Lema'an Achai Presents

What Would YOU Do?

MIND-ENGAGING DISCUSSIONS FOR YOUR SHABBOS TABLE

למען אחי Lema'an Achai

lemaanachai.org

Welcome to
Lema'an Achai's

Family Discussion Cards!

We created these cards to help bring meaningful conversations about chesed and tzedakah to your family table. The stories are based on real-life situations that inspire thought, emotion, and action. These are the types of questions we all face, and talking about them together helps us grow as individuals and as a family.

How it works:

Each story comes with three cards:

1. A short story to read together.
2. Thoughtful questions to spark discussion.
3. Torah sources.

These are meant to be simple, family-friendly discussions that get everyone — kids and adults — thinking and talking about kindness, responsibility, and making a difference.

Important Note:

These cards are not meant to provide halachic answers. For real-life questions, please consult your Rav. The ideas shared here are for the sake of learning and discussion only.

We hope these cards spark meaningful moments around your table — and help you build a home filled with chesed.

Lema'an Achai and our new building

Lema'an Achai has always believed in Smart Chesed — helping people in a way that not only supports them today, but helps them build a stronger tomorrow.

That's why we created these **Family Discussion Cards** — because meaningful change starts with meaningful conversations. And that's also why we're building **The International Chesed Center** in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

This new building will give us the space to grow our programs — from emergency assistance to emotional support, job training, and more — all under one roof. It's a place where families will be treated with dignity, where volunteers and professionals will work together, and where the values of kindness and responsibility will come to life.

Just as these cards are meant to inspire thoughtful action around your table, our new Chesed Center will **allow Lema'an Achai to continue helping families move from crisis to independence — with care, compassion, and community.**

CASE 1

A MANAGER'S DILEMMA

Promote the neediest or the most qualified?

The Story

Gideon is a manager at a big company. He needs to choose someone for an important job.

One choice is Ariel, who has worked at the company a long time. He's very good at his job and the company trusts him.

The other choice is Yossi. Yossi is new and doesn't have much experience, but he's very talented. Yossi also has a big problem: he has six kids and doesn't have enough money. If he gets this job, he can properly support his family.

Gideon has a tough choice. Should he pick Ariel, who will help the company right away? Or should he pick Yossi, to help a family in need?

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE 1

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

Why do you think this decision feels so hard for Gideon? Would it be different if he was the owner of the company rather than the manager?

2.

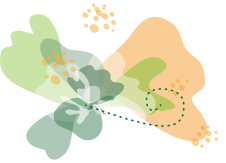
Should you help someone in need, even if it might hurt your business, or cause it to lose money?

3.

How would Ariel feel if he finds out that he was passed over, and that Yossi got the job because he's poor?

CASE 1

MAREH MEKOMOS



Bereishit

31: 38 - 40

Rambam, Hilchot Sechirut

13 Halacha 7

MAIMONIDES 8 LEVELS OF CHARITY

The Rambam taught that there are *eight different ways* to give tzedakah. All of them are good — but some are superior because they help people in a kinder, smarter way.

LEVEL 8 — THE IDEAL

Helping someone become strong on their own. This is the best kind of giving: helping someone get a job, learn a skill, or start working again, so they won't need help in the future.

LEVEL 7

No one knows!
You give, and no one knows who gave or who got the help.

LEVEL 6

You know who you're helping — but they don't know you. You give secretly, so the person doesn't feel embarrassed.

LEVEL 5

You don't know who you're helping — but they know you. You give, and they know who gave it — but you don't know who they are.

LEVEL 4

Giving before someone asks.
You see someone needs help and you help right away, without waiting.

LEVEL 3

Giving after someone asks you.
You help someone who needs it, but only after they ask.

LEVEL 2

Giving a little — but nicely.
You smile and give kindly, but it's less than what you are really able to give.

LEVEL 1

Giving because you have to.
You give, but only because someone pressures you to do so, or because you feel embarrassed not to.

***Which kind** of giving do you think is the most special?*

***Can you think** of a time you helped someone in one of these ways?*

CASE 2

Rivka's Tough Choice

The Story

Rivka runs a charity that helps families in need. One family she helps is the Cohen family — a single mother and her four children. Every month, Rivka makes sure they receive food, rent help, and more. Mrs. Cohen has job training and has worked in the past. But since things got hard, she has found it easier to get help from the charity than to go back to work. Rivka offers classes and support to help people become independent. But Mrs. Cohen doesn't take those steps. Now Rivka has a hard choice:

Should she keep giving the same amount of assistance, because the family still needs it?

Or should she slowly decrease the help, hoping this will influence Mrs. Cohen to begin working again?

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE 2

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

What's better: giving a family money every month, or helping them get a job so they can earn money on their own?

2.

What would you do if you wanted to help someone, but they weren't doing their utmost to help themselves?

3.

What could Rivka do to help Mrs. Cohen feel ready to start working again?

MAREH MEKOMOS

Kli Yakar to Shemot
23:5

Emet L'Yaakov
Yoreh Deah 253

Shevet Hakehati
5:177

Igrot Moshe
Yoreh Deah 4:37

Shulchan Aruch
Yoreh Deah 253:10

Teshuvot Maharshdam
Yoreh Deah 167

WHAT DOES
LEMA'AN ACHAI DO?

Smart Chesed aims to help people through — then out of — crisis, by providing impoverished families with the tools to cope with financial — and other — challenges in their lives.

THE LEMA'AN ACHAI PROCESS

CASE 3

Can You Ask Again?

The Story

Yael helps run a small charity that gives money and food to single mothers who are in trouble. She cares a lot about this cause and works hard to keep the charity going.

She knows a man named Reuven. He owns a business and gives tzedakah (charity) to many places. Yael calls him and explains how the charity helps moms feed their children. Then she asks him to give a donation.

Reuven is kind, but he says, "I already give to other causes. I don't have any more money to give right now."

Yael wants to ask again. She thinks this cause is very important — maybe even more than some of the others he supports. She wants to say, "You help yeshivas and shuls — but what about mothers who can't feed their kids?"

But then she stops to think. Is it okay to pressure someone to give tzedakah? Or would that be pushing too hard?

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE 3

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

Is it ever okay to ask someone twice for tzedakah — or should "no" mean "no"?

2.

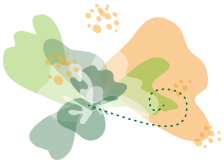
How can you ask someone to help with something important without making them feel like they have to say yes?

3.

Was there a time you wanted to ask for help but weren't sure how?

CASE 3

MAREH MEKOMOS



Bava Batra 8b

Rambam
Matanot L'Aniyim

7:7

Rema

Yoreh Deah 249:4

Machane Efraim

Tzedaka, chapter 7

Ketzot Hachoshen

87:21, 212:4

What the Torah and Chazal Say About Tzedakah

Tzedaka is a trait that characterizes the descendants of Avrohom Avinu.
Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 34:1

Giving tzedaka is better than all the Korbanos.
Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 34:1

No one ever becomes poor out of giving tzedaka, and no bad thing, nor damage, comes from tzedaka.
Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 34:1

A person should think: just as he davens to Hashem for Parnassa (livelihood), and Hashem provides for him, so too should a person listen to the poor.
Kitzur Shulchan Aruch 34:1

One who gives charity in secret is greater than Moshe Rabbenu.
Bava Batra 9b

One who gives even a peruta (small coin) to the poor merits to receive the presence of God.
Bava Batra 10a

Whoever gives even a small coin to a poor man receives six blessings, but whoever speaks reassuringly to him receives eleven blessings.
Bava Batra 9b

CASE 4

How Much Should You Give?

The Story

Sarah is a kind and generous person. Every month, she gives 10% of her earnings to tzedakah. One month, she learns that a neighbor, Miriam, is having a hard time, and needs help to buy food and pay bills. Sarah feels really bad for Miriam and wants to help.

Sarah starts thinking: "Should I give more than 10% this time to help Miriam? If I do, my family might become worried about money.

Is it okay to give more than 10% of my money? Should I give beyond what I usually plan for, even if it means I won't have as much available for other things?"

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE 4

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

Should it ever feel difficult to give tzedakah?

2.

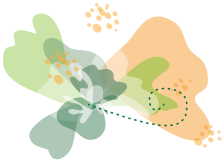
How do you decide when to help others and when to focus on your own family's needs first?

3.

What would you do if someone close to you needed help — but it meant giving more than you usually do?

CASE
4

MAREH MEKOMOS



Yoreh Deah

249:1, 250:4;

Igrot Moshe

Yoreh Deah 1:143

Rema

Yoreh Deah 251:3

Let's Talk About **Kindness and Community**

- **What** are some unmet needs you see in your community?
  (Examples: people who are lonely, families who need help, children who need school supplies)
- **What** are some ways we can help — even if we don't have money to give?
  (Examples: visiting someone, sharing a toy, writing a kind note)
- **What** are the most important things a community needs to remain strong and caring?
- **What** does it mean to give with dignity? How can we make sure that people feel respected when we help them?
- **What** do I have to give — time, talent, personal items, kindness — that could help someone else?
- **Is it ever hard to give?**
  If so, why? How can we work through those feelings?
- **What** does Hashem want from us when we see someone in need?

CASE
5

How Much Should David Give?

The Story

David is a kind and caring man. He has a wife and four children, and he works at a steady job to take care of his family. Right now, David's family is saving money for Pesach, which is going to be very costly. David has saved up 1,000 shekels, but the Pesach expenses are going to deplete most of it.

One day, someone comes to David and says he doesn't have any food in his fridge and can't feed his family. David feels really bad. He has the extra money put aside for Pesach.

Now David is not sure what to do. Should he give the man his money, even though when Pesach arrives in a few months, he might not have enough, and he might need to borrow money? Or should he keep his money, to make sure his own family has what they need for Pesach?

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE 5

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.

Should someone give tzedakah even if it means that they will need help themselves at a later time?

2.

Is saving money for your own needs a type of responsibility, just like giving tzedakah is?

3.

Can saying “no” sometimes be the right choice — even when someone really needs help?

4.

How can we balance caring for others and taking care of our own future at the same time?

CASE 5

MAREH MEKOMOS

Rema

Yoreh Deah 251:3

Shulchan Aruch

Orach Chaim 429

CASE
6

How Should the Levy Family Divide Their Tzedakah?

The Story

The Levy family is very careful about giving tzedakah. Every time someone in the family earns money — even for babysitting — they put a portion into the family pushka (charity box). At the end of each month, they count what they've collected and decide together where to donate the money.

One month, they counted 475 shekels. Just that week, three different tzedakah requests arrived at their door:

Their uncle Dovid lost his job and needs help buying groceries.

A scholarship fund is trying to send a local child to sleepaway camp.

A group in Yerushalayim is making Shabbos meals for elderly people who live alone.

Now the family has a dilemma:

- Should they split the money equally between all three causes?
- Should they choose one or two causes and give larger amounts?

WHAT WOULD **YOU** DO?

CASE
6

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What do you think the Levy family should do?

1.

Is it better to help a few people with more — or many people with less?

2.

If you had to pick one of the three causes, which would you choose — and why?

3.

Should the family give more to a relative, like Uncle Dovid, or treat everyone the same?

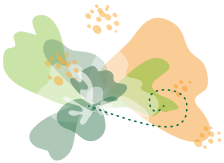
CASE
6

MAREH MEKOMOS

Eruvin 63a

Shulchan Aruch
Yoreh Deah 257:9

Rambam
Avot
3:15



Thank You for Joining the Conversation

We hope these stories and questions brought thoughtful discussions, new ideas, and meaningful moments to your family table.

Talking about tzedakah and chesed helps us grow into people who notice the needs around us, care deeply about others, and look for ways to make a difference.

At Lema'an Achai, we believe that building a stronger, kinder community starts at home — with families like yours.

As we look ahead to our new ***International Chesed Center,*** *we're excited to create even more space for helping, teaching, and growing — together.*

Thank you for being part of the Lema'an Achai family.

Let's keep the conversation going — and keep spreading kindness, one action at a time.

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