

Elu Devarim Concepts

Elu Devarim is taken from the Talmud, the important book of commentaries on the Torah written by the rabbis. Elu Devarim speaks of several obligations that we have as Jews.

Obligations are things we must do. We are not told how much or how often we are to do these obligations. They are obligations without measure whose reward too is without measure. This means that there is some reward or satisfaction which we will receive by doing these acts and that we should do them as often as possible.

Elu Devarim is included as part of the Saturday morning shacharit service because prior to the service one is supposed to engage in Torah and Talmud study. Elu Devarim is taken from the Talmud, so we are engaging in Talmud study prior to the service!

There is a story about a Rabbi. In his community this Rabbi is also the fire chief. So when he is in the middle of a teaching or a session and the fire alarm goes off, he is "off and running." When we are called to action, what choices do we have? What does it mean to have some kind of mission? What does it mean to have a sense that there is no voluntary "ask" here, but that it is something that comes from within?

When we look down the list of things we are commanded to do in Elu Devarim, we can see different examples of actions we might take, not necessarily because we want to, but because we *have* to.

Activities

1. Go through the translation and pick one of these mitzvot that you have personally been involved with. How did it affect you at the time? How does it affect you now, looking back at it?
2. Discuss examples of times you performed the mitzvot described in Elu Devarim.
3. Draw a picture of your experience performing one of these mitzvot.

1. Elu Devarim is taken from a section of what book? _____.

2. Elu Devarim speaks of several _____ we have as Jews.

3. How often should we perform the obligations (things we must do) that are listed in Elu Devarim? _____.

ELU DEVARIM

Turn to the Elu Devarim page in your folder.

Match the English meanings to the Hebrew phrases below by writing the number by the English meaning next to the Hebrew phrase.

1. Honoring father and mother ___ וְהִשְׁכַּמְתָּ בֵּית הַמִּדְרָשׁ שִׁחְרִית וְעַרְבִית,
2. Performing acts of love and kindness ___ וְהִבְאֵת שְׁלוֹם בֵּין אָדָם לְחֵבֵר
3. Attend the House of Study daily ___ וּבְקוֹר חוֹלִים,
4. Provide hospitality for guests ___ וְהִכְנַסְתָּ אֹרְחִים,
5. Visit the sick ___ כְּבוֹד אָב וָאֵם,
6. Rejoice with bride and groom ___ וְלוֹיֵת הַמֵּת,
7. Console the bereaved ___ וְעִיּוֹן תְּפִלָּה,
8. Concentrating in the meaning of prayers ___ וְהִכְנַסְתָּ כָּלָה,
9. Make peace when there is strife ___ וּגְמִילוֹת חֲסָדִים,
10. And the study of Torah is equal to them all ___ וְתִלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּלָם.

ELU DEVARIM

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| These are _____ | אלו דברים |
| In this _____ | בעולם הזה |
| Honor father and _____ | כבוד אב ואם, |
| To perform acts of _____ | וגמילות חסדים, |
| To attend the house of _____ | והשכמת בית המדרש שחרית וערבית, |
| To Welcome the _____ | והכנסת אורחים, |
| To visit the _____ | ובקור חולים, |
| To rejoice with _____ | והכנסת פלה, |
| To console the _____ | ולוית המת, |
| Concentrating on the meaning of _____ | ועיון תפלה, |
| And to make peace when there is _____ | והבאת שלום בין אדם לחברו, |
| And the study of _____ is equal to them all | ותלמוד תורה כנגד כלם. |