



CHICKEN MAN

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An Israeli kibbutz is the setting for this tale in which a man always does his best regardless of the job he is given, though he'd prefer to be working in the chicken coops.

Kibbutz, (in Hebrew, literally “gathering” or “together”) is a collective settlement. In earlier days, *Kibbutzim* (plural) were often based on shared property and centered in agriculture; kibbutzim have become centers for tourism, with guest accommodations and recreational facilities for visitors.

In the early years of kibbutzim, children generally lived in facilities called “children’s houses.” Today, most youngsters sleep in their family’s home while spending a good deal of the day in school and at recreational facilities. Children on a kibbutz learn the value of cooperation and shared goals; as early as kindergarten, children have jobs that benefit the community.

A family is, in some ways, like a kibbutz. Each member must consider the needs and feelings of the others. Every person plays a role, regardless of age. List the tasks done in your home and make it a family activity to decide who is best suited to each one. Sharing chores with children helps build a sense of belonging and self-worth, both of which serve children well as they grow and find their way in the larger community.

WORK & DIGNITY

In Jewish tradition, work is a value in and of itself: dignity is present in all labor. Chicken Man’s service in the coops is as noteworthy and valuable as more sought-after work. Chicken Man provides wonderful opportunities for discussion.

As a family, consider:

- What is it about Chicken Man that causes his fellow kibbutzniks to covet his job, no matter what the task?
- When trouble comes, Chicken Man calls for a meeting and asks to be allowed to go back to tending the chickens. Why does he do this?
- Does our attitude toward work matter? Chicken Man’s good humor and positive ways are a gift, for he can see the beauty and value in every task.