

# New JLI course to Focus on Moral Integrity

Ask most people if they are moral and ethical and they will answer affirmatively. Ask them what it means to be moral and ethical and their answers will grow vaguer. Any honest discussion of real-life dilemmas — complex relationships with parents, the struggle to keep commitments, the emotionally vexing art of forgiving a grievous wrong—leads us to the realization that living with integrity means facing a non-stop series of complex challenges on a daily basis.



Knowing ourselves from the inside, we bear intimate witness to the magnitude of inner turmoil and difficulty that such compound choices can inspire.

Since time immemorial, philosophers, religious figures, and political thinkers grappled with the question, "What is the correct thing to do?" This new Jewish Learning Institute course, *Living with Integrity: Navigating Everyday Moral Dilemmas*, offers a unique approach based on the wisdom of the Torah and Jewish law on ethics.

At its core lies an understanding of what we instinctively hear as a vague inner voice that urgently insists, "Matters of cosmic importance are being played out through the minute choices of our daily lives." Deep within, we sense that what we often disregard as trifling — a casual comment,

an inconsequential act—somehow matters a great deal. The integrity of each human being, not only our public figures, conveys destiny-altering, universal import.

This course will open new vistas of moral awareness. The Torah takes us along a path that requires an artful balance. It does not suppress the complexity of the choices we face by offering the false refuge of simplistic formulas. Neither does it surrender to the cynicism and despair that an overly honest lens may be tempted to suggest. Rather, it empowers us to embrace the challenge by providing the knowledge that we

require in navigating our daily tasks accompanied by a clear, coherent, and competent sense of moral purpose.

This course is designed to help us identify our personal core of integrity and to discover methods of engaging it regularly in our everyday decisions, thereby establishing our moral character within the world. The course is drawn from ancient wisdom that continues to inform and inspire humanity, sharpens awareness of the issues, and empowers a better today and even brighter tomorrow.

The JLI course will be offered for six consecutive weeks with evening classes on Tuesdays and morning classes on Wednesday. The first class will begin on January 29, 7:30 PM and again on January 30, 11 AM. All classes will

be held at the Lubavitch Education Center, 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. To register for this class please visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) or call our office at 704-366-3984. Fee for class is \$90 per individual and \$175 per couple. The fee includes a student book filled with many interesting essays on Jewish

ethics.

The topics that will be covered cover six areas that we are usually challenged with from privacy matters to how to deal with aging parents and do we need to keep all our commitments even when our situation changes.

The Jewish Learning Institute

of Charlotte is a project of Lubavitch of North Carolina and is part of the International Rohr Jewish Learning Institute.

Good news for attorneys. This course has been accredited by the North Carolina State Bar and lawyers can get CLE credits by attending this course. More information is available on our website [www.chabadnc.org](http://www.chabadnc.org). ✪



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# Past and Present for Havurat Tikvah

Even with the short winter days and cold weather of January, Havurat Tikvah is keeping plenty busy. We had a wonderful Hanukkah celebration in early December, and we took the opportunity to eat chocolate gelt in abundance.

In the first weekend of December, Rabbi Steve Sager came to our Havurat for a second installment of the programs he is planning with us this year. In an



Rabbi Steve Sager

evening workshop, the founder and director of *Sicha* from Durham discussed what hospitality means to our havurah and community and how that defines us. An ancient story and a modern Israeli poem was used to address the "life-affirming nature of 'tzedakah' and 'hesed.'" These important words in the standard Jewish vocabulary are often misinterpreted as synonyms for "charity." In reality, when "hesed" is directly translated into English,



**Jewish Reconstructionist Federation**

it means "lovingkindness." At the workshop, we reflected on how the meaning of these significant words can shape our views and form Jewish life.

This was the second of four installments of Rabbi Steve Sager's programs with our havurah. The first workshop took place this past fall, and the remaining ones will occur throughout this new year, with one coming up on March 3 and the last part taking place on May 19. If you are interested, please visit our website. If you were unable to make the previous two meetings, you can still find plenty to enjoy and learn from these upcoming sessions and we encourage you to join us.

Havurat Tikvah's teen group, now partnered with another youth group from the Kol Ami congregation in Charlotte, has also been very busy recently, as we are gearing up for a packed and exciting year. In December, this group took the opportunity to spend some

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