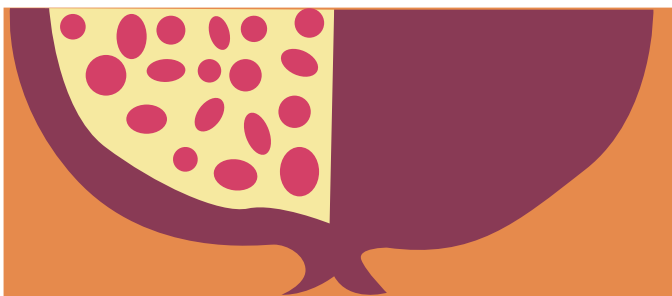


Rosh HaShanah: ראש השנה The Big Idea



The Jewish new year brings a Jewish new you. These momentous days are spent doing *Teshuva* - repentance - the process of seeking and gaining forgiveness from God, other people, and ourselves. The goal is to live next year the way we want to, not merely to carry forward through inertia.



לשנה טובה

Rabbi Freedman's Two Shekels



"In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a sacred occasion...you shall have a day of Shofar blasts" (Numbers 29:1).

The Torah here teaches us to celebrate Rosh HaShanah in the seventh month. But wait a second - isn't Rosh HaShanah supposed to be the new year? How can the new year start in the seventh month?

Rosh HaShanah marks the birth of Adam and Eve, who represent all of humanity. Thus it's the birthday of the world. Meanwhile, the first month in the Torah's calendar marks Passover, the birth of the Jewish People. Both these dimensions - the universal and the particular - are important, so much so that one shines every six months.

TABLE
TALK

Food for Thought

DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

1. In your family, what are some things you hope are the same next year? Different?
2. When is it easy to say "I'm sorry?" Why?
3. When is it hard to say "I'm sorry?" Why?



DISCUSSION WITH ADULTS

1. Do you believe people can actually change? Why or why not?
2. What was a challenging apology you've had to make? Why was it hard?
3. Who are some public figures who have earned a public forgiveness? What enabled this?

DIRECTIONS:

Stand your “Table Talk” up, and tape the open ends together to form a triangle. Put in the center of your dinner table to prompt a great discussion!

