

# EXPANDING OUR MORAL TERRITORY

## HOW HAVE YOU CHANGED?

### FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

#### NAME TAGS:

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Please ask everyone in the group to wear a name tag. Even if most people know one another, it is important that no one feel uncomfortable for not remembering everyone else's name.

#### INTRODUCTION AND ICE-BREAKER:

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Have everyone give their name, and name one way you have changed since this group began to meet. (It can be related to your discussions or not).

#### BIG QUESTION FOR THIS SESSION: "HOW HAVE WE CHANGED, AND WHERE ARE WE HEADED?"

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Over the course of the past 7 sessions, you have had the opportunity to explore some of the big questions we face when considering how best to engage in social justice work. This session will allow you to reflect back on how those conversations have affected how you think about social justice work, and how they might inform your choices as you move forward.

#### OPENING ACTIVITY:

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Attached, you will find 7 pages with questions that have been raised in your earlier conversations. Before the session begins, post these statements around the room (or place them around the table).

- (1) Ask everyone to walk around the room (or table), read each question, and then stand next to the question that has stuck with them the most over the course of your time together. In other words: "Which is the question that you continue to grapple with the most?"
- (2) Ask participants to find a partner (or two). (You can pair people with those who picked the same question or a different question depending on what seems to make the most sense given the distribution) Once every participant has found a partner, ask the pairs (or trios) to talk about the following questions:
  - a. Why has this question stuck with you? What thoughts or emotions does it raise?
  - b. Has your personal thinking or practice changed with respect to this question over the course of the group's time together?
  - c. Which of the questions seemed most "settled" for you?

Bring the group back together and ask a few volunteers to share any insights or questions that emerged from their conversations.

## “JEWISH VOICES”

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Attached is a text-study sheet entitled “Jewish Voices: Expanding Our Moral Territory” that you may use to facilitate a discussion about how you might continue to engage with the questions raised in this series of discussions.

Here are some things to consider:

- (a) It is customary to recite a blessing before studying Torah.

**BARUCH** atah, Adonai  
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav  
v'tzivanu laasok b'divrei Torah.

בָּרַךְ אַתָּה, יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַי  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְעִסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה.

**BLESSED ARE YOU**, Adonai our God,  
Sovereign of the universe,  
who hallows us with mitzvot,  
commanding us to engage with words of Torah.

- (b) Our tradition teaches us that Torah study can be a source of healing and blessing. You may want to ask members of the group if they would like to dedicate their study to anyone in particular. This is a nice way to help the group get to know one another, and to learn about significant events in each other's lives.
- (c) Depending on the preferences of your group, you may choose to distribute this sheet the week before the meeting, so that participants will be familiar with the texts, and can begin to think about their own responses.
- (d) You can choose to either work through the texts as one group, or to break up into pairs (“hevruta”) for an initial period of discussion, and then allow the pairs to share something they learned with the group.
- (e) The ultimate goal of these groups is not for participants to master a particular number of Jewish texts, but to connect with one another. If group members are sharing their own stories and experiences in a way that seems fruitful, there is no need to cut off that conversation in order to make sure you “finish” the text sheet. If you are unsure, you can always poll the group to decide whether it is time to move on.

## CONCLUSION

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We recommend that you wind down the text study about 15 minutes before the end of the session, to allow for a meaningful conclusion. This conclusion may take any shape you wish. Some possibilities are:

- (a) Ask each person to name one insight they have gained, or one question that they are taking with them.  
(b) Ask each person to offer a blessing to the group, drawn from your learning together.  
(c) Ask each person to say one word to represent how they are feeling coming out of your discussion.

# What is Jewish About Social Justice Work?

How do we respect the  
dignity of those we  
serve?

How do we balance our obligations to our local community vs. the global community?

How do we balance our  
obligation to support  
other Jews and our  
obligations to others?

What kind of service is best?

(Giving, direct service, advocacy)

How Much Should I  
Give?

What is my vision for a  
more just world?