



STICKY SITUATIONS

Solutions for Tricky Moral Dilemmas

1: IS THE CUSTOMER REALLY ALWAYS RIGHT?

Is haggling kosher? Can I buy something that I plan on returning? Can window shopping be ethically questionable? Can I check the price at one store only to see if I got a good deal on an item I bought somewhere else?

2: THE DOCTOR IS IN

If G-d decided that someone should be sick, what gives us the right to interfere? Why do we go to doctors or take medicine if G-d is the one who heals? Does seeking medical treatment demonstrate a lack of faith in G-d? And if we are allowed to seek medical intervention, do we have to do so? How about risky medical procedures?

3: DYING WITH DIGNITY

If someone asks to be taken off of life support, do we respect the person's wishes? Is there any value in prolonging the life of a suffering, terminally ill person? How about someone in a comatose or persistent vegetative state?

4: PASSING IT DOWN

In 1880, Francis B. Palmer wrote a will in which he gave

small legacies to his two daughters, and left the remainder of his estate to his grandson Elmer. When Francis considered changing his will, Elmer fatally poisoned his grandfather before the will could be changed—and then claimed the property. Did he have a valid claim? Can a murderer inherit from his victim?

5: THE TOP ONE PERCENT

Why did G-d create a world where some people have a lot and others have next to nothing? Are exorbitant CEO compensations a moral outrage? Is money the root of all evil? Should people have the right to make a gazillion bucks—and keep all of it? On a personal level, what attitude do we take to money—should we strive for wealth, or to lead a Spartan lifestyle?

6: FINDERS KEEPERS, LOSERS WEEPERS

Is it right to pocket a dollar you find on the sidewalk? If you discover buried treasure, are you allowed to keep it? If you rescue a valuable painting from someone else's burning house, can you auction it off on eBay?

SUMMARY: Every day we come face-to-face with moral questions. Sometimes it's tough to know the right thing to do. This course will explore Judaism's approach to morally "sticky situations" that we encounter in different areas of life—from shopping ethics to medical care dilemmas to the proper ways to helping the underprivileged. Teens that will take this course will gain an appreciation for the Torah's contemporary relevance.

DESCRIPTION: From appropriate consumer behavior to issues of life and death, Judaism has a lot to say about questions of ethics and morality. In this series, teens will explore ethical questions and moral dilemmas that arise in many different areas of life, often comparing and contrasting Jewish and secular law and values. Through this course, teens will discover how the Torah approaches real-life questions of ethics and morality and learn that Judaism offers practical ideas that allow us to solve problems in the modern world. In this course, teens will be challenged to solve some perplexing, hotly contested problems. Does my moral obligation to help the poor mean that I have to give a needy person an iPad or a TV—in addition to food and clothing? Is it ethical to take a sick person off of life support if that is what the person wants? Can I keep money or objects that I find on the street? This course will delve into all of these sticky, tricky, and sometimes icky situations—and a few more too.