



**Foundations  
of Chinuch**  
Training series  
**CLASS #4**

# VE'AHAVTA: To Love Every Jew

Every Jew is part of me—loving them is loving myself.

## Goal:

The child should feel genuine love for every Jew based on neshamah-unity, express it through respect and action, and share Yiddishkeit with others.

## Core Idea:

Ahavas Yisrael isn't just another mitzvah—it's a "klal gadol baTorah," the great general principle of the entire Torah. Why should I love every Jew as myself? Because all neshamos come from the One Hashem, and deep down, we are truly one. When I love another Yid, I'm not loving a stranger; I'm loving another part of myself. This isn't just about helping others—it's about recognizing our essential unity and treating every Jew with the dignity they deserve.

**When interacting with a child:** Connect to what they already learned: "Remember how Hashem watches every Yid with nachas? That Yid you're looking at is just as precious as you are."

## Why It Matters?

Without this teaching, a child might think Yiddishkeit is only about their personal connection to Hashem. Ve'ahavta reveals that we are incomplete without each other. "I am not whole without you, and you are not whole without me." This was how we received the Torah—"k'ish echad b'lev echad"—and it remains essential to being a Yid today.

## Supporting Ideas

- **Klal gadol baTorah.** Rabbi Akiva and Hillel both taught that ahavas Yisrael is the foundation of the entire Torah. Everything else is commentary.
- **It's a neshamah thing.** We all have individual bodies, but all neshamos come from the One Hashem. Focus on neshamos, and you see that all Yidden are one.
- **Kamocho—as yourself.** Why do I love myself? Not for accomplishments—"because this is me." Love another Yid the same way: "because this is also me."
- **Love AND respect.** The positive mitzvah ("love your fellow") has a negative counterpart: "What is hateful to you, don't do to others." Don't just help—accord dignity.
- **Rabbi Akiva's students.** They had ahavas Yisrael but lacked proper respect. After Lag BaOmer, they excelled in both. Love must include honor.
- **Know their virtue.** To truly love and respect others, remember what the previous pesukim taught: Hashem watches every Yid with nachas, each is His "neitzer matai." How can I find fault when Hashem is beaming with pride at them?
- **Achdus at Sinai.** "K'ish echad b'lev echad"—one person with one heart. If even one Yid had been missing, Hashem wouldn't have given the Torah. We're a single unit.
- **Starts from birth.** Ahavas Yisrael education begins with the atmosphere at home—children absorb it before any formal teaching.
- **Toddler self-focus is positive.** "Bishvili nivra ha'olam"—the world was created for me. Redirect this: "yours to share," "yours to help others."
- **Sharing Yiddishkeit.** A primary expression of ahavas Yisrael is helping other children learn Torah and do mitzvos. Even young children are already teaching by example.
- **Two against one.** When struggling with the yetzer hara, talk to a friend. Two neshamos unite against one yetzer hara—"two are bound to win against one."

# Mindshifts

Old Paradigm	New Paradigm
"Ahavas Yisrael is one mitzvah among many"	"It's the klal gadol—the great principle of the whole Torah"
"I should love others because I'm told to"	"I love them because they're part of me—all neshamos are one"
"Helping others is enough"	"I must also respect them and treat them with dignity"
"Why should I love someone who doesn't act right?"	"Focus on their neshamah—Hashem is watching them with nachas right now"
"I'm just a kid—I can't influence others"	"I'm already teaching by example; now I can share actively too"
"My toddler is so selfish"	"They feel 'the world was created for me'—redirect to sharing and helping"
"I have to fight my yetzer hara alone"	"Two neshamos against one yetzer hara—talk to a friend!"
"Yiddishkeit is about my personal avodah"	"I'm not whole without other Yidden; we received Torah as one"

## Applications

- **Be a role model.** Children absorb ahavas Yisrael from watching parents interact with other Jews—strangers or neighbors—with authentic warmth and connection.
- **Diverse encounters as teaching moments.** Meeting Jews from different backgrounds is an opportunity to explain what makes a Yid a Yid and why we're always united inside.
- **Empower children as influencers.** Encourage them to share the Twelve Pesukim, gift tzitzis, register others for Tzivos Hashem, teach Torah they know.
- **Right eye, left eye.** The Rebbe Rayatz's father taught: Look at toys with the left eye (less favor), at every Jew with the right eye (love)—see the good in each one.
- **Tzedakah with joy.** Giving tzedakah is a primary expression of ahavas Yisrael. Teach children to give joyfully, without negative feelings.
- **Children's gemach.** Set up lending funds where children contribute and administer—learning generosity through both giving and organizing.
- **Stories of tzaddikim.** The Baal Shem Tov's father told him at age five: "Fear no one but G-d. Love every Jew, whoever he may be, with all your soul." These stories resonate and inspire.
- **Ask for help.** Children should be taught to lean on friends and mentors when struggling. Two neshamos working together beat one yetzer hara.