

WAR & PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM WORKSHEETS

PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM

Source 1. Mishna Avot 1:18

רבן שמעון בן גמליאל אומר: על שלשה דברים העולם קיים – על הדין ועל האמת ועל השלום, שנאמר: "אמת ומשפט שלום שפטו בשעריכם"

Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel says: The world exists on three things. Justice, Truth, and Peace, as it says: "Truth and the verdict of peace are you to adjudicate in your gates"

Source 2. Mishna Avot 1:12

הלל אומר: הוי מתלמידיו של אהרון, אוהב שלום ורודף שלום, אוהב את הבריות ומקרבת לתורה.

Hillel says: Be among the students of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving people, and bringing them closer to the Torah

Source 3. VaYikra Rabbah 9:9

חזקיה אמר גדול שלום שכל המצות כתיב בהו (שמות כג) כי תראה כי תפגע (דברים כב) כי יקרא אם באת מצוה לידך אתה זקוק לעשותה ואם לאו אי אתה זקוק לעשותה ברם הכא (תהלים לד) בקש שלום ורדפהו בקשהו למקומך ורדפהו למקום אחר

Hezekiah said: Great is peace, for of all the commandments it is written "if you see," if you meet" (Shemot 23:4-5), "if there chance" (Devarim 22:6), that is, if the occasion for this commandment should arise, you must do it, and if not, you need not do it. In relation to peace, however, it is written "seek peace and pursue it" (Tehillim 34:15) seek it in your own place, and pursue it even to another place as well

Source 4. Sifra, Behuchukotai, 1:18

Without peace, there is nothing...since peace outweighs everything

Source 5. Tanhuma, Tzav 83

Everything written in the Torah was written for the sake of peace

Source 6. Yalkut Shimoni, Yitro 39

God said: "Torah is peace and to whom do I give it? To the nation which loves peace"

Source 7. Derech Eretz Zuta

All lies are forbidden, yet it is permissible to lie in order to bring about peace between two people.

WAR & PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM WORKSHEETS

PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM

Source 8. *Talmud Bavli, Yevamot 14b*

ת"ש: אע"פ שנחלקו ב"ש וב"ה בצרות, ובאחיות, בגט ישן, ובספק אשת איש, ובמגרש את אשתו ולנה עמו בפונדק, בכסף ובשוה כסף, בפרוטה ובשוה פרוטה, לא נמנעו ב"ש מלישא נשים מבית הלל, ולא ב"ה מבית שמאי, ללמדך, שחיבה וריעות נהגים זה בזה, לקיים מה שנאמר: (זכריה ח') האמת והשלום אהבו

Come and hear: Although Bet Shammai and Bet Hillel are in disagreement on the questions of rivals, sisters, and old bill of divorce, a doubtfully married women, a women whom her husband had divorced and who stayed with him overnight in an inn, money, valuables, a perutah and the value of a perutah, Bet Shammai did not abstain from marrying women of the families of Bet Hillel, nor did Bet Hillel refrain from marrying those of Bet Shammai. This is to teach you that they showed love and friendship towards one another, thus putting into practice the scriptural text: "You should love truth and peace"

Source 9. *Talmud Bavli, Eruvin 13b*

אמר רבי אבא אמר שמואל: שלש שנים נחלקו בית שמאי ובית הלל, הללו אומרים הלכה כמותנו והללו אומרים הלכה כמותנו. יצאה בת קול ואמרה: אלו ואלו דברי אלהים חיים הן, והלכה כבית הלל.

Rabbi Abba stated in the name of Shmuel: For three years there was a dispute between Bet Shammai and Bet Hillel, the former asserting "The Halachah is in agreement with our views", and the latter contending, "The Halachah is in agreement with our views". Then a Bat Kol (Heavenly voice) issued, announcing, "These and these are the words of the living God, but the Halachah is in agreement with the rulings of Bet Hillel".

Some Questions to Consider:

Source 1

1. What does Hillel mean when he says that "the world stands" on these three values?
2. Why do you think he has chosen these three? Would you choose differently?
3. Can you think of situations where these values conflict with each other?
4. If you had to choose one above the others, which would it be?

Source 2

5. Why is Aaron an example of a 'lover of peace'? Can you bring proof from your knowledge of Aaron in the Midrash?
6. What is the difference between loving peace and pursuing peace?
7. Are the values of loving/pursuing peace and loving people, and bringing them back to the Torah connected in any way?

WAR & PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM WORKSHEETS

PEACE WITHIN JUDAISM

Source 3-9

8. In these 6 sources, peace is presented as an ultimate value above many other values. Do you agree? Can you think of a value that is more important than peace?
9. Why do you think that source 3 suggests that peace is more important than all the other *Mitzvot*?
10. Source 6 suggests that Israel merited receiving the Torah because they are a people of peace. Would you say this to be true? Explain your answer.