



Rosh Hashanah THE BIG IDEA

ראש השנה

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. What is something about this year you hope extends into next year?
2. What is something you hope will be different about next year?
3. When is saying "I'm sorry" easy?
4. When is saying "I'm sorry" difficult?



DISCUSSION WITH ADULTS

1. What part of Rosh Hashanah do you find most meaningful?
2. How do you know when an apology is genuine or not?
3. What things are easier to change as the years go by? What is more challenging?
4. In what ways are you different from ten years ago? Last year?

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

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!

