



**BNEI AKIVA**  
OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

# CHOVERET CHINUCH #2 5784

A R E V U T

H A D A D I T

*The Choveret Chinuch is a project of Bnei Akiva of the US and Canada's Chinuch department. For comments or questions, please reach out to Rav Avishai Berman at [aberman@bneiakiva.org](mailto:aberman@bneiakiva.org)*



Dear Madrichim,

Last week we spoke about Avraham hearing the calling of “Lech lecha”, and how he chose to follow it. These next two weeks we will focusing on the noseh of “Arevut hadadit”, the responsibility of Jews towards each other in both our local and broader communities all across the globe. We’ll learn about various Chessed organizations and initiatives that have been active during the current war in Israel. We will also discuss Mitzvot that require more than ourselves to complete. We will see how your Chanichim can actively participate in various acts of kindness and Mitzvot and learn to think about the community around them and the Jewish community worldwide.

Shani Becker

## Week One

When Jews are in need, we all come together as one to help each other out, from running a *Gmach* for anything one can imagine, to visiting the sick and elderly, to giving Tzedakah to those in need. Over the past few weeks, many Chessed opportunities have opened up both in Israel and worldwide. Individuals and communities have been finding different ways to help soldiers, their families, evacuees from the south, and more. On one of Israel's most popular news websites, 'Ynet,' there is a long listing of many volunteer opportunities for people to partake in.

Let's take a closer look at a few of these amazing initiatives happening right now.

**Leket Israel:** The Leket Israel organization purchased 320,000 cooked and nutritious meals for the elderly and homebound residents of the south. Leket provides food to these families through local organizations and grocery stores in the southern settlements, as needed. Leket assists in distributing prepaid credit cards to families whose income has been affected, and will distribute weekly cards of 250 Shekel to every person in need in the evacuation centers for the next several months.

**Sending a note to the Kotel:** The VLU organization offers Jews from Israel and across the world an online service that places notes in the Kotel. On the website, you can write a request or Tefilla. Representatives from the organization, who are based at the Aish Israel Visitor Center in the Old City, will print out the notes and put them into the Kotel.

<https://www.vlu.co.il/article/605>

**From New York with Love:** Idan Naor, a 39-year-old Israeli entrepreneur who lives in New York, is one of the leaders and organizers of the Israel support demonstrations, and is an activist in the field of mental health. He read many posts by Israelis in Israel who talked about difficulties they're facing due to the war. He began looking for Jewish and/or Israeli therapists and psychologists living in New York who could dedicate some time during their day to voluntarily talk with Israelis who are unable to sleep during those very same hours. Receiving many positive responses, "From New York with Love" was born. This website presents the volunteer therapists, their availability, areas of specialization and languages spoken, and allows Israelis to contact them directly.

For more info - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z5vKpMRCNY&t=44s>

### **Discussion points:**

- What motivates you to perform acts of kindness and good deeds?
- How do you think the concept of “Arevut” has evolved with advancements in technology and communication?
- Are there specific community initiatives or projects you’ve been involved with that you’re particularly proud of?
- How do you decide who to help and when to perform a good deed?
- Have you ever been on the receiving end of a good deed? How did it affect you?

### **Ideas for activities:**

- In order to succeed we must work together. The following activities focus on team building, and come to teach the chanichim that each person taking part in the activity has an important role, and that the rest of the group relies on them to be able to succeed, just like the Jewish People, where every individual is important and is able to make a big difference for the community and for Klal Yisrael.
1. Three legged race: Pair the chanichim up and have them tie their right leg to their partner’s left leg. Have them stand on one side of the room and race to the other side.
  2. See, run, build – **In this game the chanichim will test their communication skills and teamwork capabilities.**
    - Set up a structure using cups and popsicle sticks on one side of the room.
    - Divide the participants into groups of three. In each group, assign roles:
      - Person 1 is the “See” - they look at the structure.
      - Person 2 is the “Run” - they listen to Person 1’s description and then run to Person 3 to explain what needs to be done.
      - Person 3 is the “Builder” - they receive instructions from Person 2 and try to recreate the structure.
    - Person 1 (See) examines the structure and describes it to Person 2 (Run).
    - Person 2 (Run) listens to the description from Person 1 and then runs to Person 3 (Builder).
    - Person 3 (Builder) uses the instructions they receive from Person 2 to try and recreate the structure on the other side of the room.
    - Only Person 2 may move from their spot; Person 1 and Person 3 remain stationary in their respective places.

- The goal of the game is to replicate the structure using verbal instructions and clear communication.
- 3. Popcorn: have the chanichim try counting together to 20. The challenge is that any given number cannot be said more than once at the same time. If two or more chanichim say the same number, the count must be started from the beginning.
- 4. Pay it forward: make bracelets/stickers with the chanichim that say, "Caught doing a good deed". Have the chanichim give these out around the neighborhood.

## Week Two

A significant aspect of Judaism is our connection to family, community, and our nation. We are commanded in many Mitzvot, some of which are personal and can be fulfilled individually, while others are meant to be completed with the involvement of another person or a group.

These Mitzvot highlight our responsibility and 'Arvut Hadadit,' which means our mutual responsibility toward one another. They teach us the importance of supporting and assisting each other both physically and spiritually. These Mitzvot also emphasize how we are all connected one to the other - it is as if we are all, together, one unit.

Here are a few examples of Mitzvot that show our responsibility towards one another:

- Kibud Av VA'em - This Mizvah is one of the Aseret Hadibrot, and therefore one of the foundational values in our religion. It emphasizes that we must be grateful to those who provide for us and make us who we are. This Mitzvah requires us to respect and care for our parents. In addition to Hakarat HaTov, this Mitzvah comes to remind us that we are connected to our past.
- Bikur cholim - This Mitzvah is commanded to us by Chazal, it entails visiting the sick and comforting them. Chazal realized that showing empathy towards others minimizes their discomfort and goes so far as to say that visiting a sick individual diminishes his suffering. According to many opinions it is best to go in person, but if you are unable to do so or if the sick person prefers not to be seen in person, then reaching out by the phone also fulfills this Mitzvah. It's important to remember that while doing this Mitzvah one must always take in consideration the needs of the sick individual, if you are not sure, you can ask.
- Tzedakah - This Mitzvah is commanded to us in a number of places in the Torah, stating that we must help out fellow Jews in need. Sometimes this could mean providing money or food to someone in need, while other times it could mean helping them get a job or professional training. There are different levels of Tzdakah, with the highest level being giving in a way that maintains the dignity of the recipient. Sometimes we think Tzdaka is for others, but sometimes it's us who need help from others. This Mitzvah comes to teach us who we are all interconnected and need each other.

**Discussion points:**

- What other Mitzvot can you think of that involve responsibility towards other people?
- Why do you think some Mitzvot are done as an individual while others need to be done as a collective?
- Do you think there's a benefit to needing others in order to fulfill certain Mitzvot?

**Ideas for activities:**

1. Stand together: This activity involves all chanichim working together as a team to achieve success in a joint goal.

Have the chanichim all stand on a sheet. They must try to turn over the sheet while everyone is standing on it. If one person falls off they need to start again. To make it more challenging, you can time them and see how long it takes to successfully complete the task.

2. Arevut game: This activity has the chanichim depend on each other in order to complete their objective.

Each chanich will receive a sheet of paper with a task on it. When a chanich completes their task, it will signal the next chanich to do their task. (Feel free to add more per the number of chanichim you have)

Ideas for tasks:

- You are first, clap your hands
  - When someone claps their hands, sing "Shabbat Shalom"
  - When someone sings Shabbat shalom, run around the circle.
  - When someone runs around the circle, count to ten out loud.
  - When someone counts to ten, scratch your head.
  - When someone scratches their head, jump up and down.
  - When someone jumps up and down, say "mission complete".
3. Untangle string - This activity shows us that we are all connected, and by sharing and remembering, we can build stronger bonds with each other.  
For this activity, you'll need a long string. One chanich starts by asking a question and throws the string to another chanich, but continues holding onto a piece of their string. The chanich who catches the string answers the question and then asks another question to someone else in the group. This process continues. At the end of the round, you reverse the order and throw the string back. The challenge is to remember the questions you asked and the answers your friends gave.

4. Ideas for volunteer opportunities you could do with your Snif:  
organizing the shul, visiting elderly in the community, giving out candy to kids,  
and going to visit at the hospital.