

Birkat HaMazon Unit
Birkat HaMazon and Ethical Responsibility to Take Care of the World, Lesson 7
Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Source 1: Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 7:13

God said to Adam: 'See My works, see how pleasant and good they are. Everything I have created I have created for you. Be careful not to spoil and destroy my world. If you do, no one will repair it.'

Source 2: Talmud Bavli Ta'anit 23a

One day he (Choni HaM'agel) was travelling on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked him: 'How long does it take (for this tree) to bear fruit?' The man replied: 'seventy years'. He then further asked him: 'Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?' The man replied: 'I found (ready grown) carob trees in the world. As my forefathers planted these for me so I too plant these for my children.'

Questions and Discussion:

1. What is the motivating factor behind behaving in an environmentally ethical way according to source 1?
2. What is the motivating factor behind behaving in an environmentally ethical way according to source 2?
3. Which of these reasons do you find more persuasive?
4. Read the explanation of the term "Sustainable Development" below. Do these texts have anything to contribute to this idea?

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is the ultimate aim for all environmentalists who are concerned with both economic development as well as protecting and managing the environment. A sensible environmental ethic will allow for **sustainable development**. To plan for sustainable development, an environmental ethic should be applied to the pressing local and global environmental issues.

Examples of these are:

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| ▪ Water Pollution | ▪ Global Climate Change |
| ▪ Waste Disposal and Management | ▪ Transportation |
| ▪ Resource Management | ▪ Air Pollution |
| ▪ Urban Sprawl/Shrinking Open & Green Spaces | |