



## ACTIVITY

# Responsible For Whom?

### Materials Needed

- Copies Video clip
- screening device and internet connection
- List of value statements for Barometer Activity
- Text from Just Action (<http://www.justaction.org/torahstudy/universalism-text2.htm>)

### Time Needed

45 minutes-1 hour

### Goal

- To consider what special responsibilities Jews have toward other Jews.
- To consider the tension between our responsibility toward other Jews and our universal desire to help all people.

## Before You Get Started

Look at the list of enduring understandings. Which one would you like to emphasize through this activity?

- Jewish tradition created a society where the members of the Jewish People have a responsibility to each other as joint participants in a collective.
- Judaism outlines ‘*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh*’ as an imperative. The word “*kol*” emphasizes that it is an obligation for each and every person.
- Jewish communities have always organized themselves according to this principle, building structures for mutual support of those in need.
- In the late 20th century there are numerous examples of when Jews mobilized in support of their brethren around the world based on this principle.

## Directions for Activity

1. Ask participants to respond to the following set of value-centered questions through the “barometer” game. One end of the room represents “yes” the other end represents “no” and everywhere in between those two extremes represents a position somewhere in the middle. When you read each statement, ask participants to stand somewhere along the barometer (e.g. somewhere in the room that reflects their position in favor or against the statement being read.) Once they have answered one question, ask a few people to quickly share why they chose to stand where they did to get a sense of the different opinions in the room. (This game works well if you have several “warm up” statements like “I love chocolate ice cream” or “The Fourth of July is my favorite American holiday” or “Sunbathing is not fun.”)
  - I love my family more than I love other people.
  - I will help anyone who asks for help.
  - I love hosting people at my home.
  - If a Jew needs a place to go for a holiday or Shabbat meal, I want them to come to my house.
  - I only like to host people who are my friends.
  - I feel responsible for all people.
  - I feel a special responsibility for other Jews, even if I don’t know them.
2. Conclude the game by asking participants to share what they noticed, and if their reactions to any of the statements surprised them.

3. Watch the clip from the award winning Israeli film Ushpizin (2004) Cue: 30:42-36:50 ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgiCDDGdny4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgiCDDGdny4))
4. Facilitate a discussion around questions of responsibility for other Jews through the text produced by Hillel and Panim ([www.justaction.org/torahstudy/universalism-text2.htm](http://www.justaction.org/torahstudy/universalism-text2.htm)). In particular, ask participants to reflect on the questions – who do we define as our brothers, and what does it mean for us to be responsible for them?
5. Sum up the discussion and ask participants to share a question or idea they are left with.

### Note to Educator

Did the enduring understanding that you set out to teach surface during this activity?