
Bridging the Gap between Shul and Home: Hospitality Edition

Meeting 4: March 21, 2017

Goals for Today

- Define the value of hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*
- Develop material to be used in your community around the idea of hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*
- Brainstorm in hevrotah
- Think of new spaces we could move this concept into

Since last time...

Connection

- How do you define hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*?
- Feel free to share an example that comes to mind when you think of hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*.

Text Study: Defining hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*

Hospitality

Noun

- The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers

Synonyms: friendliness, welcome, kindness, courtesy, generosity

Hachnasat orchim

- Bringing in” guests
- A mitzvah, commandment, a type of obligation
- Hachnasah means “enter” but it is in the causative sense, so really instructed to actively bring people in

Text Study: Defining hospitality/*hachnasat orchim*?

Lot (Bereshit 19:1-3)

The two angels arrived in Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to greet them and, bowing low with his face to the ground, he said, “Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant’s house to spend the night, and bathe your feet; then you may be on your way early.” But they said, “No, we will spend the night in the square.” But he urged them strongly, so they turned his way and entered his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread and they ate.

Rebekah (Bereshit 24:15-20)

He had scarcely finished speaking, when Rebekah... came out with her jar on her shoulder. The maiden was very beautiful... She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. The servant ran toward her and said, “Please, let me sip a little water from your jar.” “Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink. When she had let him drink his fill, she said, “I will also draw for your camels, until they finish drinking.” Quickly emptying her jar into the trough, she ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.



Building Community Through Hospitality

- Many of the articles involved food and location
- Supper clubs popular with young adults
- How can we be hospitable in communal spaces? Who takes responsibility and how can we foster a sense of ownership?

Places we might bring this to

- Shabbat
- Airport
- Sanctuary
- New congregants
- Restaurants



Hevrutah Study

■ Goal: Develop a companion guide for families or groups of people to take with them to supplement an experience

■ Where are places?

■ Brainstorm an experience we can develop

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Thank you!



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