



FRIENDSGIVING

A ONETABLE X AMPLIFIER SHABBAT DINNER GUIDE



This guide was designed with you in mind. Feel free to read any of these passages out loud at your table, or put them in your own words to share with your guests.

PART 1

WELCOME BITE

FRIENDSGIVING SHABBAT WITH AMPLIFIER AND ONETABLE

Shabbat Shalom and welcome to Friendgiving!

Friendsgiving Shabbat has become a yearly tradition when we weave together Thanksgiving themes, our friends, and the magic of Shabbat. Both Thanksgiving and Shabbat invite us to pause, be with our community, share a hearty meal, and reflect on the abundance in our lives.

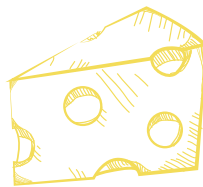
Both Thanksgiving and Shabbat can be celebrated in infinitely customizable ways, but, this year, we're taking the opportunity to zoom in on one of their shared features: giving.

The act of giving occurs in many shapes and forms, all of which are equally important. Tonight, we're focusing on financial giving. More specifically, tzedakah. Unlike 'charity' and 'philanthropy,' which derive from Latin words meaning 'love,' 'tzedakah' comes from the root word 'tzedek,' meaning 'justice' or 'righteousness.' #JewishWisdom has much to teach about giving, so tonight we're sharing it with those interested in pursuing community, social responsibility, and justice.

This guide will take you through a conversation about giving tzedakah: what it is, how we feel about it, and how we give. And bonus! We wrote a [Tzedakah Shabbat Guide](#) that weaves together Shabbat ritual with Tzedakah; you can use it with this resource, or on its own all year long.

Tonight, we're hoping that this guide allows you to have meaningful conversations about your values and motivations for giving so that you can reflect on the role that giving can play in your upcoming year.

Conversations around money can be challenging for many people. We believe that Jewish philanthropic wisdom applies healthy pressure to those points of tension, guiding us into greater understanding and generosity of spirit. If this topic is uncomfortable to you, we invite you to open your heart and mind, whatever your personal financial situation may be. No matter how much or how little we have, curiosity and reflection are free of charge.



PART 2
APPETIZER

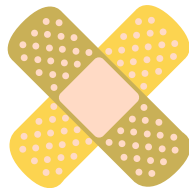
WHY WE GIVE

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let's each consider: What is one person or thing you're grateful for from your faith, culture, or background that has inspired you to give? Turn to the people near you and share!

Uncovering what motivates us to give can be as powerful as the gift itself. Take a few moments to reflect on your individual giving values. Jewish tradition has lots to say on the topic, so we've shared a few values to get the conversation going.

- **Step 1:** Take a look at the values listed below. Choose two with which you most identify or feel free to add in your own.
- **Step 2:** Share! Go around the table or pair up to share which values you selected and what resonated with you.

Since this is our opportunity to connect with and learn from each other, try to be present with what your hearing from other people at the table. Asking questions is a good tool to help us go deeper, understand the full picture of what other people are expressing, and help others to better understand their own thoughts.



Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World
I Want To Create A More Just World

We are here to make a difference, to mend the fractures of the world, a day at a time, an act at a time, for as long as it takes to make it a place of justice and compassion where the lonely are not alone, the poor not without help; where the cry of the vulnerable is heeded and those who are wronged are heard.

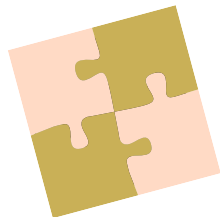
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
To Heal a Fractured World: the Ethics of Responsibility



Gemilut Chasadim: Compassion
I Give Because I Care About Others

Compassion is not just feeling with someone, but seeking to change the situation. Frequently people think compassion and love are merely sentimental. No! They are very demanding. If you are going to be compassionate, be prepared for action.

Desmond Tutu
South African Theologian and Activist



Shlemut: Completeness
I Feel A Sense Of Fulfillment

"Give give" means you must give with at least two motivations. The first time you give is because it is a matter of law, a matter of obligation. The second time you give is a matter of heart and feeling.

Rabbi Harold M Schulweis



Tzedakah: Righteous Giving
Jewish Tradition Obligates Me To Help Others

The poor will never cease from the land, therefore I command you 'You shall surely open your hand to your brother, to the poor and the needy in your land.'

Deuteronomy
15:11

PART 3

MAIN COURSE

HOW WE GIVE

Now that we've shared reasons for why we give and connected with the values that drive us to give, let's talk about how we determine where we give. With December and the New Year approaching, we'll be faced with many charitable calls to action. To help us think about values-based giving, let's dive into some questions that can hold our giving in line with our personal values.

Guiding questions:

- Do you currently have a regular practice of giving to charity? Why or why not?
- What is one issue that keeps you up at night and how can tzedakah help address it?
- Do you tend to give locally or globally?
- Do you tend to give to a specific community or cause? E.g. LGBTQ, immigrants, healthcare, education, etc..
- Do you tend to give to long-term, systemic solutions, or to more immediate, time-sensitive needs? E.g. Advocating for policy change versus donating to help recovery efforts after a natural disaster
- Given your current finances, where or to what cause can you give that can create the most impact?
- Would you consider pooling charitable funds with your friends, family, or colleagues to multiply your impact?

PART 4

DESSERT

MOVING FORWARD

The first step to intentional giving is the values-driven conversation you've just shared. The next step? Giving!

Take a moment to consider how you can incorporate a tzedakah practice into your life. Will you give every Friday? Will you set up recurring monthly donations to a favorite nonprofit? Will you ask for donations to causes you care about instead of holiday gifts? Maybe you'd like to **host a pop-up giving circle**, which is similar to what you've just experienced, but there's an actual donation given at the end! However you choose to give, we hope you'll grow and strengthen your relationship to giving. It's collaborative conversations like this one that are helping to transform philanthropy into a movement of more intentional, communal, and values driven giving.

If you feel moved to donate to an organization after this experience, feel free to email or text the people you've dined with tonight to let them know! And, of course, if you're posting on social media about this experience, don't forget to tag @Amplifier_Giving and use the hashtag #FriendsgivingShabbat!

TABLE TOPICS

If you're printing out this resource, cut up these quotes and questions and scatter them around the table. Throughout the meal, clink your glass and invite dinner guests to pick up a slip of paper. If you're viewing this resource digitally, select a table topic and read it to the whole table. Dinner guests can respond to the quote or question with the people around them!

1. What motivates you to give money? What deters you from giving money?
2. We can think about giving as "the 4 T's": Time, Treasure (\$), Testimony, and Talent. Which of these T's would you like to start giving more of?
3. Do you give locally or do you give globally?
4. Is it better to give to long-term, systemic issues, or to more immediate, time-sensitive needs?
5. "Circumstances are beyond human control, but our conduct is in our power." — Benjamin Disraeli
6. "Tzedakah is equally important as all the other mitzvot put together." —Rabbi Assi, Babylonian Talmud
7. "It is not your obligation to finish the work; nor are you free to desist from it." — Pirkei Avot 2:16
8. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
9. Studies show giving rates in the U.S are lower than they've ever been. Why do you think this is the case?
10. If you had a million dollars to give away for tzedakah, what would you give to?
11. When you give food to a hungry person, give him your best and sweetest food. — Hilchot Isurai Mizbayach, 7:1
12. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." — Reinhold Niebuhr
13. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am for myself only, what am I? If not now... when?" — Hillel
14. What is one money message that you remember hearing from a very young age?
15. "If you believe breaking is possible, believe fixing is possible." — Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav
16. "I have found that, among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver" — Maya Angelou
17. "It's not rebels that make trouble, but trouble that make rebels." — Ruth Messinger
18. "A pious Jew is not one who worries about his fellow man's soul and his own stomach; a pious Jew worries about his own soul and his fellow man's stomach." — Rabbi Israel Salanter
19. "Even a poor person who receives tzedakah must give from what he receives." — Mar Zutra, Babyolian Talmud
20. "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." — Anne Frank
21. "The Torah begins and ends with *chesed* - loving kindness." — Talmud Bavli Sotah 14a
22. "If a stranger comes and says, 'I am hungry. Please give me food,' we are not allowed to check to see if he is honest or not; we must immediately give him food." — Mishnah Torah 6:6
23. At a moment of financial vulnerability, why and how should we preserve financial generosity as a value in our lives?
24. According to Jewish text, giving tzedakah is obligatory, while deeds of loving-kindness and benevolence are voluntary. What does this mean for building a more equitable society?
25. "If you want to raise a person from mud and filth, do not think it is enough to keep standing on top and reaching a helping hand down to the person. You must go all the way down yourself, down into the mud and filth. Then take hold of the person with strong hands and pull the person and yourself out into the light." — Rabbi Shlomo of Karlin
26. "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." — Lilla Watson, Indigenous Australian Activist and Academic
27. "No one wants to feel dependent upon charity; our goal must be to create community that systematically addresses individual and collective needs, thus binding us together. Such a community would minimize shame and maximize dignity; such a community would be the very image of redemption." — Daniel S. Nevins



About Amplifier

Amplifier's mission is to grow the movement of intentional, collaborative giving by building and sustaining giving circles inspired by Jewish values. What is a giving circle? Well, simply put, a giving circle is a group of people who pool their donations and decide together where to give. But giving circles are much more than that. They're a tool for building values-based community, creating and strengthening friendships, and, perhaps most importantly democratizing the practice of philanthropy. We believe that everyone, regardless of their financial situation, should be able to invest in the causes about which they care most.



About OneTable

OneTable makes Shabbat dinner accessible to tens of thousands of people between the ages of 21-39ish, helping to build community and intention around the Friday night dinner table. We provide the tools to make Shabbat dinner a regular practice by lowering barriers to both hosting and "guesting," making ritual and community feel more authentic, sustainable, and valuable.