

Text Study: What Has Changed (And Is Changing) Along the Journey?

After saying the blessing before study, read the text below and discuss the questions in hevruta. Be prepared to share one or two key responses to each question with the full group.

תפלת הדרך

יהי רצון מלפניך יהוה אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו,
שתוליכנו לשלום ותצמידנו לשלום ותדריכנו
לשלום, ותגיענו למחוז חפצנו לחיים ולשמחה
ולשלום, ותחזירנו לביתנו לשלום ותצילנו מכף כָּל
אויב ואורב, ומכל מיני פרעניות המתרגשות לבוא
לעולם ותשלח ברכה במעשה ידינו ותתנו לנו לחן
ולחסד ולרחמים בעיניך ובעיני כָּל ראינו, ותשמע
קול תחנונינו, כי אל שומע תפלה ותחנון אתה:
ברוך אתה יהוה שומע תפלה.

T'filat HaDerech (Traveler's Prayer)

May it be Your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, to guide us in peace, to sustain us in peace, to lead us to our desired destination in health and joy and peace, and to bring us home in peace. Save us from every enemy and disaster on the way, and from all calamities that threaten the world. Bless the work of our hands. May we find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us. Hear our supplication, for You listen to prayer and supplication.

Praised are You, Lord who hears prayer.

Please note that God's Hebrew name appears on this page. As a sign of respect, instead of discarding it after use you may prefer to store it in a geniza—a place where printed materials containing God's name and old ritual objects are collected in preparation for ritual burial.



The RE-IMAGINE Project of New York • Experiment in Congregational Education

The Experiment in Congregational Education (ECE)—
A Project of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles
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Questions for Discussion

1. Almost two years ago your Leadership Team studied this text together for the first time. Uncertain of what was ahead, you noted that this prayer held many requests for both the journey and for the arrival at a destination. As you think back on these months, what hopes or requests have been fulfilled for you personally, for your Task Force, for the children of your congregation? Which ones have not been fulfilled? What hopes and requests do you have for next part of your journey as you move toward your new vision for education?
2. The first leg of The RE-IMAGINE journey has had two important destinations. One is for your congregation to begin to re-imagine its religious education. The artifact you shared helped tell this part of your story.

The second significant goal is for people in congregations to work together in new ways that promote ongoing experimentation and innovation—to be continually self-renewing. When you think back to the first time you studied this prayer, what has changed in your role as a leader, the way your Leadership Team and Task Forces have worked together, and the ways that lay and professional leaders have focused on education? What has stayed the same? As Abaye said: "A man should always associate himself with the congregation. [And it is advisable that he should not travel or pray on his own.]" In what ways has traveling together as a group made a difference to your journey?

3. Name one thing you are committed to do as a leader in your congregation as you move forward toward your vision to enable you to "find grace, love and compassion in Your sight and in the sight of all who see us?"



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