

Studying in Hevruta

"Two scholars sharpen one another."
Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a

Hevruta is an ancient method to study Jewish text that developed alongside the Talmud-- the books that contain the Oral Law (Mishnah), and the rabbinic discussion, commentary and interpretation that were compiled from the 6th century onward.

Hevruta is based on a model that nobody has a complete understanding of an idea; we depend on discussion with others to help us get to our truth.

Hevruta Technique:

1. Sit face to face with a partner
2. Take turns reading the text out loud. In Hevruta, thinking takes place "out loud" and questions as important as answers. It is important to listen to your partner and respond to their thoughts and ideas.
3. Your questions and discussion should help you better understand the meaning of the text.
4. Questions to discuss can include:
 - What is the text trying to say?
 - Why do think this important?
 - What jumps out at you?
 - What troubles you about the text?
 - What do you find interesting?
 - Is there something missing in the text?
 - How is story used to get the main idea across?
 - What does this text mean for us today?
 - Are there any other ideas or questions you want to discuss?

(Adapted from The Curriculum Initiative, Hevruta Study Method)

