

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Other Talmud—The Yerushalmi

Unlocking the Secrets of The Talmud of Israel for Judaism Today

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1. How does the Talmud (Yerushalmi or Bavli) shape your Jewish practice? Does it inform your Jewish spiritual or mystical life? If so, how?
- 2.
3. How does the Yerushalmi differ from the Bavli? Why did the Yerushalmi become “the other Talmud”?
- 4.
5. Which celebrities from the days of the Yerushalmi do you most admire? What draws you to them?
- 6.
7. What did the sages believe were the most important mitzvot? What did they believe were some of the worst sins?
- 8.
9. How did the sages of “the other Talmud” believe prayer worked? How is this the same or different from what you do today?
- 10.
11. How did the sages observe the holidays in different ways than we do today? Would you adopt or adapt any of these practices?
- 12.
13. How did the sages celebrate the life cycle? Will this information change the way you approach these moments?
- 14.
15. What are the classical sources one might turn to in building a framework of Jewish ethics? What books would be included in such a list of sources?
- 16.
17. How are the insights of the ancient Rabbis who wrote the books of the Talmud still relevant to modern society?
- 18.
19. In what ways can Jewish values be helpful to both Jews and non-Jews?
- 20.
21. Is reading and studying about values enough to influence a person’s actions? If not, what more is needed?
- 22.
23. What are some of the values mentioned in this book that would help make the world a better place to live in?
- 24.

- 25.** Are there any values you read about that you do not agree with, or that you could not accept? Explain.
- 26.**
- 27.** How would you summarize the main ideas of this book?
- 28.**
- 29.** Do you think the Talmud emphasizes values more for the individual or the community? Which do you think is more important?
- 30.**
- 31.** What are two or three of the values discussed in the book that helped you the most?
- 32.**