

JCI CURRICULUM: UNIT 1: CHAPTER 6 – TRUTH AND PEACE
LESSON PLANS: LESSON 2: HOW TO REBUKE YOUR FRIENDS!

LESSON 2: HOW TO REBUKE YOUR FRIENDS! (45 mins – 1 hour)

Goals

For students to:

- interpret the connection between the different parts of Leviticus 19:17-18, in particular, “Love your neighbor”, “Do not hate your neighbor in your heart”, and “Rebuke your neighbor”
- apply the concept of *hocheach tocheeach* to their own lives
- integrate the text discussions from the previous class on the concept of *hocheach tocheeach*
- design and create a booklet reflecting their understanding and insights into the concept of *hocheach tocheeach*

Materials:

- Poster board
- Markers
- Colored markers, colored pens, paper, glue, magazines, newspapers and other art supplies for students
- Pens
- Paper / journals
- Text handouts
 - Leviticus 19:17-18 quote cards from chapter 6 lesson 2 (previous lesson)
 - Rambam *Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De’ot* 6:7

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Procedure

Opening Activity (15- 20 mins)

Only do this opening activity if you did not do the hocheach tocheeach lesson the previous week (Chapter 6 lesson 2).

- a) Ask students to pair up and think of an example when a friend did something they thought was wrong, for example: cheating in a test or treating someone else badly.
- b) Ask students to think about what they did in this situation:
 - did they tell their friend that they thought it was wrong?
 - Why/ why not?

Discuss in pairs.

c) If you have more time:

Ask some of the students to act out their scenario for the rest of the class. Discuss as a class.

OR:

Ask students to share their examples and discuss.

Or:

Opening Activity (15- 20 mins)

Only do this opening activity if you did not do the hocheach tocheeach lesson the previous week (Chapter 6 lesson 2).

- a) Divide students into pairs and give them one of the following case studies:
 - 1) You are driving with your friend in his car. He is not known to be the neatest fellow around and his car supports his reputation for messiness. You both stopped off at a 7-11 to get a drink. Now your friend has finished his. He opens his window and without missing a beat, tosses the cup out the window. What do you do?
 - 2) You are driving with your friend (both of you 20 years old) when he suggests you stop off at a strip mall. In this mall is a wine shop. As it turns out, your friend has “borrowed” his older brother’s college ID. He and his brother look very much alike and are often confused for twins. The owner of the store asks for identification. Your friend produces the purloined ID. What do you do?
 - 3) Your teacher carelessly left the answer guide to tomorrow’s test on her desk when she went to help a student in need. Someone in your class steps up to the desk and snaps a photo of the top page with his camera phone. Other students complain to him and he says he will send it to anyone who asks. What do you do?

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- b) Ask students to think about what they would do in this situation:
- would they tell their friend that they thought it was wrong?
 - Why/ why not?

Discuss in pairs.

- c) **If you have more time:**

Ask some of the students to act out their scenario for the rest of the class. Discuss as a class.

OR:

Ask students to share their examples and discuss.

Main Activity (30-35 mins)

- a) Divide students into groups of four – five. Each group should produce a “manual” called: **“HOW TO REBUKE YOUR FRIENDS”**. This manual can be a mini booklet, the kind that a school social worker or guidance counselor might hand out at a health class; it could be a mini “self help” book, in the line of “5 Simple Steps to Happiness” or “How to manage your manager”; or it could be a pullout in a teen magazine. Allot a specified amount of time, 25 minutes perhaps, to work on the manual.
- b) The manuals are expected to be well designed and nicely presented. You will be providing them with art supplies. They can use pictures and quotes from magazines and newspapers, different colored markers, etc.
- c) Students should consider the following questions in their manual:
- What does it mean to rebuke, scold, or otherwise hold accountable a friend for something they have done?
 - For which kinds of things is rebuking a friend worthwhile and for which things is it not worthwhile?
 - When is it a good idea to rebuke a friend and when is it not a good idea?
 - What is the best way to rebuke a friend?
 - Should you rebuke friends if you see them doing something wrong?
 - Should you only rebuke friends who are doing things wrong or should you also rebuke other people in your community?

Students should think about the following questions throughout the activity:

- Have you ever “rebuked” a friend?
- What gave you the courage to do so?
- What was the outcome?

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- How did you feel?
 - Would you do it again?
- d) At the end of the allotted time, provide a 5 minute exhibition session, for students to circulate and look at each others' manuals. Ultimately these can be displayed on the wall of the classroom.

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Exercise #2 (15 -20 mins) Concluding Discussion

a) Hand out the following text and read aloud:

רמב"ם הלכות דעות פרק ו הלכה ז

המוכיח את חברו בין בדברים שבינו לבינו, בין בדברים שבינו לבין המקום, צריך להוכיחו בינו לבין עצמו, וידבר לו בנחת ובלשון רכה ויודיעו שאינו אומר לו אלא לטובתו להביאו לחיי העולם הבא, אם קיבל ממנו מוטב ואם לאו יוכיחנו פעם שניה ושלישית, וכן תמיד חייב אדם להוכיחו עד שיכהו החוטא ויאמר לו איני שומע

If you rebuke a friend, whether about an issue that concerns the two of you or an issue that is between him and God, must rebuke him in private and speak to him gently with soft language, and inform him that you are only telling him for his benefit and to bring him to “the next world”. If he accepts the rebuke, that is good, and if he doesn’t, you must rebuke him a second time and a third time. And thus a person is always obligated to rebuke him, until the transgressor strikes him and says he is not listening.

(Rambam (Maimonides) *Mishneh Torah*, Laws of Character Traits (*Hilchot De’ot* 6:7))

- a) Ask students:
- Whose manuals agreed with the Rambam’s explanation of the mitzvah?
 - Which parts do you agree with and why?
 - Whose manuals disagreed with the Rambam’s explanation of the mitzvah?
 - Which parts do you disagree with and why?
- b) Discuss the benefits of rebuking a friend in a private place
- c) Discuss the benefits of using a gentle tone of voice
- d) Remind students of the context of the verses from Leviticus 19:17 -18 present during chapter 6 lesson 2 (the previous lesson). Show them the verses again.
- e) Ask students to interpret the reason why the commandment *hocheach tocheach* is found between:

לֹא-תִשְׂנֵא אֶת-אָחִיךָ, בְּלִבְךָ

Do not hate your neighbor in your heart

and

וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ

And love your fellow as yourself

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Handout -

Rambam *Mishneh Torah, Hilchot De'ot* 6:7:

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