



## Identifying Your Priority Goal

*Despite all of our energies, talent and abilities, we know that it's just not possible for our congregations to do it all, do it at the same time, and do it right. A congregation must recognize their North Star, the priority goal that guides the direction of their learning. This exercise will help identify your congregation's priority goal(s) which will in turn pave the road towards selecting the model that best suits your congregation.*

### 1. Guiding North Star: Identifying the priority goal of your congregation.

- a. Imagine a conversation with someone who recently moved to your community. This person is looking to join a congregation and is not familiar with any in the region. She asks you about the values that define your congregation and you respond:
  
- b. The conversation continues; what are the priority goals that define your congregation's learning?
  
- c. What artifacts can you think of that support your understanding of these values, i.e. the congregation's vision or mission statement, the banner on the congregation's website, the school handbook, the newsletter, etc.

Some examples of priority goals from other congregations include:

- Evolve a Jewish moral compass that leads to action
- Engage in an ongoing relationship with Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael
- Travel on a lifelong spiritual journey anchored in Jewish tradition and teaching
- Construct a meaningful and healthy life guided by Torah, Jewish time and space



**2. When you think of a time(s) that your congregation has been most successful at supporting children and families in living these values, what comes to mind?**

a. Tell some stories that share these successes.

b. Capturing: What are the characteristics that emerge from our most successful Jewish learning experiences?

i.

ii.

iii.

