

40 DAYS OF TESHUVAH FILM CLIPS AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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WATCH THESE TWO CLIPS FROM THE FILM:

- Spiritual Tools Scene of 40 Days of Teshuvah: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXU1Ew6NWzw>
- 40 Days of Teshuvah Action harassed by heckler(s): <https://vimeo.com/575471059>

REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS AND QUESTIONS:

The 40 Days of Teshuvah action and film is all about bringing the spiritual to our physical effort and fight for social justice as a wholly necessary element to our success in systemic change.

- What's your relationship to spirituality in relation to social justice?
- For you, what's the importance and power of incorporating Jewish spiritual wisdom and Torah in our social justice efforts?
- In the clip/film, Yehudah connects racial injustice to turning away from Torah and HaShem (YHWH). What do you think of that connection and what theological ideas do you bring to racial justice?

The 40 Days of Teshuvah drew on several Jewish spiritual tools and technologies, including Shofar blowing, public prayer facing east/Jerusalem, personal prayer, Torah study, vidui/acknowledgement/confession, mourning, commitments to change and public reading of Eicha/Lamentations on Tisha B'Av.

- What are some spiritual tools and technologies you and your community already draw on for social action?
- How might you bring a Jewish spiritual dimension to social change work through use of any of these or other Jewish spiritual technologies?
- Yehudah turned to personal prayer and Torah study as a source of renewal. What sources of renewal and resilience might you and your community turn to in an extended effort for racial and social justice? How do the inspirational texts of 40 Days of Teshuvah speak to you? ([Isaiah 58:1](#) - "Raise your voice like a shofar.." AND [Exodus 2:23-25](#) - "..and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to HaShem (YHWH).")

In the second clip from the film a heckler circles the group taunting the participants with derogatory comments. One of the functions of systemic racism is denying and criminalizing the full range of human emotions when expressed by Black people.

- How did you feel watching that?
- How did you feel watching Yehudah respond with anger?
- What do you think of the response shown in the film and how might you and your community best respond to heckling and attacks directed at your own racial or social justice efforts?

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If you're interested in viewing the film in full and/or hosting a community screening, please reach out to dan@insideoutwisdomandaction.org and/or fill out [this form](#).