



# **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend of Service Standard Service Learning Guide**

## **How does this document work?**

We have created a learning and reflection guide in the style of a page of Talmud. The Talmud is a central text in Judaism from c. 350-500 CE and consists of rabbis' discussions and commentary on Jewish history, Bible, law (especially its practical application to life), customs and culture. No matter which rabbi's opinion prevailed, the defeated opinions were still preserved in the text. The structure of a page of Talmud includes one core text in the middle and the rabbis' opinions and arguments with each other surrounding that text.

We invite you to work your way - independently, or in chevruta - around this exciting page of text and explore, starting with the "source text" the core central text, which the surrounding text serve as responses to. Chevruta comes from the Hebrew word for friendship and connection and is a way that Jewish people often explore text together. A chevruta involves pairs learning one text together and each person takes turns engaging with and responding both to the text and to their partner. When we learn this way, the idea is that we are equals and share responsibility for growth and learning.

In addition to the source texts and commentary we have provided a space for you (on the next page) to add personalized statistics and infographics, or record notes and reflections, to create a connection between the discussion topics and your community:

**We recommend looking at Feeding America for statistics and infographics related to FOOD INSECURITY**  
<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america>

**We recommend looking at the National Coalition for the Homeless or Habitat for Humanity for statistics and infographics related to HOUSING INJUSTICE**  
<https://nationalhomeless.org/about-homelessness/> or  
<https://www.habitat.org/costofhome/2020-state-nations-housing-report-lack-affordable-housing>

**We recommend looking at Vera Institute for statistics and infographics related to CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**  
<https://trends.vera.org/incarceration-rates?data=pretrial>

**We recommend looking at the National Center for EDUCATION Statistics** <https://nces.ed.gov/>



Repair the World mobilizes Jews and their communities to take action to pursue a just world, igniting a lifelong commitment to service. We believe service in support of social change is vital to a flourishing Jewish community and an inspired Jewish life.

space for local infographic + stats and notes

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is best known for his strategy of nonviolent protest for racial equality, and many draw inspiration from Dr. King's dream for a more diverse and equal America. The version of Dr. King's legacy taught in many schools across the country does not capture the full, complex, and radical vision that Dr. King brought to the civil rights movement. Dr. King also understood the impact of working across communities in the push for one common goal. Separately, attaining any significant progress would be a challenge; collectively, he and other civil rights activists could affect policies and influence change nationwide. Towards the end of his life, he became much more radical, staunchly advocating against the Vietnam War and poverty. Dr. King's strength inspired and paved the way for numerous other's voices that are still with us today. As Dr. King influenced these leaders to serve, so shall those leaders' words inspire us to serve.



## Food Justice

strives toward access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food for all

"I must remind you that starving a child is violence. Suppressing a culture is violence. Neglecting school children is violence. Punishing a mother and her family is violence. Discrimination against a working man is violence. Ghetto housing is violence. Ignoring medical need is violence. Contempt for poverty is violence."

- Coretta Scott King

*Do you agree that all of these actions are violence? How should we combat this type of violence?*

**How does service create social change and else needs to be done?**

## Criminal Justice Reform

addresses structural issues in criminal justice systems such as racial profiling, police brutality, overcriminalization, mass incarceration, and recidivism

"My work with the poor and the incarcerated has persuaded me that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned."

- Bryan Stevenson

*What does justice look like to you?  
Do you agree that the  
"opposite of poverty is justice?"*

There shall be no needy among you for God will bless you if you follow God's commandments.... If there shall be a poor person among you, you shall surely open your hand to your poor and needy brethren in your land... the poor shall never cease from the land.

*Deuteronomy 15:4-8*

There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it... Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table, when humans have the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all humankind with the basic necessities of life?...There is no deficit in human resources, the deficit is in human will.

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1967)*

- *How do you reconcile the first and second sentences of the Deuteronomy text?*
- *Do you believe there is a "deficit in human will" to address the inequities in our society? How might service help to fill that deficit?*
- *How might these words reflect what brought you here today?*

## Education Justice

strives toward every student receiving what they need to develop their full potential

"When children attend schools that place a greater value on discipline and security than on knowledge and intellectual development, they are attending prep schools for prison."

- Angela Davis

*How does this relate to your understanding of and experience with education injustice and inequity in our city?*

**What immediate steps need to be taken to address this issue?**

**What long term steps need to be taken to address this issue?**

## Housing Justice

strives toward everyone having access to safe, decent, affordable housing.

"It is plain that we don't care about our poor people except to exploit them as cheap labor and victimize them through excessive rents and consumer prices."

- Coretta Scott King

*Do you believe that discrimination within the social class system and a lack of housing justice is due to a "deficit in human will?"*