

Lesson #2:

Supporting Israel from Afar

Topic Areas: Israel at War, Jewish values

Grade Level: Grades 7-9

Abstract:

In this lesson, students will compare different forms of solidarity that Jews worldwide have shown to Israel since October 7th. Through an interactive debate, students will consider which types of support they deem most valuable and meaningful. This lesson can be connected to the midrashic idea that the Four Species represent four types of Jews, each contributes to the collective in his/her way.

Lesson Goals:



1. Students will understand that there are different ways people show support and solidarity for Israel.
2. Students will reflect on how they personally can express their solidarity.

Lesson Plan:

1. Introduction: Write the words “Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh B’Zeh” on the board. Translate or explain depending on student level. Ask students to share ways Diaspora communities have demonstrated this value since October 7. Examples:

- Raise and send money to Israel
- Organize and attend pro-Israel rallies
- Visit war sites like Kibbutzim and Nova in Israel - “bear witness”
- Volunteer on farms in Israel
- Add special prayers for peace, hostages, soldiers, injured
- Share pro-Israel memes and messages and videos on social media

2. Divide students into 3 groups and distribute the “newspaper.” Students will read all articles and then each group will be assigned one of the three forms of solidarity described:

- 1 social media advocacy 2 financial contributions 3 volunteering

3. Debate: Each group will choose a representative to debate why their act of solidarity is the most valuable and meaningful.

4. Since the students were assigned their category, it is important to give them the opportunity at the end of class or for homework to choose which act of solidarity they **believe to be most valuable**. Another meaningful assignment could be for them to create their own newspaper with three inspirational stories that express the value of mutual “Areyvut”.

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SPECIAL EDITION	<h1>Yad B'Yad</h1>	SPECIAL EDITION
KOL YISRAEL AREVIM ZEH LZEH		
<h1>TOP STORIES</h1>		
<h3>DIASPORA JEWS VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL AMID GAZA WAR,</h3>  <p>The Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs has brought thousands of volunteers to Israel since last November. The volunteers, aged 18 - 40, work in the agricultural sector, providing packages to those in need, and more. Because Israel <u>relies heavily</u> on foreign workers who fled after”</p> <p>October 7, Israel's farmers were forced to rely on volunteer help in the fields and the orchards in order to survive.</p> <p>Amanda Oppenheimer from New York City said: "Ever since Oct. 7, I've been struggling with everything going on and trying to figure out how I can support Israel from New York. Giving donations wasn't enough. I felt like I was being drawn to Israel and needed to show the people there that we care about them and that they should see our dedication in person,"</p> <p>Russ Krivor, a community leader noted that the volunteer help is significant at this time.</p> <p>"We must go and help the country in any way we can: assisting farmers with the fall harvest, delivering crucial supplies, writing Torah scrolls with soldiers, and supporting displaced families.</p>	<h3>DONATIONS TO ISRAEL SINCE OCTOBER 7 TOPPED \$1.4 BILLION, GOVERNMENT REPORTS</h3>  <p>Organizations and individuals around the world have donated at least \$1.4 billion toward Israel's recovery from the attack of October 7, according to a new report published by the Diaspora Affairs Ministry.</p> <p>Most of the funds were collected through</p> <p>Federations but another method for collecting funds was through crowdfunding. The ministry found that approximately \$91.5m. were raised by crowdfunding alone, with more than half raised for United Hatzalah, Israel's volunteer emergency medical corps.</p> <p>The report categorized the donations to understand which parts of Israeli society were assisted throughout the war. Medical and emergency services received a cumulative total of over \$220m., around 18.19% of the total funds raised.</p> <p>Another substantial category was for civil activities in the evacuated Gaza Strip border communities, victims of terrorism, and bereaved families.</p>	
<h3>SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER MONTANA TUCKER</h3>  <p>Since October 7, Montana Tucker, a Jewish-American singer has put herself at the forefront of Israeli advocacy as she uses her influence on social media to explain to the world what happened in Israel on October 7.</p> <p>Tucker, who has more than 3 million followers on Instagram (in addition to 9 million on TikTok), has uploaded videos and photos from the communities devastated by Hamas's attack. She has posted speeches at rallies and tried to interview people at campus protests. She is not afraid of losing popularity because of her unwavering support for Israel</p> <p>"There are still 132 hostages held in Gaza and they should be on everyone's mind. Since Oct. 7, I have been using my platform to call for their freedom and I will not stop until their return."</p>		

