

Talking Cards

Print out both pages of cards and glue them together so that there is art on the front and back. Cut along the dashed lines so you have 12 cards. When the time feels right, pick one to discuss on Shabbat! See what family conversations are sparked by classic quotes from the Jewish text *Pirkei Avot* (Wisdom of the Ancestors).



“

Who is wise?

one who learns from everyone. Who is strong?
one who controls one's impulses. Who is rich?
one who is content with their lot. Who is honored?
one who honors others.

”

“

If I am not for myself,
who will be for me?
But if I am only for
myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?

”

“

It is not your
responsibility to finish
the work, but neither
are you free to avoid
doing it.

”

“

In a place where
there are no
people, try to be
a person.

”

“

Find yourself
a teacher, get
yourself a friend,
and judge everyone
in a good light.

”

“

Be strong as a
leopard, swift as an
eagle, nimble as a
gazelle, and brave
as a lion.

”

“

The whole world
stands on three
things: Torah
(learning), prayer,
and acts of kindness.

”

“

Be careful
with
your words.

”

“

Every person
shines at some
moment, and
every creature
has its place in
the world.

”

“

Do not separate
yourself from the
community. And do
not judge someone
until you have stood
in their place.

”

“

There are four types of
people. One says, "Mine is
mine, and yours is yours."
One says, "Mine is yours,
and yours is mine." One
says, "Mine is yours, and
yours is yours." And the
last says, "Mine is mine,
and yours is mine."

”

“

Let your
house be
open wide.

”

Talking Cards



What do you think this teaching means when it says "be a person"? Can you think of a time this week when no one offered to help or take action? What did you do (or could you have done) in that situation?



This week, what is some work you've started that you'll need to continue (or others will need to continue)? Why is it important for your work to continue and not come to a stop?



This week, when did you stick up for yourself and let others know you'd like to be heard and listened to? When did you help others? What's something important you should do now and not say "I'll do it another time ..."?



What do you think it means to be wise, strong, rich, or honored? Going with the ideas on the flip side, which of these are you best at? Which is most challenging? What's an example this week of when you tried to be one of these?



What does it mean to "be careful with your words"? Why is that important? This week, when did your words help someone? When did they hurt someone?



This week, did you learn a life lesson? Did you pray for something? Were you kind to someone? (If you did, you helped the world stand!)



By this teaching, what are leopards, eagles, gazelles, and lions best known for? This week, when were you like one of these animals?



What's something you learned from a teacher this week? What's something you enjoyed doing with a friend? What does it mean to judge someone in a good light, and when did you do that?



What does it mean for a house to be "open wide"? What might be good about a wide-open house? Are there times when you might not want your house to be open wide? This week, when did your house feel most open?



How would you describe each type of person? Which person would you most want to spend time with? This week, which type of person were you? Give examples. Which do you most try to be?



What's a community? How were you part of one this week? Who is someone that is very different than you? Can you try to stand in that person's place? What might they be thinking or feeling?



What might it mean for someone to "shine"? When did you shine this week? When did someone else shine? What are your favorite creatures in the world?