

## ONE LITTLE CHICKEN

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When Leora finds a chicken in her front yard, she imagines keeping it; her mother has a very different view. Following a Jewish law that “finders aren’t keepers,” the family will care for the chicken until its rightful owner returns. After all, how much trouble can one little chicken be?

**L**ike *One Little Chicken*, both the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) and the Talmud (a collection of ancient rabbinical writings on Jewish laws and customs) address the subject of returning lost objects. In Hebrew, this *mitzvah*—a religious obligation—is known as *hashavat aveidah*. The Bendosa family puts a lot of thought and energy into caring for one little chicken (that morphs into a herd of goats!), showing that doing the right thing can sometimes be time-consuming and even inconvenient.


### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are some conversation starters you might try about *One Little Chicken*:

- Do you think the Bendosa family enjoyed themselves as they performed the *mitzvah* of caring for the property they found?
- Did the Bendosas deserve a reward for what they did for the stranger and his chicken?
- If you were the owner of the lost chicken, what would you have done with the money you received for selling the goats?
- Do you think the kindness shown the chicken’s owner will affect how he treats others?
- Imagine you’re walking down the street and find a shiny gold ring on the sidewalk. What will you do with it?

### USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Just after the chicken appears in their yard, Mr. Bendosa says: “If I had a chicken of my own, I’d build it a coop”—and so begins their family’s journey of caring for someone else’s property as if it were their own. Most people will never care for someone else’s chicken, but many possibilities exist for us to show consideration and respect for others— and many of these *mitzvot* are appropriate for children’s participation. You might:

- Include your little ones as you purchase and wrap a donation to a children’s holiday collection
- Encourage your children to regularly choose a can of food at the grocery store to give to a local food bank
- Sort through outgrown clothes together to contribute to a clothing drive
- Ask your local hospital if they accept drawings and cards from children to decorate the halls and rooms in the children’s wing 

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