

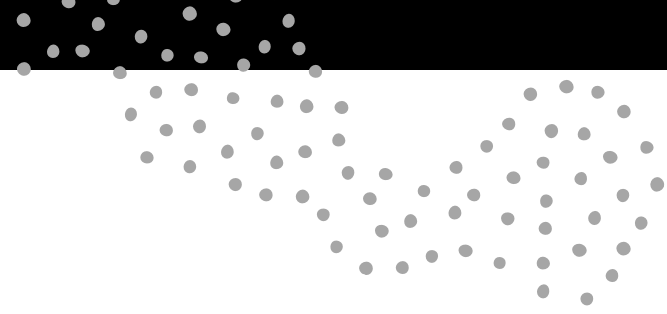





CHAOS, CALM AND KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

Yom Kippur Classroom



Teachers: Please remember that since these text studies are made with foster care and adoption themes in mind, these sessions could be particularly sensitive for kids in non-birth families. Our hope is that kids who are impacted by foster care and adoption will see their lives reflected as authentically Jewish experiences. That said, if fostered or adopted youth want to share any connections they make to adoption/foster that is fine, but it's important not to create an expectation that any particular children share their lives.



Jonah 1:6-9

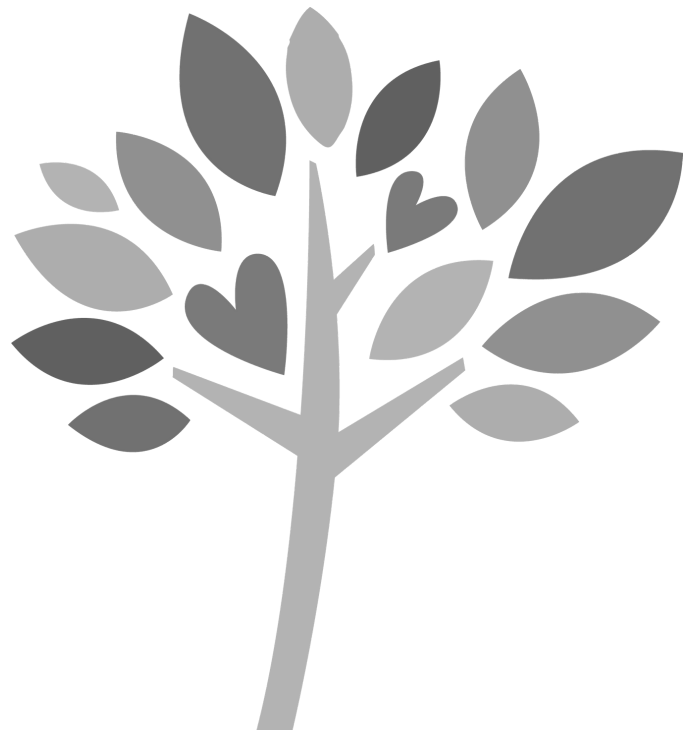
(ו) ויקרב אליו רב החבל ויאמר לו מהלך נרדם קום קרא
אלאליהך אולי יתעשת האלהים לנו ולא נאבד (ז) ויאמרו איש
אלרעהו לכו ונפילה גורלות ונדעה בשלמי הרעה הזאת לנו
ויפלו גורלות ויפל הגורל עליונה (ח) ויאמרו אליו הגידהנא לנו
באשר למיהרעה הזאת לנו מהמלאכתך ומאין תבוא מה
ארצך ואימזה עם אתה (ט) ויאמר אליהם עברי אנכי ואתיהוה
אלהי השמים אני ירא אשרעשה אתהים ואתהיבשה

(6) The captain went over to him and cried out, "How can you be sleeping so soundly! Up, call upon your god! Perhaps the god will be kind to us and we will not perish." (7) The men said to one another, "Let us cast lots and find out on whose account this misfortune has come upon us." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. (8) They said to him, "Tell us, you who have brought this misfortune upon us, what is your business? Where have you come from? What is your country, and of what people are you?" (9) "I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the LORD, the God of Heaven, who made both sea and land."

Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 10:4

ויונה בצרת נפשו נרדם וישן לו. בא אליו רב החובל, אמר לו: הרי אנו עומדים בין מות לחיים ואתה נרדם וישן? מאיזה עם אתה? אמר לו: עברי אנכי.

Now Jonah, because of the anguish of his soul, was sleeping deeply. The captain of the ship came to him, saying, Behold, we are standing betwixt death and life, and thou art slumbering and sleeping; of what people art thou? He answered them, "I am a Hebrew." (Jonah 1:9).



Did Jonah, according to Pirkei deRabbi Eliezer, “shut down” because of the anguish of his soul?

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Perhaps the seas are a metaphor for Jonah’s internal chaos.

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- **Do you sometimes shut down when your life is tumultuous?**
 - What do you do when you shut down?
 - Is it something you can control?
- **When the sailors ask Jonah who he is, how might that help him “calm the seas”?**
 - How might naming your identity be calming?
 - If you were Jonah, and feeling unable to face life, and the grown-ups around you were the sailors, what would you want them to ask you?
 - To tell you?
 - The captain describes their situation as “betwixt.”
 - In what ways are you “betwixt”?
 - Grades? Stages in life? Choices?
 - How do you make decisions when you are between two things?
 - Asking Jonah his identity seemed to rouse him to action.
 - Does your identity rouse you to action?
 - If so, how? If not, why not?
 - Do you have more than one identity?
 - If so, what are they? Do you sometimes feel “betwixt” in terms of identity?
 - How have you been challenged by and grown from having multiple identities?
 - Do you feel like you have to choose one identity over another?
 - Why or why not?
 - The word “Ivri”, Jonah’s definition of himself, and the name of our people, “Hebrew” has a meaning: “one who transcends.”
 - What does it mean to be a people whose definition is to cross over boundaries?
 - How might the state of “betwixt” be essential to our Jewish identities?

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- Families are supported before, during, and after the licensing and adoption processes
- Foster and adopted children have peers in our community with similar backgrounds
- The values of foster and adoption are integrated into our community culture
- Our whole community wraps around the families in support as they become foster and adoptive parents
- We will partner with the best and most well-aligned local social service partners
- We are all enriched—both by our new, young members and our growing capacity as a synagogue to support our foster and adoptive families



Second Nurture has been an awesome support. I think the bagel brunches are my favorite. Being able to meet with other foster-adopt parents, hearing their stories and thinking about fostering, helps me define and refine what I want to do and how I want to help. Where are the gaps? What needs to happen? How can I be a part of helping to fill those gaps? Foster/adopt parents are my heroes. They are the ones doing the work that is heart-breaking and valuable. Any way I can help serve those people is important to me.

- Cohort Member