

# Virtue – Resolve (Resolution)

## קִישָׁה עֲרָף

### Kh-shay oref / resolve

verb/ re•solve \ri-'zälv, -'zölv also -'zäv or -'zöv\  
to make a definite and serious decision to do something

## Guide For Your Circle

# 1

### ICE - BREAKER

Ask each person to introduce themselves, and to share with the group:

(a) their name; and

(b) a part of their day they would like to bring with them as they begin this conversation, and/or a part of their day they would like to leave behind

# 2

### RECAP LAST MONTH'S VIRTUE

Ask the group to reflect on how they fared with their commitment from the last month

- Did you achieve your commitments around this virtue?
- What challenges did you face?
- What surprised you about the experience?
- Did your understanding of the virtue change over the month?

# 3

### DISCUSS NEXT MONTH'S VIRTUE

Compare Ben Franklin's definition of the virtue with the passage from Pirkei Avot. Use the questions below to help guide the conversation.

# 4

### MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT:

Before your meeting ends, set a goal for yourself for how you can better live that month's virtue. Share it with the group and plan to follow up on how you did at your next meeting.

**Example:** For resolution, could you decide to concentrate on one task every day for as long it takes to finish as opposed to multi-tasking or being distracted?

## Side-By-Side: Ben Franklin And Pirkei Avot

### **BEN FRANKLIN'S DEFINITION:**

Resolve to perform what you ought. Perform without fail what you resolve.

### **PIRKEI AVOT**

(PA 2:14)

Hillel said, Do not set yourself apart from the community; do not be sure of yourself until the day of your death; do not judge your fellow man until you have been in his position; do not say of any word that it cannot possibly be heard, for in the end it will be heard. And do not say, When I shall have leisure I shall have study, for you may never have leisure.

(PA 1:15)

Shammai says, "Make your Torah fixed, say little and do much, and receive every person with a pleasant countenance."

## Questions To Ask The Group

- Both Pirkei Avot passages speak to the idea of procrastination. How does this relate to Ben Franklin's definition? Though Hillel and Shammai often disagree, are they saying something similar here?
- Is resolution a difficult virtue for you? Why or why not?
- What is a resolution you have been proud of keeping?
- What kind of resolution would you like to create regarding Jewish life?
- Resolution has a personal and communal aspect: you should have resolution in your own affairs, but also in your affairs with others, like in keeping appointments and promises. Why is it important to keep your word to others? How might this improve society?