



**מִסְכַּת אָבוֹת פֶּרֶק ד מְשֻׁנָּה א: "אֵיזְהוּ חָכֵם?"**



**The Mishna:**

Avot 4:1  
 Ben Zoma said:  
 Who is wise?  
 He who learns from every man,  
 as it is said: "From all who taught me have I gained understanding"  
 (Psalms 119:99)

**המשנה:**

אבות ד, א  
 בן זומא אומר:  
 איזהו חכם?  
 הלומד מכל אדם,  
 שנאמר:  
 "מכל מלמדי השכלתי..."  
 (תהלים קיט, צט)

**A short explanation on the Mishna:**

According to the Mishna, a wise person is defined as: one who learns from every man.  
 We learn this from the Book of Psalms, which states that – I learned from every person who taught me Torah.

## Level 1

- **Revision.** of the Mishna with hand movements.



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- **Personal writing.** What I have learned from my family? (On the work page attached for the student)
- **Weekly assignment in class**  
Each student will receive 5 small notes. He will be asked to look around him during the coming week, and try to learn something from every person he sees along the way. (You can choose the gardener, bus driver, teacher, or any passerby).

The student will write on the note:

- ❖ From whom I learned
- ❖ What I learned

The students' notes will be hung on a notice board in the classroom.

## Level 2

- **Class Discussion**

Before learning the Mishna, ask the students to define who is a wise person.

Who do they believe is a wise person?

*There are many possible answers: high IQ, a person who thinks of the outcome of his actions, a person who learned a lot.*

Write all the suggestions on the board.

After learning the Mishna, ask:

- ❖ How does the Mishna define a wise person? Why?

*He who learns from every man*

As a person learns from more people, he hears different ways of thinking, and different points of view. In addition to this, everyone excels in different fields, so if someone learns from only one person, he will only be able to receive from him and his strengths, whereas when a person who learns from everyone, acquires a diversity of knowledge and disciplines.

- ❖ Give examples of how one can learn from every man



### Level 3

- **Class discussion:**

- ❖ What is required from me in order to learn from another person?

[it is possible to hear various suggestions. Following are some]:

- *Modesty that I don't know it all*
- *A desire to learn new things*
- ❖ Are there disadvantages in learning from all people? (For example: Are there people who are difficult to learn from? Why?)
- *We can say that not all people teach in an optimal way, so sometimes we might miss the message.*
- *We must know how to sift through what we learn, and not just absorb it all. We must learn only the good things.*

You can talk to the students about the fact that life is a continuous learning process, and those who focus on learning from each person, are always involved in this positive process. (Also, when the students participated in the assignment of collecting learning from others, they definitely noticed that the emphasis they put on the information they collected on a daily basis was positive – because it focused on learning from every situation.)