



**The Small Jewish Communities Project**  
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## Family Discussion – Jewish Values and their Historical Roots<sup>1</sup>

Goals: 1) To both clarify the values of the given family as well as the historical and Jewish roots of their values. 2) To bring together families in the community in an exploration of family differences and similarities as Jewish families locally and globally. 3) To encourage families to live out their Jewish values in real-time.

1. **Introduction** (5 minutes): A Project to Discuss and Clarify Jewish Values
  - a. Families can work independently or in groups of two families
  - b. Each family will receive:
    - i. A stack of 3x5 cards
    - ii. A list of Jewish values
    - iii. Printed sheets with notes & photos from the film
    - iv. A list of Jewish values and their antecedents
  - c. We will be watching a short video, during which we will have popcorn.
  
2. **Values List** (15 minutes): Using the 3x5 cards provided, chose those values from the list (at least 5) most important to your family as a whole – one value per card. If you don't see one listed, you may make your own card. Hint: This may take some compromise on the part of various family members!
  - a. Each group will be given one question to discuss with relation to their value set:
    - i. What are our obligations to each other?
    - ii. What are our obligations to our community?
    - iii. What are our obligations to our country?
    - iv. What are our obligations to the world?
  
  - b. Share the lists and obligations with the large group.

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted, in part, from the Centropa Family Education Program *Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Re'echa/Do Not Stand Idly By Your Neighbor's Blood*, designed by Ilona Schechter at Gideon Hausner Day School. Video and additional materials available at [bit.ly/SarajevoFriendship](http://bit.ly/SarajevoFriendship).

3. **Let All Who are Hungry Come and Eat** (30 minutes):

Watch the short film, *Survival in Sarajevo: Friendship in a Time of War*.

- a. Utilizing the printouts for reminders, what Jewish values did you see expressed in the film?
  - i. Note your findings on the appropriate 3x5 card
- b. How does your family express these values?
  - i. Note your conclusions on the appropriate 3x5 card
  - ii. Take a family photo or video of how your family lives out these values.  
- we will do our best to collect these and have them available for sharing

4. **How do you know it's Jewish?** (20 minutes)

Judaism shares values with other religions, cultures and even political parties. So, the question is, how do we know that a certain value which we hold dear is actually a *Jewish value* and not something we have picked up somewhere else?

- c. Utilize the Jewish Values Antecedents page to match the historical teaching to the values you have chosen
- d. What other ways might you be certain that the values you have chosen are Jewish values?

5. **A Family Values Statement** (15 minutes):

- e. Each family is given a piece of paper with an image of a frame around the edges
- f. Task 1: Write a family values mission statement, list, word cloud or collage.
- g. Task 2: Chose one of the values that your family will focus on for the rest of the year and name three specific ways you will live that value, and how you will know that you did.

6. **Conclusion and Dismissal** (5 minutes)