



**JUNIOR NCSY  
FALL CONVENTION**

**ST. LOUIS, MO  
NOVEMBER 20-22**

## Source 1

### בראשית ל"א:ל"ו-מ"ב

לו) וַיַּחַר לַיַּעֲקֹב וַיִּרְבַּ בְּלִבּוֹ וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן מִה־פִּשְׁעֵי מָה חֲטָאתִי כִּי דָלַקְתָּ אַחֵרַי...

#### Genesis 31:36-42

(36) And Jacob was angry, and complained to Laban. And Jacob answered and said to Laban: 'What is my trespass? What is my sin, that made you chase after me? (37) When you went through all my stuff, did you find anything? Show it to our brothers and let them judge between us. (38) For twenty years I've been with you; I have cared for your animals and I haven't eaten them. (39) I took the loss for any animals that were killed; You took it from my earnings, whether stolen by day or by night. (40) During the day I was worn out by the heat, and from the cold at night; and I didn't sleep. (41) I worked fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock; and you changed my wages ten times. (42) If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the Fear of Isaac, hadn't been on my side, you would've sent me away empty handed. God saw my pain and the work of my hands, and warned you last night.'



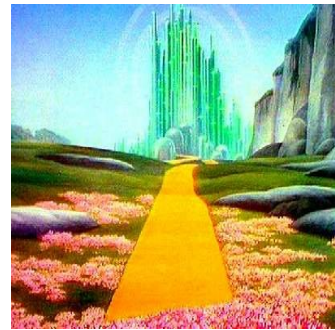
## Source 2

### שמונה פרקים לרמב"ם-פרק ד'

וטוב-לב - ממצע לבין הנבלה ויתרון טוב הלבב. לב טוב - קוראים: מי שכל כוננתו להיטיב לבני אדם בגופו, ועצתו, ובממונו בכל יכלתו, בלתי ששיגהו נזק או בזיון, והוא האמצעי...

#### Rambam Shemoneh Prakim- Perek 4

Goodness of heart falls between meanness and excessive kindness. One with a good heart is one whose intentions are all to improve the state of man with his body, his wisdom and his money to the best of his ability, but without causing any harm or contempt. This is the middle path. The mean one is the opposite of this. He is one who does not want to contribute to humanity at all, even things which he is not lacking and would not be a bother to him or cause him damage. This is the farthest extreme.



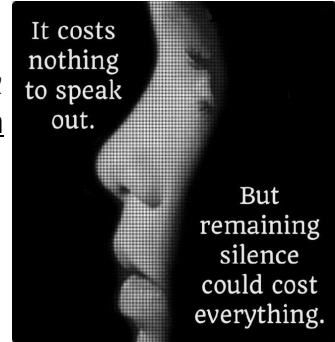
## Source 3

### תלמוד בבלי סוטה י"א.

א"ר חייא בר אבא א"ר סימאי שלשה היו באותה עצה בלעם ואיוב ויתרו בלעם שיעץ נהרג איוב ששתק נידון ביסורין יתרו שברח זכו מבני בניו שישבו בלשכת הגזית

#### Talmud Bavli Tractate Sotah 11a

Rav Chiya son of Abba said [in the name of] Rav Simai: Three [people] were advisors to Paroah. Bila'am, Iyov and Yitro. Bilaam who spoke out was killed, Iyov who was silent was punished with afflictions and Yitro who fled merited his descendants to sit in the Chamber of Hewn Stone



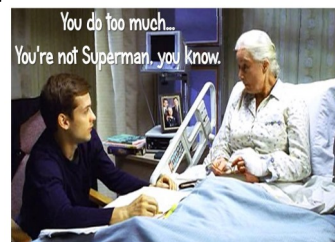
## Source 4

### משנה אבות ב'ט"ז

טז) הוא היה אומר, לא עליך המלאכה לגמור, ולא אתה בך חורין לבטל ממנה.

#### Mishna Chapters of our Fathers 2:16

16) He used to say: It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but you're also not free to desist from it.



## Source 5

### שמואל א' כ:ל

ט) וַיַּחַרְאֵף שָׁאוּל בִּיהוֹנָתָן וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בְּרִי-נִעֲוֹת הַמִּרְדּוֹת הֲלוֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי-יַבְחֵר אֶתְּךָ לְבָרְיָשִׁי לְבִשְׁתְּךָ וּלְבִשְׁתַּת עֲרֹת אִמִּי:

#### Samuel I 20:30

(30)Then Saul became angry with Jonathan, and he said to him: 'You rebel, do you think that I don't know that you chose the David, son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother?'





## Advisor Copy

Before we begin, I would like to highlight a few points:

1. It is VERY IMPORTANT for you as an educator to put your effort in and prepare this session well. If you don't prepare, it will show. Kids will be able to tell if you don't know what you're talking about.
2. The goal of this session is purposefully open-ended. By giving this session, we are not trying to get specific points across. The goal is to make the NCSYers think and ask questions.
3. That being said, there is a lot of material here. It's totally ok if you don't get through all of it. It's possible you get caught up on a discussion of one of the sources. That's just as good if not better than getting through all the sources.

### Goal:

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**To help the NCSYers think about standing up for what's right as a value.**

Content of the Session:

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- II. Welcome the NCSYers to your session. Feel free to try a quick icebreaker to learn their names.
  - A. Let's get right into the session.
    1. Engage the NCSYers and ask them: Who here has seen the hunger games? Pick someone who has seen it to give a short summary (30 seconds).
    2. Highlight the divide between the Capitol and the citizens. The capitol makes the people fight against each other to the death while the citizens are forced to watch and the tributes have to kill each other to survive. This is the status quo until Katniss comes into the picture. She shows the citizens that you can stand up for yourself and what's right. She does this many times throughout the series.
      - a) For example: She takes the place of her younger sister as tribute, risking her own life. She stands up to the Capitol by teaming up with Peeta and refusing to kill him.
  - B. Now that we've seen the importance of standing up for what's right in the Hunger Games, let's see what the Torah has to say about it.
- III. Pass out the source sheets and have an NCSYer read source 1.
  - A. To understand this source, we need to understand the broader context of this story. Yaakov is described as an "Ish Tam" a simple man. He is purely spiritual. Through his life we never see him stand up for himself. It seems like he's a push over. He lets Lavan step all over him and get away with cheating him. Until now. This is the first time where Yaakov speaks up and finally stands up for himself and for what's right.

1. Ask the NCSYers: Was it good that Yaakov spoke to Lavan this way? Why? Could it have been done in a nicer way?

2. Discuss these ideas within the group. Encourage people to share their opinions.

B. I believe the Rambam in source 2 could help frame our answers. Have an NCSYer read source 2.

1. The Rambam explains that this idea of goodness is the middle path. It's found between being mean and being too nice (a pushover).

2. If we apply this to Yaakov, it could be that originally, Yaakov was too nice. He just let Lavan walk all over him. But now, he found that middle ground and was able to stand up for what was in the best interest of himself and his family.

IV. We just saw a case where someone stood up for what was right. What about when someone doesn't?

A. Have an NCSYer read source 3.

1. Iyov doesn't share his opinion. Because of this Hashem punishes him with painful boils all over his body.

2. Why didn't Iyov share his opinion? Was he scared? What would you do if you were him?

a) Discuss these ideas with your NCSYers. Get them involved.

B. Let's look at source 4 to understand this idea more.

1. Have someone read source 4.

2. Ask the NCSYers what they think the source means.

a) Maybe Iyov wasn't thinking this way. Maybe Iyov thought that his opinions didn't matter. He figured he couldn't change the world by himself, so why bother trying? But he missed the second half of this Mishna. Despite the fact that it's not your responsibility to finish the work, you're not completely free from it either. You still have to put in your effort and try your best.

V. We've seen both when people stand up for what's right and when they don't, but what happens when it's not so simple to see what is right?

A. Have someone read source 5.

1. Yehonatan was the son of Shaul, the King of Israel. He was also the best friend of David, who was going to be the next king of Israel. Shaul wasn't a fan of David because he knew that David would take his place as king. Yehonatan was in a weird position. On the one hand, he wanted to be loyal to his Father, the King, but on the other he wanted to help his best friend. Yehonatan actually helped David escape from Shaul when he was trying to kill him. Shaul was angry with Yehonatan for his decision.

a) Was Yehonatan right in choosing to help out David? What would you have done in this situation? To complicate things even more...there is an idea that if you rebel against the king, you deserve to be put to death! Yehonatan was risking his own life to save David.

b) Discuss the case with your NCSYers. This dilemma could be discussed for a while.

VI. This is a great spot to add in a story or game that highlights the points we've been discussing up until now.

VII. Wrap up.

A. Despite her whole society thinking one way and being taken advantage of, Katniss decided that she could be the one to go against the grain. She saw standing up for what's right as a value, something that not many people before her did. She wasn't afraid and didn't let that stop her.

B. We've seen a few different perspectives on whether standing up for what's right is a value or not. We saw that you can grow in your ability to stand up for what's right, like Yaakov. That sometimes it might not look like speaking up will help the situation, but that shouldn't stop you, like Iyov. And we saw that it's not always so clear which things is the right thing to stand up for when two values are competing, like Yehonatan. It's important to understand when its right to speak out and maybe sometimes even when it's not the best thing to do. That maybe we don't always understand what's right.

C. Thank the NCSYers for their participation! And walk with them to the next program.