

# Centering Our Values

## Overview

- Educator: Wendy Schwartz, Beth Jacob Congregation
- Estimated Audience Size: 5-10 taskforce members
- Estimated Time for Lesson: 75–90 minutes
- Session Title: *Centering Our Values*
- Technology Used: Zoom

## Learning Objectives

Taskforce members will be able to...

- Explore a foundational Jewish text through the lens of community ethics and sacred relationships
- Understand the scope and purpose of the taskforce’s work on a Code of Conduct
- Begin identifying core values to guide the congregation’s safeguarding efforts

## Assessment

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the objectives by...

- Active participation in *chavruta* and group text discussion
- Verbal reflections on the values that resonated
- Submission of top 5–6 selected values for follow-up

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## Session Agenda

### I. Welcome & Framing (5 minutes)

- Introduce the goal of the session: grounding our work in shared values and Jewish tradition
- Use Keilim's [Yehi Ratzons](#) prayer

### II. Text Study: I-Thou Framework (35 minutes)

- Study the first text from Levin's [piece](#)
- Discussion in *chavruta*, followed by full group reflection

### III. Resource Packet Review (10 minutes)

- Overview of handout materials including:
  - Sample values statements
  - Sample guiding principles from other organizations
  - Guiding questions for policy development

### IV. Policy Development Process Overview (10 minutes)

- What is the purpose of the taskforce and review the [Keilim Policy Toolkit](#)

### V. Values Clarification Activity (20 minutes)

- Review Beth Jacob's values
- Use [Keilim's discussion questions](#) in full group
- Assign homework: each member selects 5–6 values they feel should guide the taskforce's work

### VI. Next Steps & Reflections (10 min)