leading the group sharing)

Ensure volunteers receive the prompts and materials in advance so they feel prepared. Remind facilitators that their role is to create an open, thoughtful space for exploration and connection — not to have all the answers.



## FACILITATOR PREPARATION

Before the session, review the text study source sheet (see final pages of this session) and Lori Palatnik's video to familiarize yourself with the themes of daily giving and its connection to Jewish values. Prepare to set an open and engaging tone by sharing a brief story of resilience from Israeli society or your local community. Arrange materials in advance, including slips of paper, pens, and a tzedakah box or bowl for the ritual activity. If participants are taking on facilitation roles, provide them with discussion prompts ahead of time. Lastly, test the video setup to ensure smooth playback during the session.



## MATERIALS FOR THIS WORKSHOP

### PRINTED MATERIALS:

- Discussion prompts for facilitators (optional)

### WRITING SUPPLIES:

- Small slips of paper (at least two per participant)
- Pens or markers

### VIDEO SETUP:

- Device with internet access (TV screen, laptop, tablet, or phone)
- Speakers for audio
- Link to Lori Palatnik's video

### RITUAL ACTIVITY SETUP:

- Decorative bowl, basket, or small tzedakah box for collecting responses

### OPTIONAL DIGITAL RESOURCES:

- QR code linking to [dailygiving.org](https://dailygiving.org)
- WhatsApp group for follow-up reflection and sharing

## PART I

WELCOME AND  
TEXT STUDY

35 MIN

## Welcome

5 MIN

- Introduce the session's objectives: understanding giving, its roots in Jewish tradition, and its potential for building connection in times of uncertainty.
- Set an open, supporting atmosphere.
- Create a sense of potential and possibility around text study. Learning and discussing Jewish texts may be new to your participants. There are no "right answers." The purpose is to engage deeply with a *havruta* (study partner) over our foundational texts and discuss their meaning. Framing and instructions are on the source sheet on the final pages of this session.

## Text Study

20 MIN

Participants should divide into pairs or small groups for the text study.

## Share Back

10 MIN

Return to the full group and invite 2-3 participants to share what came up for them during the text study.

## PART II

VIDEO &  
CONVERSATION

15 MIN



Scan the QR code  
to watch Lori  
Palatnik's video

1. Watch [the 5-min video](#) from Lori Palatnik, Momentum's Founding Director, on the impact of generous giving and the power of daily *tzedakah*.
2. After the video, ask participants to reflect in pairs or small groups:
  - What resonated most with you from Lori's message?
  - How does the idea of small, consistent giving shift the way you think about *tzedakah*?
3. Return to the full group and invite 2-3 participants to share what came up for them during their conversation.

## PART III

CREATING A  
DAILY GIVING  
RITUAL

30 MIN

This step transforms the idea of regular giving into a tangible, experiential practice through a **hands-on ritual-building activity**. Instead of just *discussing* how to give, participants will *actively create* a meaningful and sustainable regular giving ritual in their own lives, connecting it to Shavuot and the mitzvah of *peah*.

## PART III

# CREATING A DAILY GIVING RITUAL

## Ritual Exploration

5 MIN

**Facilitator shares:** On Shavuot, we celebrate receiving the Torah, a divine gift that shapes our values and actions. One of the teachings we inherit is the mitzvah of *peah*, leaving the corners of our fields for the poor, which we read about in the Book of Ruth. This mitzvah teaches that what we earn is never entirely our own. **Part of it must be given to others.** In ancient times, farmers didn't calculate a percentage or decide who would receive help; instead, they simply left the corners of their fields untouched so those in need could take freely.

*How might this idea apply to our daily lives? If we see ourselves as caretakers rather than owners of what we have, how does that shape how we give?*

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

Each participant has a small slip of paper and a pen at their seat. A decorative bowl, basket, or *tzedakah* box is placed at the center of the room.

Explain the activity to the participants:

- Take a moment to reflect silently: If I were to “leave the corners of my field” in a modern way, what moment in my daily or weekly routine would be the most natural time to give? (Examples: right after morning coffee, before lighting Shabbat candles, at bedtime, when getting paid, after moments of gratitude.)
- Write this moment down on the slip of paper, in clear handwriting.
- Before writing, know that you will be invited to place your paper in the central bowl to create a collective reflection. If you prefer to keep your response private, you are welcome to hold onto your slip instead.

**This activity allows us to bring the concept of *peah* into our lives in a way that feels personal and sustainable, shaping a ritual of giving that becomes second nature.**

## Group Discussion

10 MIN

Invite participants to share their chosen moment and explain why they selected it.

Discussion prompts:

- What makes this moment feel meaningful?
- How might giving at this time impact your mindset or relationships?
- What connections do you see between this and the mitzvah of *peah*?

As participants share, encourage them to notice common themes and affirm each other's ideas.

## PART III

CREATING A  
DAILY GIVING  
RITUAL

## Personalizing the Ritual

5 MIN

Now, ask participants to add one small action to personalize their giving moment and write it on their slip of paper. Examples:

- Saying a short phrase before giving (“I give with gratitude”) (“By giving, I acknowledge the Ultimate Source of all I have.”)
- Involving a family member (“Letting my kids put the coin in the box”).
- Combining it with another habit (“Before checking my phone in the morning”).

Once complete, each woman should drop her personal giving ritual note into the bowl.

## Ritual Inspiration

10 MIN

Invite participants to take turns pulling a slip from the bowl and reading it aloud. Each participant will take home *someone else’s* ritual giving idea as inspiration.

Challenge them to:

- Try a new giving ritual for one week.
- Share their experience in the group’s WhatsApp channel before the next session.

Reflect as a group:

*What excites you about taking on the challenge of daily giving? What stumbling blocks do you anticipate? How might we support each other to overcome them?*

## CLOSING THOUGHT:

Giving isn’t just about what we do — it’s about who we become. A daily act of generosity, no matter how small, shapes the person we are becoming each day.



## About Our Content Collaborator

*Some of us may be looking for an easy way to make daily giving a habit. One tool that some people use is DailyGiving.org, which automates small daily donations to vetted Jewish charities.*

At Daily Giving, we firmly believe in the extraordinary power of small acts of generosity to bring about positive change. We are a platform that promotes a simple yet impactful concept: giving at least \$1 every day of the year. <http://dailygiving.org/Momentum>.

## TEXT STUDY

Shavuot, the festival that commemorates the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai, is **an opportunity to highlight one of the most fundamental mitzvot in Jewish life: the call to give.** Our sages taught that acts of giving hold the weight of all other mitzvot combined.

The book of Ruth, read on Shavuot, centers on kindness, generosity, and care for the most vulnerable. Ruth's story reminds us that the Torah's most frequently repeated command is to care for those in need. One of the earliest expressions of this obligation was agricultural tithing, a practice that ensured communal support for the poor.

Together with your *havruta* (study partner), explore the mitzvah of *peah*, found in Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22. *Peah*, meaning “corner,” instructs farmers to leave the edges of their fields unharvested for those in need—the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. This mitzvah reflects an essential Jewish value: communal responsibility.

### Rabbi Chaim Kanievksy (1928-2002) *Derech Emunah*, 1:8

All of these gifts for the poor are not for the owners to control. Instead, the poor can come and take them, even if the owners do not agree. Even a poor person who owns a field cannot keep for themselves what's designated for the poor. The field owner cannot decide who gets the gifts or stop certain poor people from taking them.

כל מתנות ענים אלו אין בהן טובת הניה (הנאה) לבעלים אלא הענים באין ונוטלים אותן על כרחן של בעלים. ואפילו עני שבישראל מוציאין אותן מידו. משמעות המונח טובת הנאה בהקשר זה הוא שאין לבעל השדה רשות לתת את אותן מתנות למי שירצה או, לחלופין, למנוע מעניים מסוימים לקחת אותן.

### Understanding the Text

In this teaching, Rabbi Kanievsky underscores a profound idea: while the harvest we gather may feel like “ours” because we planted, sowed, and reaped it, it does not truly belong to us and therefore we give a portion of the harvest to others. Our efforts contribute to the outcome, but the ultimate results are gifts from the Creator. **By giving, we recognize that our resources are not solely the product of “our own work” or “effort” but are part of something far greater.**

This teaching lies at the heart of *tzedakah* in Jewish wisdom, offering a counterbalance to the consumer-driven mindset of our time. It reveals that generosity is not only an act of kindness but a spiritual practice that acknowledges the divine source of our blessings—unlocking a pathway to justice and a key to joy.

The mitzvah of *peah* is not merely about interpersonal ethics; it places *tzedakah* in the broader context of partnership between divine gifts and human effort. Giving, then, becomes a spiritual act of gratitude and acknowledgment of God's role in our lives.

## TEXT STUDY

### Reflection & Conversation

Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with your *havruta* partner.

On Shavuot, we celebrate receiving the Torah, a divine gift that shapes our values and actions.

*How does the mitzvah of leaving the corners of our field for the poor (peah) reflect the values of partnership between human effort and divine blessing found in the Torah? How might this mitzvah influence contemporary life, for those who are not farmers? How might it influence the way you view what you “own” or “earn”?*

A daily giving practice invites us to regularly reflect on our blessings and share them with others.

*How might the concept that “what we have is a product of both God-given gifts and our effort” transform the way you approach daily acts of generosity?*

Rabbi Kanievsky explains the Jewish concept that true ownership of our produce comes only when we relinquish a portion of it to others. Think about a time when giving—of your resources, time, or energy—felt deeply meaningful.

*What did that experience teach you about the connection between gratitude, generosity, and joy?*

## BRINGING THE LEARNING HOME



This session offers a natural way to engage your children in the spirit of giving. Invite your kids to choose a moment in their own day to give, whether through loose change, kind words, or acts of care. You can even replicate the bowl ritual as a family activity, creating your own shared “corners of the field” at home, gradually instilling a culture of generosity rooted in Jewish tradition.