

# Community and Communication

## Overview

- Educator: Amy Shapiro-Kessler, Ansche Chesed Congregation
- Estimated Audience Size: 10-12 people
- Estimated Time for Lesson: 60 minutes
- Session Title: *Community and Communication*
- Technology Used: None

## Learning Objectives

Taskforce members will be able to...

- Describe the work environment they want and that Ansche Chesed is striving for
- Explain the idea of core values and identify Ansche Chesed's core values
- State who they go to if they have workplace concerns
- Describe their place in our community and how community can lead to safety

## Assessment

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the objectives by...

- Participation in group discussion
- Anonymous feedback cards with targeted reflection questions

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## Session Agenda

### I. Opening & Icebreaker (15 minutes)

- Activity: “Together or One by One?” Icebreaker (Rabbi Sacks)
  - Divide the group into two teams. Each team will be given the same task: to transport one ball per person from one side of the room to the other without letting the ball touch the floor. You will need one ball (or similar object) per participant.
  - The twist lies in how the instructions are given:
    - Team A receives individual instructions written in the singular: “Transport your ball across the room without touching the floor.”
    - Team B receives one collective instruction written in the plural: “Your team’s task is to transport all the balls across the room without touching the floor.”
  - After completing the task, lead a debrief. Team B will likely have worked together and completed the task more efficiently. Use this as a springboard for discussion.
- Discussion Prompts:
  - Explore how community strengthens us and supports a healthy work environment. Suggested prompts include:
    - How does community help us in times of crisis?
    - What does it mean to share the workload?
    - How do we look out for one another?
    - What does respect and safety look like in our space?

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### II. Community Discussion (25 minutes)

- Facilitator: Lead discussion on the meaning of community, how it connects to shared work and respect
- Participants: Engage in conversation about *kehillah kedosha* (sacred community)
- Prompts:
  - What kind of workplace do we want?
  - How do our core values shape that?
  - What does community mean to you?
- Use *Celebrating Life* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (p. 145-149) and [Why Communication Is at the Core of Community](#)

### III. Wrap-Up & Feedback (20 minutes)

- Facilitator: Review key takeaways, offer reminders about support structures
- Participants: Respond to targeted questions on anonymous feedback cards
- Prompts:
  - Who can you go to with concerns?
  - What helps you feel part of the community?