

קהילה

K'HILLAH

## Family Schmooze # 4

We can underestimate the difficulty that it takes to join a new group, a new community, whether for ourselves or our children. This past session we learned the story of a non-Jewish person who came to two very famous teachers who lived 2000 years ago and asked each to teach him the Torah while he stood on one foot. In the original version (found in the Talmud, an ancient Jewish book), the man was portrayed as disrespectful in his request. In our retelling, we added our own spin and emphasized that he wanted to join the Jewish community. One of the rabbis (Shammai) swung a stick to chase him away, while the other (Hillel) told the man, "Do not do anything to another person that you wouldn't want them to do to you. The rest of the Torah's stories and Jewish laws explain that one teaching."

While this person's tactic was pretty unusual for joining a new *k'hillah* (community), it could be considered pretty creative! Our *k'vutzah* brainstormed steps to joining a new *k'hillah*, whether it be a sports team, youth group, new class of students, bunk at camp, or synagogue. In that vein, you may have seen a note attached to your child's shoe - that was our way of getting at the steps-to-join-a-new-*k'hillah*. 😊

Feel free to refer back to the Hillel story (also available as a book for 5-9 year olds by Linda Glaser, [On One Foot](#)) or keep an eye out for other stories that share strategies for joining new groups. It is a great opportunity to continue brainstorming strategies with your child. At whatever point the world returns to "normal" in-person gatherings, children will be challenged with the need to step forward and connect with others.

