

Yes, you may share with my name

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MTEI Assignment 2: Text Study

I chose the Rabbi Nehunyah text to use with my entire staff at our opening meeting, and I had chosen it before we left MTEI in June. I chose it because I could identify with it and felt comfortable with the text since we had discussed it so thoroughly. I also thought it was a great text to use at the beginning of the year to set the tone for the year. I was not only nervous to lead a text study, but I wasn't sure how much experience some of my teachers had with text study. I introduced it as I talked about my summer, my participation in MTEI, and my desire to share things I am learning with them.

The teachers responded much more positively than I anticipated and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to talk with each other. I had designated seats for all of the teachers, so they were talking with someone they didn't know very well if at all. I was particularly pleased with the discussion on the relevance of this text to all of us as educators and the responsibility that we all have for the welfare of our students. The biggest challenge was the time constraints – this was done at the very beginning of our opening staff meeting, within the one hour time block that I had with my staff. As I did my outline, I knew time would be tight, but I think it would have been ideal to have had ten more minutes to spend on the text study.

Each teacher was given a short evaluation form at the end to give me feedback, and that was the comment I heard most often – they wanted more time as well. I think the conversations (in both *hevruta* and in whole group); however, I now have a better sense of timing and know that I need to give text study some time. I think that we get more from a text when we have longer to study it.

Text Study – August 23, 2015

- 1) Talk about MTEI – my growth, my hopes of sharing with them (1 minute)
- 2) Pass out text and find a havruta (partner) to discuss it with using the questions given. (5 minutes)
- 3) Discuss as a group. (5-6 minutes)
 - Why did Rabbi Nehunyah stop to pray as he enters the Beit Midrash?
 - Rabbi Nehunyah prays that no “mishap” or offense would be caused by him.
 - What do you think he means by that?
 - Why do you think he “gives thanks” for his “lot” as he exits? What might he mean by that?
 - If you were one of his colleagues or students, how would you understand his prayer, both the beginning and the end? How would you feel about the prayer?
 - What relevance does this have to all of us?
- 4) Conclusions (2-3 minutes)
 - Who are you when your students enter?
 - How do you know if you’re ready? He took a moment for himself as he enters.
 - We are Jewish role models for our students. It’s not just we as educators say, but what we do.
 - He knows that he has a great deal of power in his role and he reminds himself to use his power in the right way.

Read and discuss the text with your *havruta* partner.

- Why did Rabbi Nehunyah you notice about where he stops to pray?
- Rabbi Nehunyah prays that no “mishap” or offense would be caused by him. What do you think he means by that?
- Why do you think he “gives thanks” for his “lot” as he exits? What might he mean by that?
- If you were one of his colleagues or students, how would you understand his prayer, both the beginning and the end? How would you feel about the prayer?
- What relevance does this have to all of us?

Evaluation given to participants at end

How comfortable were you with this text study?

Very uncomfortable Uncomfortable Okay Comfortable Very comfortable

Did you find the text relevant?

Feedback or suggestions for future text study: