



מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פָּרַק אַ מִשְׁנָה ו: "עֲשֵׂה לָךְ רַב"



The Mishna:

המשנה:

Avot, Chapter 1, Mishna 6:

Joshua ben Perahiah used to say:
 appoint for yourself a teacher,
 and acquire for yourself a companion
 and judge all men with the scale
 weighted in his favor.

אבות א, ו

...יהושע בן פרחיה אומר:
 עשה לך רב, וקנה לך חבר,
 והוי דן את כל האדם לכף זכות.

A short explanation on the Mishna:

“Appoint for yourself a teacher” – a person must choose a certain wise man to be his rabbi, from whom he will learn and receive authority. “And acquire for yourself a companion” – a person should build a relationship of reciprocity and closeness

with friends. A friend should "acquire," meaning that one must invest effort, time and energy, as well as commitment, to be a friend and to gain a true friend.

“And judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor” – one must strive to find the positive side in every act that a person does, especially one’s friend and Rabbi.

(Also based on Rabbi Even-Israel Steinsaltz’s commentary on Pirkei Avot, p. 29, courtesy of the Steinsaltz Center).



Level 1:

- **Memorizing** the Mishna with hand movements.

(Click or scan the barcode)



Family Assignment:

In this study session, we use the "Flipped Classroom" practice. You can read more about this practice on United's website:

<https://unitedjed.org/practice-page-flipped-classroom/>

“Appoint for yourself a teacher, and acquire for yourself a companion”

You can use the "Flipped Classroom" method for this lesson and give the students an assignment to prepare for class.

- Ask the students to read the Mishna in Avot, Chapter 1, Mishna 6 and write the three things Rabbi Joshua ben Perahiah says in their own words.
- (You can perform one or more of the following assignments:)
 - ❖ Interview an older family member:
Who is the educational or rabbinic figure you admire the most, and why?
 - ❖ Choose a good friend of yours and write:
What qualities do you particularly like in this friend?
 - ❖ Tell about an extraordinary deed a friend did for you? Or an extraordinary deed you did for your friend?

- At the beginning of the lesson, discuss the assignment the students did at home:

The students will be asked to share the stories they learned about an educational personality or a good friend who is close to their family and answer the question:

- ❖ Why are Rabbi Joshua ben Perahiah's words so important? Why is it so important for a person to appoint for himself a teacher, and acquire for himself a companion?
- ❖ Would you like to be a significant person for someone? For whom?

Level 2:

Judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor

- *Exercise: - Think Pare Share*

In this section we will use the “Think Pare Share” technique. You can read about it on United’s website:

<https://unitedjed.org/practice-page-think-pair-share/>

“Judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor” (attached worksheet for the students)

The students will read about different situations, try to write their “judgment” of the situation, and then share their answers with their partner. The students will then meet in the plenary and hear different answers to these situations.

In conclusion – we can say that there are many and varied ways to “judge” people in different situations. You have to open your eyes, look at things positively, and also use a certain level of creativity.