

The guide below will help you lead a conversation with program participants, and better ensure a meaningful experience for the volunteers and the community you're helping. Before starting your service activity, take 15 minutes to reflect as a group on your intentions for the day and how you want to frame your service work.

1

Have a fellow participant read the following story.

Jessica is rushing to catch a public bus to school after waking up late. As she grabs her wallet to pay the fare, a 20 dollar bill falls to the pavement. The bus pulls away without her realizing.

Moments later, a struggling single dad walks past the bus stop and sees the 20 dollars. He takes the bill and spends it on food for his small children.

2

Ask the group for a few opinions on the following questions.

- There is a long-standing Jewish debate about giving credit to people who accidentally do good deeds. What do you think?
- Should Jessica be given credit for doing service and feeding these children?
- Does the fact that Jessica unintentionally dropped the money affect the action itself and how it is received?
- How would intention have changed the story and the action?

3

Then explain the following.

The Jewish concept of **kavanah**, the Hebrew word for intention, enriches our experiences and helps us to better connect with our values. Thinking about how and why we volunteer can make the service more meaningful to us as individuals as well as to those receiving our service.

4

And discuss.

Based on our previous discussion, what **kavanah** are you hoping to have while volunteering?

Go around the group, making sure that everyone has a chance to share their **kavanah**.

5

Close the conversation.

By sharing our individual **kavanot** (intentions) with the group, we're not only driven by our own intentions but also the intentions of others.

Be sure to notice the ways that holding up intentions affect your service work.

SO, HOW'D IT GO?

let us know at holla@weRepair.org!