

Definitions of *Tzedakah* *Spin It!*

AUTHOR(S):	Josh Lake
SUMMARY:	Participants will learn the difference between Charity and Tzedakah and investigate their personal relationship with Tzedakah. - Submitted by Josh Lake
TOPIC(S):	Tzedakah, Giving
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People can have VERY different definitions of the SAME word. 2. Learn about the difference between Charity and Tzedakah. 3. Investigate a personal relationship with Tzedakah.
AUDIENCE:	20 people or less, ages 11 and up.
TIMING:	20 minutes
APPENDICES:	None
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Markers, Butcher paper, pens/pencils. Check book (cover only!)
SET-UP DETAILS:	None

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Introduction: (3 minutes) Leader says they are going to write a “HUGE check” to charity.

Then, leader makes out a physically HUGE/BIG CHECK to local charity for *tzedakah*. (Everyone expects this to be a large dollar amount, but it is actually just a large piece of paper) This leads to a conversation about how the size of a donation doesn’t matter; it’s the *kavannah* behind the gift that matters.

Have participants define *Kavannah*.

5 minutes

Definitions:

Leader asks everyone to write down each bolded word (below) in their own notebook then to write a definition of that word. Give this some thought, as you will be sharing these with the group.

What is **Tzedakah**?

What is the root? "**Tzedek**"

Everyone write a definition of "**Tzedakah**"

Write definition of "**giving**"

Write definition of **Tzedek (Justice)**

Everyone write definition of **giving**

Write definition of **charity**

What is the difference between giving and charity?

5 minutes

Have participants get in partners and share your definitions, then bring the group back together for a larger share.

3 minutes:

Introduce the following thoughts and questions to the participants:

All these words have some internal meaning to us. This exercise has shown how differently our answers can be for *the same words* even though we all come from fairly similar backgrounds. What about our campers? What about non-Jews? What about non-Americans? What about non-westerners?

How can our words influence our actions? What is the *Kavannah* of giving, charity, Tzedek, and Tzedakah?

Conclusion: How can you redefine "giving"? How can you apply "giving" to camp?