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TEACHER'S GUIDE

THE BEST OF THE BEST

✍ THE BEST OF THE BEST | SOURCES:

- "רע, רע יאמר הקונה ואזל לו אז יתהלל" (משלי כ:יד)
- "תנו רבנן מצות חנוכה נר איש וביתו והמהדרין נר לכל אחד ואחד ומהדרין מן המהדרין... ובית הלל אומרים יום ראשון מדליק אחת מכאן ואילך מוסיף והולך" (שבת כא:ב)
- "היכולנו כל כך על נקלה לסבול בעולם הזה החולף לראות אחד מחבריהם מכבד ומנשא יותר מהם? לא, ודאי!" (מסילת ישרים)
- "כך ישראל יש להם חלק לעולם הבא" (סנהדרין י:א)

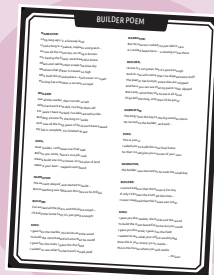
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✂ MATERIALS:



1 per
student

'GOOD ENOUGH?' WORKSHEETS
Anticipatory Set



1 per
student

'THE LAST HOUSE' POEM
Activity



set of 3
per class

CHARACTER PINS
Activity

The Best of the Best

LESSON AT A GLANCE

INTRODUCTION



CONCEPT:

Just like we want the best for our gashmiyus needs, we should always strive for the best in our ruchniyus goals, as well.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Do I strive for the 'very best' in material pursuits, while settling for 'good enough' in my avodas Hashem?



ANTICIPATORY SET:

'Good Enough?'

Brainstorm: What are some areas in your life where 'good enough' is just not enough?



ACTIVITY:

'The Last House'

Purpose: Students will experience the end results of efforts that are merely 'Good Enough.'



DISCUSSIONS:

- A Shopper's Perspective
- "Good Enough" vs. "Better"



CLOSURE: 'Good Enough...Better...Best' - Take it to Heart #9

Best of the Best



Just like we want the best for our *gashmiyus* needs,
we should always strive for the best in our *ruchniyus* goals, as well.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Do I strive for the 'very best' in material pursuits, while settling for 'good enough' in my *avodas Hashem*?

ANTICIPATORY SET

GOOD ENOUGH?

BRAINSTORM: What are some areas in your life where 'good enough' is just not enough?

Teacher distributes the 'Good Enough' Scenarios Worksheet. Students read the scenarios to themselves and highlight the sentence in each one that expresses an attitude about 'good enough'. Optional: Teacher can call on different students to read the scenarios out loud while students highlight the 'Good Enough' sentence.

Teacher prompts students to complete the prompts at the bottom of the page:

- In which areas do we typically strive for the best?
 - In which areas are we, unfortunately, frequently satisfied with 'good enough'?
- What is the general pattern that you see being depicted in the above scenarios?

CONCLUSION: When it comes to our physical needs and wants, we are rarely content with things that are 'good enough.' However, while addressing our spiritual needs, we tend to adopt a 'good enough' attitude.

FOCUS! Just as we strive for the best in the areas that involve our *gashmiyus*, we should learn to accept only the best in our *ruchniyus* pursuits, as well.

LESSON

GO FOR THE BEST

We all know that when it comes to our clothes, our homes, our devices, and our meals, good enough is not good enough. You wouldn't be satisfied if your gown for your sister's wedding was simply good enough, or if you knew your part for the play just good enough. You wouldn't be content if your test mark was just good enough. But somehow,

Hashem helped them in their quest for the “best” and performed a miracle. And so when we light the *menorah* every year, we remind ourselves of this approach. We don’t simply light one candle: we light in the way that is *mehadrin min hamehadrin* – we want to do the *mitzvah* in the best way possible!

ACTIVITY THE LAST HOUSE

» **PURPOSE:** Students will experience the end results of efforts that are merely ‘good enough.’

PROCESS:

- Teacher selects three students to come to the front of the classroom and assigns them the role of either ‘Narrator,’ ‘King,’ or ‘Builder’ by giving them a character button pin.
- Teacher distributes the poem of ‘The Builder’ to the students.
- The three volunteers read their characters’ parts aloud as the rest of the class follow along on their papers.
- Teacher prompts the students to explain the *mashal* and the *nimsha*.

‘THE BUILDER’ POEM:

NARRATOR:

Long long ago in a faraway land
Lived a King in a palace, majestic and grand...
Across all the countries, our King is known
For having the finest, most beautiful home
Pillars and castles that scrape the blue sky
Windows that glitter in towers so high
Who built this grand palace – each tower so royal?
The king has a builder; a servant so loyal

BUILDER:

See all the castles, their turrets so tall
With hard work and skill, I’ve built them all!
For years I have worked; I’ve labored with pride
Building a home for the King to reside

And now all the long years of hard work have passed
My job is complete; I’m finished at last

KING:

Dear builder, I still have one final task
Before you retire, there’s one job I ask
Please build one more house on this plot of land
Make it your best – majestic and grand

NARRATOR:

The servant obeyed, and started to build...
But something was different this time as he drilled

BUILDER:

I’ve worked all the years, and this job is tough...
I’ll build this home fast; it’s just good enough!

CLOSURE

[Take it to Heart]

GOOD ENOUGH... BETTER... BEST

1. The following is a *mitzvah* I currently do in a way that's just 'good enough': _____

2. I can use the following tip to make my performance of this *mitzvah* "the best of the best": _____

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