

IT'S A MITZVAH!

Activity Guide

Overview

This lesson plan has been developed by the Anne Frank Center as an extension activity to support a student's Books of Hope mitzvah project. It is intended to be facilitated in a supplemental religious school classroom by a teacher or in an informal education setting by a trained youth advisor. It is not intended for use in secular spaces.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand Maimonides 8 levels of Tzedakah
- Identify examples of each level
- Connect levels to "action" (projects)
- Recognize opportunities to create impact

RESOURCES NEEDED

- Charity level cards
- Large post-it pads, whiteboard, or paper
- Brochure/flyer about Books of Hope

LESSON SEQUENCE

I. Introduction to Maimonides 8 Levels of Charity

- Introduce/review term "tzedakah" and introduce Maimonides.
- Ask "are some types of charity better than others?"
- Split class into groups if needed and distribute level cards. Explain Maimonides created a hierarchy of charity with 8 levels.
- Students should work in their groups to decide what order the cards should be in from "lowest" to "highest" and should be prepared to defend their choices.
- On white board/chart paper, ask one group to identify their "lowest" choice. Ask other groups if they agree/disagree, and why. After discussion, identify correct answer, and then continue through all 8 levels.

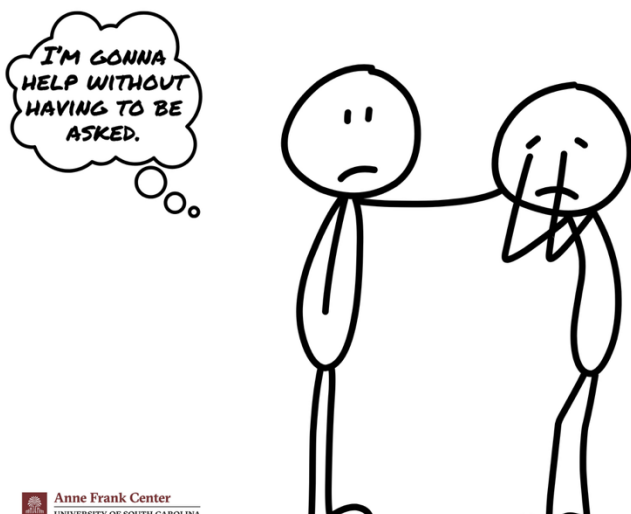
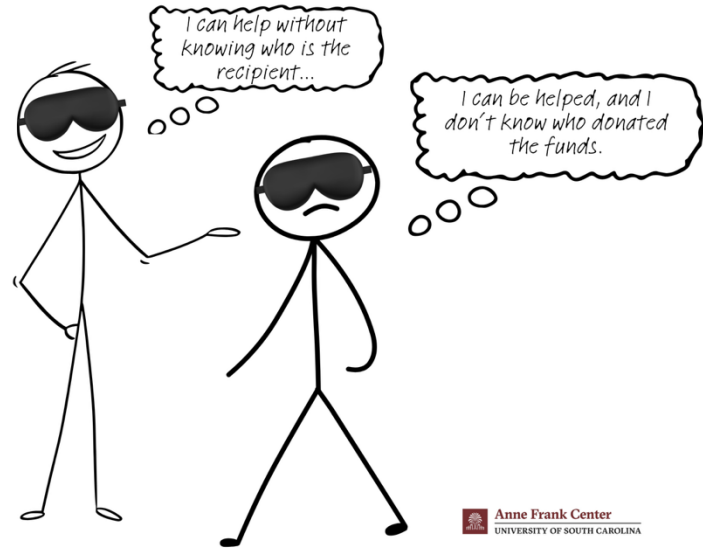
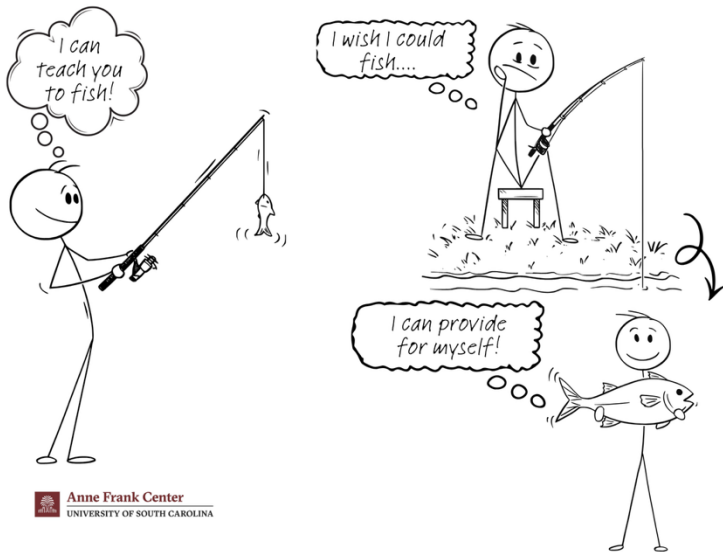
II. Mitzvah Project Discussion/Books of Hope

- Introduce expectations/overview of the mitzvah project for your institution.
- Remind students about the 8 levels of charity, and explain that you are going to walk through a specific mitzvah project opportunity to demonstrate how a project can fit into multiple levels of the hierarchy.
- Introduce "Books of Hope" project
- Ask students to determine where this project fits on the hierarchy of charity. Remind students that it can fit in more than one category.
- Discuss as a class.
- Have students work together, independently, or with parents to come up with other project ideas and identify where they fit on the hierarchy.

III. Conclusion/Next Steps

- Ask students to identify the 8 levels of charity
- Provide timeline and plan for "next steps" for your program. When do students need to decide on a project? How do they need to communicate their plan to you/your program?
- Connect any students who are interested in doing Books of Hope as their project with Dani at the Anne Frank Center by setting up a zoom or phone call for the mitzvah project coordinator, the student and their family, and Anne Frank Center to create a formal project plan.







Books of Hope

Discover, engage, and inspire through Anne Frank's words

WHAT IS THE "BOOKS OF HOPE" PROJECT?

Books of Hope (BOH) provides a selection of curated Anne Frank related books to schools, media centers, and other educational organizations at no cost to the recipient. Book bundles can be requested through our website. They are also distributed to schools visiting Anne Frank Center on field trips and to schools hosting an Anne Frank Center traveling exhibit.

WOULD THIS BE A GOOD MITZVAH PROJECT?

Yes! Book bundles distributed through BOH are funded entirely by donations. Books of Hope is an initiative initially launched as part of a Bat Mitzvah project. Students who raise funds for Books of Hope will be directly responsible for more Anne Frank related books getting into the hands of students globally.

This project:

- is scalable to match student's capacity. From simply raising funds, to offering activities and outreach, the impact is real and reportable.
- creates understandable impact. Students know exactly what their project funds.
- allows students to reflect on their own Jewish identity while also having an opportunity to engage both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals in a concrete way to combat antisemitism. Anne Frank's legacy is an honest, factual account of a child's experience during the Holocaust, and provides a foundation from which discussions about antisemitism and Holocaust can grow.

WHAT DOES A "BOOKS OF HOPE" MITZVAH PROJECT LOOK LIKE?

STUDENT

- Set a realistic fundraising goal
- Regular communication with AFC
- Adhere to AFC branding guidelines
- Write thank-you notes to donors
- Send a project summary and impact statement at conclusion of project

SCHOOL/SYNAGOGUE

- Supervise and mentor student
- Facilitate communications between student and AFC
- Assist student with publicity
- Collect and track donations
- Remit funds in one single payment to AFC within 45 days of date of ceremony
- Submit mentor feedback form

ANNE FRANK CENTER

- Provide a book bundle for synagogue/school
- Assist with goal setting and project plan
- Provide logos and templates
- Regular check-ins with student and supervisor
- Supply supplemental educational materials to educator
- Communicate with financial coordinator

WHAT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO GET A PROJECT STARTED?

Contact **Dani Glass** at the Anne Frank Center (contact info listed below) to schedule a project informational zoom call. Please include the student's name, contact information for both the student and guardian, and ceremony date in your email, and include "Books of Hope Mitzvah Project Inquiry" in your memo.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. WHO DO I CONTACT?

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For general information about the Anne Frank Center, visit us online at annefrankcenter.com.