



## MTEI Havrutah Assignment Session 4

June 2016

### **What happened? (Describe the workshop)**

On short notice extended family members became the participants in this session. Interestingly, that included a group who know each other and representing a range of ages.

### **How did you (or did you not) use the prompts and language that were provided in the guidelines for the assignment?**

I did not use prompts in a card form but rather suggested choice of words for starting conversation. So we used the prompts off of the page as the way one must open a response to something/someone they heard. Honestly, it came across in more of a light hearted game like fashion. I also, introduce the slide on conversational norms and supporting and challenging. This was interesting both in explaining it and how people received it. Mainly, how much we do not support and challenge in our culture of conversation.

### **How did this compare with what you assumed or hoped would happen?**

In my mind I pictured the students (from the video) and how it seemed staged but ultimately they owned the statements and didn't seemed phased by using them. Here we felt a bit staged and perhaps silly at times. At the same time, we quickly understood how the conversation starters impact the supporting and challenging each other and that was felt immediately.

### **Were there aspects of what happened that surprised you?**

In a fun way it was surprising to see us all doing a bit more thinking than speaking. Especially before responding to what someone was thinking. In addition, after being asked we spent more time going back to the text to re-read and or seek further understanding from each other's comments.

### **Were there aspects that pleased you? Why?**

I was overall pleased with the first time attempt. I'd like to develop the prompts in a card form and develop it more into a playful game then perhaps we won't feel awkward in the moment because this is the essence of the session- playing with support and challenge.

**What did participants report about their experience and/or learning?**

In this case everyone understood and shared very much the expected reflections- how it pushed to better support and or challenge in relation to the text. And to a certain degree better understand each other.

**Read the Journal entry you wrote on your learning of these practices during our last seminar:**

**Anything new you've learned?**

**Any new question or insights you have about your learning of these practices?**

**Any new question or insights you have about teaching these practices to colleagues?**

N/A sorry missed the last one do to illness

Peeps: family

Text: Nitzavim

Prompts: Conversational Norms from slides

Verbal prompts:

- a. "According to my understanding, this story is about ...." please be specific
- b. "The story is trying to tell us that ..."
- c. "The following sentences, words, emphasis, omissions, images, symbols etc. provide strong textual evidences for my/our interpretation(s)..."
- d. "Let me now challenge your interpretation: ...." Or
- e. "first, let me paraphrase what you just said so I'll make sure I understood"
- f. "Give me some quiet time to look again at the text and to think about what I want to say".