

קהילה K'HILLAH

Family *Schmooze* # 3

This week, children expanded their understanding of a *k'hillah*, a community of people joined together for a common cause. Using a video that shares the broad *k'hillah* that is involved in, and supports Leket, Israel's national food bank, children saw that *k'hillah* members have responsibilities to each other. They also talked about times when we cannot see everyone involved in a *k'hillah*. <https://tinyurl.com/y4l9ghcy>.

In the case of Leket – the volunteers could not see the farmers, the donors, nor the recipients of Leket's work. But, they understood that the Leket *k'hillah* was larger than those who worked in the field the day that the video was filmed.

In the case of our own *k'hillah*, we talked about not always being able to see each other, but that we hopefully share a sense of community and a sense of responsibility to each other. It's a give and take.

Your child may now understand enough about the idea of a *k'hillah* to talk about ones that they belong to and consider the idea of reciprocity – that they give to others in their *k'hillah* and others give to them. In a true *k'hillah*, it's never tit-for-tat – one-for-one. As someone said in relation to marriage, no, it's not 50-50, it's more like 90-90.

In researching this module, we found this story that represents so well the reciprocity of obligations between a *k'hillah* and its individual members. This is for you; we did not share it with the children:

A story is told.... In a mountain village in Europe many centuries ago, there was a rich person who wondered what legacy he might be able to leave for his townspeople. At last he decided to build a synagogue. No one saw the plans for the building until it was finished.

When the people came for the first time they marveled at its beauty and completeness then someone asked, "Where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?" The rich person pointed to brackets which were all through the synagogue on the walls. Then he gave each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to the synagogue. "Each time you are not here," he said, "that part of the synagogue will be unlit. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come here, especially when the community needs you, some part of God's house will be dark."

Our world needs light. And we are obligated to bring it. [No source]

