



SCRUPELOT

Submitted by Dove Weissman

This is a game of ethics and Jewish values. It is appropriate for teenagers and adults. It is a non-competitive game, aimed to invoke critical thinking and deeply questioning beliefs, while teaching Jewish values. Derived from the game Scruples, we have expanded to include Jewish terms and concepts.

How to play:

You'll need scruples cards and the Jewish values cards. (Jewish values listed below)

Teachers should preview the scruples question cards and be sure they are appropriate for your students. It is important to remember that there really aren't any right answers to this game. There are so many answers, and as long as the students are answering honestly, and backing up their answers with Jewish values, they are playing correctly.

You can play each student for themselves, or work in pairs or teams, however more than 4 students per team could get too chaotic.

The idea is to read the question on the card, and to come up with their own answer as to how they would handle the situation. Then, choose one or more of



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the value cards that justifies or is relevant to their answer. There could be more than one value that relates, the more the merrier. Again, the objective is to think critically about the questions and come up with creative responses.

The game could be played competitively where by each team or individual tries to get the most values cards that correspond with their answers, keeping track of each round. However, it's not about the number of values found, but rather the appropriate value for the answer that is most important. It is also important for students to play games that are not competitive, but rather stress critical and creative thinking. Each student can answer each question for himself or herself, and will stay interested if they do so. Each student will have their own answer, and could therefore find different values for each question.

Jewish Values

Shoftim = Judges The only positive mitzvah of the seven Noachide laws/ the universal obligation to set up a system of justice. This requires any human society to guarantee equal treatment before the law for all.



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Lifnei Iver Lo Titen Michshol = Do not put a stumbling block before a blind man. Applied frequently to the sin of keeping someone in ignorance from information that will protect them.

Ger = stranger. Series of laws governing love of strangers, empathy with foreigners, and the insistence on inclusion of strangers in every aspect of society.

Tsa'ar Ba'alei Chayyim = Prohibition of cruelty to animals, acts of compassion, and proper methods of treatment of non-human life.

Lo Ta'amod al Dam Re'echa = Do not stand by the blood of your neighbor. The prohibition against passivity in the face of violence to others.

Bechirah Chofshit = Freedom of choice. The Jewish philosophical assumption that all human beings have the ability to freely choose actions, and are responsible for those choices.

Hocheach Tocheeach = You shall rebuke. The obligation to be a social critic when you see that society or individuals are making terrible mistakes. Social criticism as an expression of care for others.



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Bakesh Shalom ve-Rodfehu = Seek peace and pursue it. The obligation to actively reduce conflicts. Series of laws and ethical teachings advocating peace, conflict resolution methodologies, and prohibiting violence against the innocent.

Chesed, Rachamim = Compassion, especially for those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable.

Pikuach Nefesh = The saving of life. The highest Jewish obligation that overrides almost every other law.

Gezelah = Theft. Set of laws against unlawful seizing of other people's property, particularly that of the poor or vulnerable.

Halbanat Panim = The experience of humiliation in public. The loss of personal dignity at the hands of others that is considered one of the gravest wrongs in Judaism, akin to murder.



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Ribit = Interest. Prohibition against interest that encourages the giving of interest-free loans, especially to people in need for them to help themselves get back on their feet.

Tsedek Tsedek Tirdof = Pursue justice. The obligation to actively promote justice.

Halva'at Chen = Loan of grace. Interest-free loan society of the medieval Jewish community.

Sheker = Falsehood. Set of laws and values designed to discourage falsehood, duplicity or hypocrisy.

Lashon Harah = Not speaking falsely, negatively or unnecessarily about others.

Ushemartem Et Mafshoteichem = And you shall protect your health. Obligation to protect the general health of oneself and one's society. The body as a temple.



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Ahavat ha-Beriot = Love of all G!d's created beings. Principle that entails acting in a loving fashion to any and all humans.