

Oz Davidian

STORIES OF BRAVERY



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[Short video](#)

Oz Davidian, 57, is a lawyer and farmer from Moshav Maslul in Southern Israel. On October 7th, he left his wife and 4 children in their safe room, risking his own life in order to save young people from the Nova Festival. Oz made 15 trips back and forth from the site in his personal pickup truck, ultimately saving the lives of 120 people.

Interview Quotes

"Each person is a world unto themselves - a complete world. It was 120 people, but each one is a world unto themselves. We now have a WhatsApp group together and we interact on a frequent basis. I have become like their adopted father. They call me Dad, "Abush," and send me messages, and I meet up with them. Indeed, we look out for each other. At the end of the day, this unity and togetherness is what lifts up our spirits."

"I kept it up like a machine. I had nothing in view except bringing them out. In the middle of the day I went home for ten minutes to reassure my wife, to tell her everything is okay, to marshal a little strength, and she told me she understood what I was doing. 'Go ahead,' she told me. 'You're doing important work.'"

I don't think that I'm a hero. I think that the heroes are these kids. They were the ones who were in the chaos and firing zone the entire day. I was the messenger sent to rescue them and return them home. I had the privilege to be successful at that."

"Fear is with you, for sure, but you put fear aside because – if I don't bring them out, no one will. And how can you stand on the sidelines? I know it's a miracle that I stayed alive. There were times they shot at me, both when I was alone and when I had survivors in the pickup. I can't explain how I lived through it."

"Look at the people of Israel – how we've become a single fabric, a single unit. We have a spirit that no one else on the planet has. We have love of the homeland and love of humankind. I don't think there's another people who possesses strengths like ours."

Activity Idea:

Print cards with excerpts of quotes from Oz Davidian's interview. Print cards with texts from traditional sources. Have students choose which traditional text best connects with each of the quotes. Have students present, compare, and explain their choices.

Traditional Texts

"Who is a hero? – Someone who conquers their natural instincts"
Pirkei Avot 1

"It was for this reason that man was first created as one person [Adam], to teach that anyone who destroys a life is considered to have destroyed an entire world; and anyone who saves a life is as if he saved an entire world." -
Sanhedrin 4:5

"Do not stand by at your neighbor's blood. I am Hashem."
Leviticus 19:16

"All of Israel are responsible for each other."
Shavuot 39a

"It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it"
Pirkei Avot 2