



Webinar Discussion Guide

How Your Jewish Life Stories Can Impact Your Grandchildren's Jewish Identity

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Purpose

This guide provides discussion prompts for the JGN webinar **How Your Jewish Life Stories Can Impact Your Grandchildren's Jewish Identity**, led by Dasee Berkowitz. Grandparent groups, social meetups, and program facilitators can watch the recording together and use the following prompts to reflect on the stories they want to share with their grandchildren—and the creative ways they can transmit them.

Key Takeaways

1. Lean into Generational Time — Embrace Storytelling

Unlike parents, who are focused on real-time daily routines and immediate concerns, grandparents have a different perspective. They see their grandchildren through “generational time,” which measures the big-picture elements of life — such as how long it takes for values to become internalized, for history lessons to impact today's decisions, and for wisdom from an earlier time to become an anchor for our families. Storytelling is a powerful way to share what has mattered most to grandparents over time.

2. Understand the Multiple Benefits of Storytelling

Sharing Jewish life stories can strengthen a grandchild's sense of belonging to their family, and Jewish identity, build resilience, and deepen relationships between generations.

3. Be Intentional About the Jewish Stories You Share

Not every story needs to have a happy ending. Sharing stories that fall into the category of an “oscillating narrative” helps grandchildren understand that life has both ups and downs. When they’re feeling low, they can remember that an “up” may be around the corner. Take time to consider the kinds of stories — of joy, overcoming adversity, and meaningful Jewish moments—that you want to share.

Tips for Sharing Your Jewish Stories

1. Share age-appropriate stories.

For younger grandchildren, share funny or silly stories while you’re playing or spending time together. These can be simple memories that begin with, “That reminds me of when I was little...” For older grandchildren, offer a photo or artifact that connects them tangibly to your story.

2. Connect with grandchildren who live at a distance.

You can play storytelling games on Zoom or Facetime together where you each exchange stories by responding to prompts like, “what is your favorite Jewish holiday?” or “who is a role model for you and why?” or “what is a family value that is important to you now?” For other prompt ideas, check out [tales.com](https://www.tales.com). For older grandchildren who live away from home (such as college students), consider writing and mailing them a monthly letter.

3. Create keepsakes.

Work toward writing down your stories in a book or in video recordings. Many online resources such as [Capture Your Story](#), [Family Love Letters](#) and [StoryWorth](#) can help you organize this effort — and you can even recruit your children or grandchildren to assist you!

Discussion Questions

Select meaningful stories

Identify two or three life stories you’d like to share with your grandchildren. Include as much detail as possible. What Jewish values can you draw from these stories? How have these experiences brought you strength or joy over the years?

Involve your adult children

How can you include your adult children in the process of sharing your Jewish stories? What settings — holiday meals, Zoom meetups, or lunch dates — might be most conducive to these conversations? Consider including stories that involve them as well, such as how you raised them, important decisions you made, or what values guided you as a parent.

Invite questions

How can you tell stories about your Jewish life in a way that feels open and vulnerable, encouraging your adult children and grandchildren to ask questions? This may include sharing moments of doubt or struggle. Brené Brown tells us that “vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity.”

Keep the conversation going!

Bring Soulful Grandparent workshops to your community. Invite Dasee Berkowitz to run a workshop either online or in person. daseeb@gmail.com