

“WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?”



**JUNIOR NCSY
SPRING CONVENTION
CAMP NAGEELA
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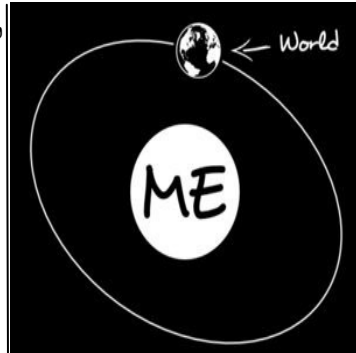
גמ' סנהדרין ל"ז.

Source 1

לפיכך נברא אדם יחידי ללמדך שכל המאבד נפש אחת מישראל מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו איבד

Talmud Bavli, Sanhedrin 37a

Man was created alone to teach us that anyone who causes one Jewish life to be lost, it is as if he caused a whole world to be lost. And anyone who saves one Jewish life, it is as if he saved an entire world...Therefore each and every person is obligated to say, "For me was the world created."



Source 2

יסוד החסידות ושרש העבודה התמימה הוא שיתברר ויתאמת אצל האדם מה חובתו בעולמו...

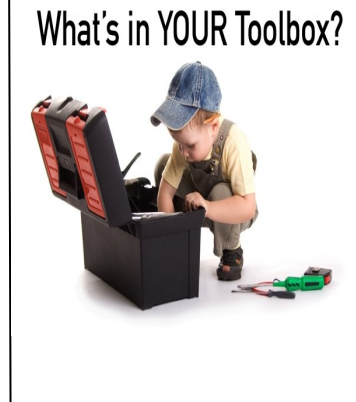
Mesilat Yesharim Chapter 2

The base of piety and the root of Divine service is the clarification of one's obligation in his world....



Source 3 Rabbi Akiva Tatz; The Thinking Teenagers Guide to Life

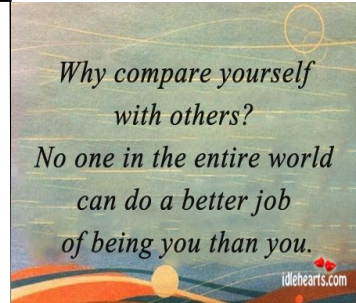
"If you were placed on a building site with a bag of tools by an intelligent foreman, all you need do is look around and see what is being built in your immediate vicinity and what tools you have been given and you will know immediately what you should be doing. Obviously, you have been given exactly the tools you need for the job; life is not a joke – you have a task to accomplish and you have definitely been given all you need to accomplish it. A careful examination of your place in the world and your personal character tools will give you a clear picture of who you are and what you must do ...We understand that the One who creates the whole enterprise gives every individual exactly what he or she needs to carry out the work that is necessary. " (pg.79-80)



What's in YOUR Toolbox?

Source 4 Rabbi Shlomo Volbe; Alei Shor, Vol 1 pg. 37

"An individual who knows himself and is aware of his nature, and who knows that whatever God has given him is a wondrous gift – if he will only take advantage of his talents and strengths he will attain all desirable traits. Such an individual does not suffer from jealousy or envy another person's lot in life! ... Do not compare yourself to others. Have faith in your Creator that He has given you all of your spiritual needs!"



Source 5

משנה אבות א:י"ג

יג) הוא הנה אומר, נגד שמא, אבד שמה. ודלא מוסיף, יסוף...

Mishna, Pirkei Avot 1:13

He would say, One who chases after a name, will lose their name; and if you are not progressing, you are falling...



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:

To help the NCSYers think about the concept of their own capabilities/superpowers as vehicles to become the best version of themselves

Content of the Session:

- 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. Ask your NCSYers: What is it that makes a superhero a superhero? Can anyone be one?
 - a) Have them share their thoughts. Validate their answers.
 2. The dictionary.com definition of superhero is:
 - a) Do you agree with this definition? Discuss for a few minutes.
 - B. Now that we have discussed the idea of what a superhero is, how does this apply to us? Can we be superheroes?
 1. Let's see what the Torah perspective is on this.

Superhero:

1. a hero, especially in children's comic books and television cartoons, possessing extraordinary, often magical powers.

- III. Pass out the source sheets and have an NCSYer read source 1.

- A. The Gemara in the first source compares saving one person to saving the whole world! It goes on to say that it's as if Hashem created the whole world for one person.

1. Ask the group: What do you think this means? Are you really saving the whole world by saving one person?

a) Discuss these ideas within the group. Remember to validate their answers.

B. I think source 2 could help us understand what the gemara is teaching us. Have an NCSYer read source 2

1. Mesilat Yesharim says that it is every person's job in this world to clarify their own mission. Everyone has a unique mission in this world and it is up to us to figure out what that mission is.

2. If we apply this understanding to the gemara in source 1, we can suggest that what the gemara means by saying every person is their own world, is that everyone has something unique to add to the world. Each person brings a new piece to the world.

IV. The obvious question for us is, now how do we find out what our mission is?

A. Have someone read source 3.

1. Rabbi Tatz explains that the answer is right in front of our faces. Hashem created each of us with unique talents and abilities. These are our tools that He gave us to help us succeed in our mission. If we understand our tools and work on sharpening them, we will be able to see what our mission is.

B. But what if I like someone else's powers better than mine?

1. Read source 4

2. Rabbi Volbe explains that once we realize that the gifts that Hashem gives us are the tools for our missions, jealousy of other people's tools doesn't make any sense.

a) It's kind of like when kids are first learning their shapes. They have these blocks shaped like squares, triangles and circles and they try to fit them into the right holes. They try to fit the triangle into the square hole and it doesn't work.

b) It's the same idea here trying to use the wrong tools for your mission won't help you. When you realize your tools are meant for you, then you will be able to succeed.

V. Now that we've discussed the Torah's view point of superheroes, it seems the Torah's definition is a little different than our original one.

A. The Torah explains that every person is special and they have their own superpowers. Hashem gave us these unique abilities to carry out our mission.

B. Do we automatically become superheroes though just because Hashem gives us special talents?

1. What do you think? Discuss this question with your NCSYers
- C. Take a look at source 5
1. Life is kind of like walking up a down escalator. If you aren't putting in effort to move up, you are going to be moving down.
 2. Just because Hashem gives you talents, doesn't mean you are the best you can be. You need to first recognize the abilities you have and then continue work on them to become even better!
- VI. This is a great spot to add in a story or a game to highlight the ideas we've been discussing. Please talk to each other and share ideas. You're not the only one giving this session.
- VII. Wrap up.
- A. If we look at the most popular superheroes, while they all have amazing powers, there's something else that makes them into superheroes. They all make the choice to take their powers and dedicate them to saving the world.
 - B. We all have incredible powers. Hashem created you because He needed you in this world. You have something to add that no one else can.
 1. We can begin to understand what that thing by understanding the tools Hashem gave us to accomplish our mission.
 2. But understanding our powers isn't enough to become the best we can. The next step is to dedicate ourselves to strengthening our powers and "saving the world" by accomplishing our mission.
 - C. Thank your NCSYers for their participation! Walk with them to the next program.