



# Venture into "Love Your Neighbor"

ואהבת לרעך כמוך  
V'ahavta L'reyecha Kamocho



*Activities, information, and more  
that will help you learn about the Jewish value  
of "Love Your Neighbor".*

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## tool • kit

a personal set of resources, abilities, or skills.

"Venture into 'Love Your Neighbor' is a toolkit full of things you can use to learn about the Jewish value of "Love Your Neighbor!"

**In this kit,** you will find activities and information that will help you learn about the Jewish value of "Love Your Neighbor." If you have questions or are seeking more information, please reach out. jkidphilly is here to help!

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## FAST FACTS!

1. The Torah tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves in Leviticus 19:18: "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against members of your people. Love your fellow as yourself: I am G-d."
2. This verse comes in a section of the Torah called the "Holiness Code," which has lots of instructions for how to be a good person.
3. In the original Hebrew, this verse is written as though it's being said to one person, instead of to a group of people; it's an instruction for each of us individually.
4. Some synagogues read the section containing this verse on Yom Kippur!





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## Keep Learning! Chesed

Chesed is a core Jewish value that is often translated as loving-kindness. Chesed can look like many different things, and you can show it towards others or towards yourself!

### What are some ways you show kindness?

According to Psalms, the world is made out of chesed.

### What do you think that means?

### What qualities do you think the world is made out of?

Chesed is so important that Simeon the Righteous, an ancient religious leader, said the world rests on **three things**:

**1** Studying Torah

**2** Prayer

**3** Acts of loving-kindness

Some people think this means that the world exists to do these things, and some think it means that without these things, the world wouldn't exist at all.

### What do you think?

### What three things do you think the world rests on?



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**Activity:**  
 Show Your Love



Love is an emotion, meaning it's hard for other people to know we're feeling it unless we tell them in some way!

How do you like to tell people that you love them?

**Try doing the following:**

- Give a compliment to **5 different people**.
- Ask **4 different people** a question about themselves. (Hint: try asking about what they like to do for fun, what their favorite animal is, or something that made them smile recently.)
- Have you learned something interesting recently? Share it with **3 different people**.
- Find a way to help **2 different people**.
- Give a surprise gift to **1 other person**. (Hint: draw a picture, make a friendship bracelet, or bake something!)



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**Activity:**  
Knowing Your Neighbor to Love Your Neighbor

Many people think this value means wanting other people to have the same things that you want to have. However, we are all different people! And different people need and want different things. Sometimes, it's easier to love other people when we know more about them. One way to do this is to read books about people who are different from you!

**Try reading books...**

...where the characters on the cover look different from you.

...where the characters on the cover are doing an activity that you have never done.

...that were originally written in a different language and translated to English.

**Try reading as many books as you can in each category!**

Hint: Want a suggestion for something to read? Check out *In My Kehillah*, which uses Jewish values to help young learners be more inclusive of peers with physical, cognitive, and learning disabilities.





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**Activity:**  
 Loving Your Neighbor **and** Yourself

*Loving your neighbor as yourself means loving both your neighbor and loving yourself!  
 What do you love about yourself? Try filling in the blanks:*

Something I like to do to cheer my friends up is \_\_\_\_\_

My friends think I'm great because \_\_\_\_\_

Something unique about me is \_\_\_\_\_

Something I'm good at is \_\_\_\_\_

Something I've done that I'm proud of is \_\_\_\_\_

I love to help my friends by \_\_\_\_\_

Something I love to learn about is \_\_\_\_\_

Something I like to do to cheer myself up is \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of one of your answers from above:





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**Keep Learning!**  
Standing on One Foot

Hillel was a wise man who lived in the ancient kingdom of Babylon, a century before the common era, in what is known today as Iraq.

Many people traveled from near and far to ask him for advice and to learn from him. One day, a stranger visited Hillel and asked him to teach all of Torah while standing on one foot. This stranger had asked other wise people the same question, but they all turned the stranger away. However, Hillel had an answer!

Balancing on one foot, Hillel said, "What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your neighbor. That is the entire Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it."

What do you think that means? How would you "go and learn it"?

What do you think is the most important thing for someone to learn? How would you teach it?





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## Activity: Standing on One Foot

A stranger asks Hillel to teach all of Torah while standing on one foot. Do you think that's the best way to teach something?

What do you think is something important that everyone should know? How would you teach that thing? Would you make a poster? Write a song? Design a huge sculpture, like this one in Tiberias, Israel?

Whatever you decide, **draw it below** and show it to a friend!



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## More Resources

### *More to learn!*

- Learn the basic commandments of this value from *Aish*.
- Get a more in-depth look at this value with *Ansche Chesed*.
- These **PJ Library books** teach kids about how to be a good neighbor.
- And these **PJ Library books** share more about refugees' experiences.

 **for families just like yours!** 

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