

# JSU CLUB ACTIVITY



## LOVE IS GIVING- PURIM

<b>Time needed</b>	30 mins
<b>Age range</b>	Any teen
<b>Background of teen</b>	Any background
<b>Set up</b>	Classroom setup and candy station

**Goals:** To explain that love is really giving to someone

**Relevance:** Purim is a time of giving (mishloach manos) to each other to foster ahava and re'us.

### Supplies needed:

1. Cards to write answers
2. Pens
3. Candy (2 brachos)
4. Bags
5. Cards to write notes

### Active Learning:

First, ask the teens what love is. You can ask them to write their answers on cards and read out the appropriate ones. Or you can show one of these clip [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcYIA58E\\_ss](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcYIA58E_ss)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egEpN0Sp82g>

Explain that love is about giving:

### Step by step planning:

Time	Facilitator Activity	Teen activity
10 mins	Define what love is	Watch video or use cards
10 mins	Explain the Jewish idea of love and connection to purim and giving	
10 mins	Set up mishloach manos station	Make mishloach manos
		Give out gifts to friends

### Wrap up message and Torah thought:

Esther chapter 9	אסתר פרק ט
And Mordechai inscribed these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, to enjoin them to make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and	(כ) וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹרְדֵכַי אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּשְׁלַח סְפָרִים אֶל־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְדִינֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲשֵׁרוּשׁ הַקְּרוּבִים וְהַרְחֹקִים: (כא) לְקַיֵּם עֲלֵיהֶם לִהְיוֹת עֹשִׂים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר לַחֹדֶשׁ אָדָר וְאֵת יוֹם־חֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ בְּכָל־שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה:

the fifteenth day thereof, every year, as the days when the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month that was reversed for them from grief to joy and from mourning to a festive day-to make them days of feasting and joy, and sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor

(כב) כִּי־מִיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר־נָחַו בָּהֶם הַיְהוּדִים מֵאוֹיְבֵיהֶם וְהַחֲדָשׁ אֲשֶׁר נִהְפָּךְ לָהֶם מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׂמְחָה וּמֵאֵבֶל לְיוֹם טוֹב לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם יָמֵי מִשְׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה וּמְשֻׁלֹחַ מְנוּת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ וּמִתְּנוּת לְאֲבִיּוֹנִים

<http://www.jewishmag.com/20mag/hebrew/hebrew.htm>

Understanding the concepts that are invested in words can aid us in our own lives. As an interesting example, the word "love" which is thrown about so freely in English, has a special meaning in Hebrew. Love in Hebrew is "Ahava", which is made up of three basic Hebrew letters, . These three letters actually are broken down into two parts: a two letter base or root, , and the first letter, , which is a modifier. The meaning of the two letter base, , is "to give". The letter "aleph", which precedes these two letters comes to modify the meaning of the base word, "give". The meaning of , is "I give" and also "love".

We now see the connection between the two words, "I give" and "love". Love is giving. Now only is love giving, but the actual process of giving develops the very connection between the giver and the receiver. There is no greater giving than that of a husband and wife. Each one gives to the other. The more giving that one does, the greater is the connection.

### Why?

The process of giving is a vehicle through which the giver through his act of giving is able to, through a physical gift (or even a verbal comment), give of himself to another. This act of giving something is not merely helping another. For sure, giving is helping another, but it is much more than that. Giving is a method that enables us to make a connection to another. When we give to another, that which we give to him/her, could have been utilize to further our own self. Instead, we choose to take this object, which could have been utilized for our own needs and instead, use it for someone else.

Giving is a condition that creates and sustains love. Without giving, there is no connection that is sustaining.

The true relationships that our meaningful in our lives are those in which mutual giving takes place. The giving may be physical, emotional, intellectual or a combination. But without giving from ourselves, no relationship can be enduring.

That is the secret of love that is revealed to us by the Hebrew language. This is the secret that is invested in the language by the Creator.

**Purim is a day of inspiring love and fostering good communal relationships. To do this we give gifts. This is the way we express love, by giving. Contrast this with the Pagan Halloween which is all about taking from other people.**