



More Than a Kind Word

January 24 is National Compliment Day in the United States. Try some of these activities to put a Jewish spin on the day.

- **Circle Up!**

אמר עולא ביראה אמר רבי אלעזר עתיד הקדוש ברוך הוא לעשות מחול לצדיקים והוא יושב ביניהם בגן עדן וכל אחד ואחד מראה באצבעו שנאמר' (ישעיהו כה, ט) ואמר ביום ההוא הנה אלהינו זה קוינו לו ויושיענו זה ה' קוינו לו נגילה ונשמחה בישועתו (תענית לא).

Ulla said in the name of Rabbi Elazar, "In the future, the Holy One Blessed Be He will make a **circle** of the righteous and He will sit among them in the Garden of Eden and each one will point his finger [towards God]... (Tractate *Ta'anit* 31a)

The circle represents several different things in Jewish symbolism. Create circles of compliments. Students stand in two circles, one inside the other. The two circles should have the same number of students. Each student in the outside circle gives one compliment to the equivalent inside student. The inside student then gives a compliment to the outside student. Students rotate so that each outside student has the opportunity to compliment each inside student and vice-versa.

- **Biblical Compliment Trading Cards** – Copy the Biblical Figures Trading Cards onto cardstock. Invite students to cut out the cards and decide who in the class best embodies each of the characteristics on the cards. On the individual cards, students write how their choices embody the characteristics and then hand out the cards to their chosen recipients. Everyone in class should receive one trading card from each classmate. It is OK to give the same compliment to two different people. Don't stop with the class! Encourage students to fill out new trading cards and give them to friends and relatives.
- **What Great Middot (Characteristics) You Have** – Students write cards to the building's support staff (e.g. maintenance staff, office staff), their families, and/or their friends. These cards should include a quote from Jewish tradition and a statement about how the recipient embodies the quality mentioned in the quote. Four examples are included in the accompanying document, which can also be cut up to be used for the cards. Students might also choose to deliver the compliments through e-cards, audio messages, etc. (but they should remember to include the quote in whichever media they choose).
- **Some Resources about Giving Compliments**

<https://thecrbgblog.wordpress.com/tag/compliments/>

<http://www.happify.com/hd/learn-to-give-genuine-compliments/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMdqsq9Nawo>