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TEACHER'S GUIDE

THE CONFLICT

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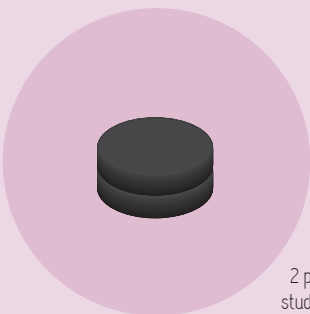
CHAIM & CHAYA BAILA WOLF
TEACHER**CENTER**

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✍ THE CONFLICT | SOURCES:

- אלקי נשמה שנתת בי טהורה היא (ברכות השחר)
- ישראל אף על פי שחטא ישראל הוא (סנהדרין מד)
- רבון העולמים גלוי וידוע לפניך שרצוננו לעשות רצוניך ומי מעכב שאור
שבעיסה... (ברכות יז:א)

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2 per
student

2 SMALL MAGNETS
Anticipatory Set / Activity



1 per
student

ANALYSIS CARDS
Activity



Set of 4
per class

SCENARIO CARDS
Demonstration

The Conflict

LESSON AT A GLANCE

INTRODUCTION



CONCEPT:

The force of the Yetzer Hara tries to block the magnetic pull between the neshama and Hashem.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

Why do I sometimes feel 'disconnected' from Hashem and the mitzvos?



ANTICIPATORY SET:

'Magnetic Force' Demonstration

Brainstorm: What is my *neshama*? What does it yearn for?

LESSON



ACTIVITY:

'Magnetic Pull'

Purpose: Students will experiment with the increase/decrease in magnetic pull as layers between the magnets are removed/added.



STUDENT EXERCISE:

'Identifying the Layers'

Purpose: Students will identify the neshama's real desires and the layers that block it from achieving them.



DISCUSSIONS:

- My Own Layers
- Still Valuable



DEMONSTRATION:

'Unchanged Value'

Purpose: Students will understand the unchanging value of the neshama, no matter how far one feels



CLOSURE:

'FAQs' - Take it to Heart #2

LESSON

WHY DON'T I FEEL IT?

If my *neshama* draws me close to Hashem and His מצוות, why is it so easy to stumble in the יצר הרע's trap and do עבירות?

Why don't I always feel that strong magnetic pull? Sometimes I don't even feel connected at all!

For example:

- It's after a long day and I'm thankfully under my covers, about to drift off to a most welcome sleep, when I realize that I forgot to say *Krias Shema shel Hamitah*. But I'm so, so tired and I just don't feel like sitting up to say *shema* properly. If my *neshama* is 'magnetically pulled' toward Hashem, why am I struggling with this?
- My little brother keeps annoying me. I know that Hashem would want me to speak to him calmly and patiently. So why do I keep yelling at him? Why isn't my *neshama* pulling me to do the right thing?

Enable students to understand this concept by performing the following 'experiment':

ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE MAGNETS

➤ **PURPOSE:** Students will experiment with the increase/decrease in magnetic pull as layers between the magnets are removed/added

PROCESS:

- Students receive a pair of small magnets along with an analysis card.
 - Students follow the instructions on the analysis card and write down their observations about the magnets' behavior.
- In step one, students observe how the magnets jump toward each other.
- In each subsequent step, students observe how layering obstructions between the two magnets decreases the strength of the magnetic pull.
- After students complete the experiment, teacher asks:
What happens as layers are added to separate between the two magnets?

🔗 **CONCLUSION:** The more layers we add between two magnets, the weaker the force of attraction will get.

🔗 **LINK to LESSON:** The reason we often don't feel like doing the right thing is because there are 'layers' that weaken the *neshama's* natural pull toward Hashem.

LAYERS THAT WEAKEN THE CONNECTION

Unfortunately, there are many layers surrounding the magnet of our *neshama*. These layers 'get in the way' so we don't feel the magnetic pull as strongly. What are some of these layers? Excess materialism, laziness, poor מדות, and temptation to do עבירות. These layers are ploys of the יצר הרע, which act as barriers to the magnetic field.

For example:

- Deep down, my *neshama* really wants me to speak patiently and softly. But I have the כעס of anger – a 'layer' that interferes with my magnetic pull.
- Deep down, my *neshama* is pulled toward צניעות. The fashion designers' undignified styles, along with the thought that my clothing defines me, block my magnetic pull.

The experiment demonstrates that by removing the layers between the two magnets, we increase the strength of the pull. We peel away the interfering layers so that the magnets are once again pulled toward one another. Similarly, through hard work, we can peel away the layers that cover our *neshama*, so that we can once again feel the strong pull that draws us towards Hashem and His מצוות.

STUDENT EXERCISE IDENTIFYING THE LAYER

» **PURPOSE:** Students will identify the *neshama's* real desires and the layers that block us from achieving them.

PROCESS:

- Teacher reads a scenario.
- For each scenario, students suggest a response to the following two questions:

What does the neshama – the 'magnet' – really want to do?

What specifically is the 'layer' blocking the magnet's pull?

For example:

Basya has just settled down on the couch with a good book, when she hears her mother calling her from the kitchen, "Basya, please come help with the dishes!"

- What does the *neshama* – the 'magnet' – really want to do? *Jump up immediately and help.*
- What, specifically, is the 'layer' that blocks the magnet's pull? *Basya prefers to continue reading / she thinks, "I'm too tired" / "I have no patience" / "I need time to relax" etc.*

DEMONSTRATION UNCHANGED VALUE

► **PURPOSE:** Students will understand the unchanging value of the neshama, no matter how far one feels

Process:

- Teacher holds up a \$100 bill and asks who wants it
- Teacher crumples the bill into a ball and asks who wants it
- Teacher throws the bill down and steps on it, then again asks if anyone still wants it

🔗 **CONCLUSION:** A \$100 bill is not diminished in value even when it's crumpled and soiled

DISCUSS: Still Valuable

Why wasn't anyone dissuaded from wanting the \$100 bill?

How can we apply this idea to a person's neshama?

Your *neshama* is like that bill. No matter what you do, it retains its priceless value. You may need to do תשובה to clean it off, but always remember that your special *neshama* inside will never lose its value!

🔗 **FROM THE SOURCE** יורד יצא על פי שחטא ישראל הוא איד, even if he does *aveiros*, remains a Yid. His essence, his *neshama* is pure and holy, and nothing in the world can change that.

CLOSURE

[Take it to Heart]

FAQs

Instruct students to write a sample response to the following 3 questions:

1. Only really special girls want to do the right thing; the rest of us just want to do what the Yetzer Harah tells us. *Sample response: Deep down, I really want the right thing. This means that even if I keep struggling against my Yetzer Harah, I am still a good person.*
2. Deep down, I really want to do the right thing. So why don't I always choose to do what's right? *Sample response: There are layers, such as undeveloped מדות and my הרע, that block me from doing the right thing.*

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