

# Pirkei Avot Community Learning Study Resource

## *Chapter 2: Mishnayot 5-8*

### Questions to Consider

#### **Mishna 5**

How can we deal with our feelings when we disagree with members of our community?

How are the teaching in this Mishna connected to one another? By telling us what we should not do, what is this mishna actually teaching us about how we should behave?

#### **Mishna 6**

What kind of person should we try to be? Why can't an ignorant person be pious? Why can't a timid person learn?

What character traits keep us from achieving the things we want to achieve? What can we do about this?

What kind of place is a place without men/human beings? How does one try to be a human being?

#### **Mishna 7**

Discuss the rabbinic principle of middah k'neged midah (measure for measure, what you do to others will be done to you). What do you think of this principle?

#### **Mishna 8**

What gets in the way of the things we truly value? What distractions are we surrounded by? How can we reorganize our lives to correspond to what we truly want?

Who do you think the Mishna says will be involved in sorcery, lewdness, and thievery?

### Commentary

Rabeinu Yosef ben Shushan on Avot - "boor" - this is one who has neither torah which is a tree of life, nor good deeds.. The term boor comes from "a boor field" (Peah2:1). This is a field which was not sown and grows nothing. Such a person does not fear sinning because he does not recognize the lowliness of sin and its punishment.