



JUMPING JENNY

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Jenny loves to jump, but when her energetic jumping gets her into trouble, she decides to retire her pogo stick. Then her school decides to hold a fundraising fair, and she discovers that her skill can be used for a good cause.

“**A**dam Y’hidi Nivrah” means celebrating the uniqueness in every living being. This value reminds us to delight in what makes us different and take joy in the distinctive qualities that make us extraordinary.

In the Torah (five books of Moses), God provides instructions for building the *Mishkan* (Holy Tabernacle) and commands Moses to obtain “gifts from every person whose heart is so moved” (Exodus 25:2). Biblical commentators elucidated this kind of personal offering as coming from the deepest recesses of the soul and as giving without reservation. The *Mishkan* could not be built without every gift, whether large or small. By each person contributing from her/his own sense of self, the Israelites formed sacred space and a holy community.

TZEDEK—RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Hebrew word *tzedek* (righteousness) refers to the Jewish imperative for each of us to pursue justice. It is demonstrated by extending compassion through advocacy, service and education, as Jenny and her classmates demonstrated.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

In this book, Jenny’s teacher introduces her students to a *mitzvah* (in Hebrew, literally a commandment or obligation)

through a *Mitzvah* Fair to raise money for a school in need of assistance in Uganda. Consider how your family can work together to help a group of people. Then, think of ways you can each share special talents to reach your goal.

Your family might enjoy creating a *tzedakah* box that can be used to collect money for the organization(s) of your choice. The container, meant to hold money to use to help others, can be as simple or as ornate as you’d like.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

As you read, you might consider asking some of the following questions:

- Which unique qualities do you value in yourself? How do you share those gifts with others?
- What can you say when someone pokes fun at what makes you unique?
- How can you take time to recognize and appreciate the individual gifts of others? Pj

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