

CORNERSTONE 2017 RESOURCE

Tzedakah Ladder *Spin It!*

AUTHOR(S):	Asya Gribov
SUMMARY:	Participants will learn about Maimonides' "Ladder of Tzedakah" –Submitted by Asya Gribov
TOPIC(S):	Tzedakah, Jewish values, Historic Jewish Figures, Jewish Text
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will learn about Maimonides' Ladder of <i>Tzedakah</i> Participants will evaluate the value of ranking <i>mitzvot</i> . Participants will begin to formulate their own ranking of <i>Tzedakah</i> for the modern day.
AUDIENCE:	Ages 10+ Small – medium group size (ideal in sets of 8)
TIMING:	20-30 minutes
APPENDICES:	Maimonides 8- Handout 1 (Print and Cut Out) Maimonides Bio and Ladder – Handout 2
MATERIALS NEEDED:	N/A
SET-UP DETAILS:	Any space where participants can move about freely. Can also be done on a staircase if space and audience permitted.

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Arrange Yo' Self (5-10 minutes)

Standing in a line, participants receive a piece of paper with a scenario on it. Each piece of paper has a scenario of a person doing *Tzedakah*. Participants read their scenario and decide if their scenario and decide "how good of a mitzvah" their slip is. Participants share their scenario with someone standing next to them. Participants must decide which scenario is a better *mitzvah* or practice of *Tzedakah*. The better *mitzvah* must move higher in line. Through discussion, they must arrange themselves from what might be the lowest form of *Tzedakah* to the highest.

Once participants have arranged themselves they should discuss the activity.

Discussion (5-10 minutes)

- Which scenario is at the top? Which scenario is at the bottom?
- Does anyone disagree with their place? Did someone convince you to stand where you are standing?
- How did you convince someone that your scenario was a better mitzvah?
- What questions do you have?
- Does it seem appropriate to rank these expressions of giving?
- Should we value one type of giving over another?

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What did Maimonides Say? (10 minutes)

Hand out the biography of Maimonides and Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah.

After participants have read the 8 rankings, have participants match their scenarios to the rankings.

Assess if their arrangement is in agreement with Maimonides ranking.

Discussion:

- Are Maimonides' ideas still relevant today?
- What variations might be made for today's world (money, time, organizations, vs. individuals, causes)?

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

You could extend this program to be longer:

- Participants can work in groups to create a ladder of giving that is relevant for today's time.
- What would be the deciding factors of the rankings (amount of money; amount of time; giving to individuals vs. organizations; specific causes; amount of people helped)?