



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Grade Level: 3+

Goals:

- Learn about the connection between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.
- Analyze the difference in, and importance of “words” and “actions” in the context of Dr. King’s and Rabbi Heschel’s friendship.
- Explore the concept of personal responsibility through the study of Jewish texts on the themes of *B’tzelem Elohim* (created in God’s image), responsibility to others, and *Tikkun Olam* (making the world a better place).

Content:

- Michelson, R. *As Good as Anybody*. Random House, Inc.: New York NY. 2008.
- Pictorial biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with informative captions
http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/photos/gallery/martin-luther-king-jr/#/09-martin-king-010909_14102_600x450.jpg
- Biographies of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/264049/Abraham-Joshua-Heschel>
https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0009_0_08873.html
- Text study source sheet
- Venn diagram and *As Good As Anybody* (Michelson) worksheets

Instructor Roles & Learner Tasks:

- Read the picture book *As Good as Anybody* and share the website biographies.
- Discuss Jewish texts on the ideas of *B’tzelem Elohim* (created in God’s image), responsibility to others, and *Tikkun Olam* (making the world a better place).
- Compare Dr. King and Rabbi Heschel using the Venn Diagram template provided.
- Explore the meaning of Dr. King’s and Rabbi Heschel’s words using the attached worksheets.

Technology

- Computer or tablet with WIFI and Internet access to share websites.

Assessment

- Review student responses to “I make this world a better place when I...” in order to gauge comprehension and application of themes discussed.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Jan. 15, 1929 – Apr. 4, 1968

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel
Jan. 11, 1907 – Dec. 23, 1972

In this space, write about ideas
and values the 2 men shared.



Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

1. Read these quotes from the book *As Good As Anybody* (Michelson):

Abraham “reminded people of the beauty of life. ‘God did not make a world with just one color flower,... We are all made in God’s image.’”

“‘Decent people know that prejudice is wrong,’ [Martin] said, ‘but many are too frightened to speak out.’”

Why are these important words?

2. Now, read these quotes from the book *As Good As Anybody* (Michelson):

“[Abraham] told his friends. ‘Words must be followed by deeds.’”

“‘The time has come for action,’ Martin told his congregation.”

What actions did Dr. King and Rabbi Heschel take?

3. Think about what actions you can take as you complete the next page.



Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



Rabbi A.J. Heschel, second from right, Reverend M.J. King, fourth from right, at the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March. Photo by A.P. Images

I make this world a better place when I...
