

Additional Information About Heschel's Learning and Siyum:

What is a siyum?

The word "siyum," meaning "conclusion" or "completion," is used to refer to finishing the study of a cohesive section or segment of text. Primarily used for the study of rabbinic texts, it can also refer to studying a full book of the *Tanakh*. People often combine efforts to achieve this significant accomplishment, which is then marked with a ceremony or celebration, depending on the purpose or reason for the study. Our *siyum* will bring together our community to study all 929 chapters of the Bible. We will gather as a community on the evening of October 8th to mark our accomplishment.

Why are we doing a siyum?

A *siyum* is often done to honor someone's memory. Our *siyum* is in honor of those who died on October 7th. Your study can also be done in honor or memory of others who are in your hearts and minds.

How do I indicate that this learning has special meaning?

Just as one recites a *beracha* before certain actions, such as eating or fulfilling a *mitzvah*, it is meaningful to articulate aloud who one is honoring with their study for a *siyum*. We suggest that for this learning, the following be recited, including, if you choose, your own personal dedication at the end as well.

"I dedicate this learning in memory of all victims of the October 7th attack... [and in honor/memory of...]
[אָנִי מַקְדִּישַׁ/מַקְדִּישָׁה אֶת הַלִּימוּד הַזֶּה לְזֵכֶר קְרְבְּנוֹת וְנִפְגְּעֵי הַשִּׁבְעָה בְּאוֹקְטוֹבֶּר... [וּלְשַׁם/לְזֵכֶר...]

Ani makdish/makdisha et ha'limud haze le'zecher kol korbanot ve'nifge'ei ha'shiva be'october...
[u'leshem/le'zecher...]

Which chapter should I pick?

When deciding on what you would like to study, you might want to consider:

- 1. A chapter in a book you have never read so that you learn something new; or
- 2. A chapter in a book that one of your children is studying in school; or
- 3. A chapter from your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* portion.

How should I study?

When participating in a *siyum*, people can decide for themselves how deeply to study a text. In the signup form, we have included links to the online resource Sefaria, where you can read the text in Hebrew or English (or both). When you are interested in learning something more in depth, click on a particular verse and commentaries will appear in the right margin, some in English translation.