

Adult Education Home Learning Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

What's this all about?

The Adult Education Home Learning Initiative is intended to *physically* bring together groups of adults for study and discussion of Jewish texts and ideas. These learning groups are designed to be participatory and informal. We hope to create a collaborative learning experience, where, together, we can explore ideas rather than passively consume a lecture. Also, we hope the social aspect of these gatherings will encourage individuals to join and continue participating.

The Study Sources

All the learning materials are selected from traditional sources and presented in Hebrew and English. The materials are designed for independent, individual and group adult learning. The topics will appeal to a broad range of interests, with sources relevant to contemporary culture, philosophical ideas, halacha and ritual. All learning materials will be provided.

Where can I see the learning materials?

Samples of the learning materials are posted [online](#).

Hosting and Participating

The Host organizes the group while all others in the group are participants. You can choose to sign-up for either role. Participants will be assigned learning groups. Hosts can invite anyone to participate or choose to invite from registered participants.

How do I join a group?

Sign up to participate as Host or Participant [here](#). Participants will be invited to join a group by a Host.

Who does a Host invite?

Invitations can be extended to friends and neighbours, members of Shaarei Shomayim or not, as well as individuals who sign-up to participate. The goal is to get a group of people learning, talking and sharing together, as well as to encourage more people to engage in Torah study.

Commitment

We hope that each group will meet 4 times initially. Of course, we would like groups to continue learning together as often as they choose.

How many people per group?

We found that study groups of 6-8 work best. Groups of 8 are small enough for people to feel comfortable sharing and participating, but big enough to bring together a diverse group of people with different ideas and perspectives.

Who chooses the topic to study?

The Host selects the initial topic of study. If the group continues to learn together, the group could select new topics to learn together.

Who leads the discussion?

The materials are designed in a way that anyone can lead a discussion and lead the learning.

What does a host do?

The Host manages the group, invites the participants, and manages any administrative issues. The Host is the contact between the group and the Adult Education Committee.

Do the hosts serve refreshments?

Yes. This is, in part, a social, informal event. The Committee will provide 1 large pizza on the first gathering. At the end of the learning sessions, we will all gather for a learning *siyyum*.

More Questions?

If you have more questions, please [contact Sholom Eisenstat](#) or any member of the Adult Education Committee.

How do I participate in a group?

Please sign up [here](#).

Committee Members

Mindy Chapman, Sholom Eisenstat (co-chair), Daniel Gofine, Eli Javasky, Jonathan Parker (chair), Benji Pister, Joyce Rifkind, Gila Spiegel