

# Hillel Hazaken Never Give Up

Created by Orit Mizrahi, edited by Miriam Burstein  
for the Charedi District of the English Inspectorate



This unit is about caring for all Jews because Hillel taught that everyone should be welcome in the Beit Midrash.

## Before You Read

- Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.

Were you ever in a difficult situation?\*

What was it?

Did you want to give up?

Why or why not?

Why is it important to keep trying, even when life is difficult?

Who inspires\*\* you when you are in a difficult situation?

What are some examples of famous people who didn't give up?

\*difficult situation- מצב קשה

\*\*inspire- מעורר השראה

## New Words

1	to carry	לשאת
2	to climb	לטפס
3	to cover	לכסות
4	to enter	להיכנס
5	freezing	קפוא
6	to give up	להתיאש
7	great	גדול, חשוב
8	guard	שומר
9	ladder	סולם
10	wise	נבון

Choose and circle the right answers.

1. What can you carry?
  - a. a bag
  - b. a house
  - c. a tree
2. What can you NOT climb?
  - a. a cat
  - b. a ladder
  - c. a tree
3. Which word does NOT fit? The rabbi is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. great
  - b. wise
  - c. left
4. Where do you usually see a guard?
  - a. Near a door that people enter.
  - b. Next to the freezer.
  - c. On a ladder.
5. If you are freezing, you should
  - a. open a window.
  - b. have a cold drink.
  - c. cover yourself with a blanket.
6. If your homework is hard, you should
  - a. go to sleep.
  - b. give up.
  - c. ask for help.

## Read the story.

### Hillel Hazaken – Never Give Up

A long time ago, there was a young man named Hillel. He was very poor.

He had no money, no food, and no warm clothes. But Hillel was a very smart man. He loved to learn Torah and listen to the wise teachers.

Every day, Hillel worked hard to make a little money. He cut wood and carried it to sell in the market. With this money, he bought some food and paid to enter the *Beit Midrash*. He listened to the great teachers and learned many things.

One cold winter day, Hillel worked, but he did not get enough money.

He had no food, and he had no money to pay to enter the Beit Midrash. The guard at the door said, "You cannot come in without paying."

Hillel was very sad. He didn't know what to do. He wanted to learn so much, but he had no way to enter. He decided that he wouldn't give up. He looked around and saw a ladder next to the house. He had an idea!

Hillel climbed up to the roof of the *Beit Midrash*. There was a small window. He lay down next to the window and listened to the teachers from above.

It was very cold, but he did not move. He wanted to hear every word.

Slowly, snow started to fall. The night was freezing. Snow covered Hillel's body, but he did not leave. He loved learning so much that he forgot the cold.

In the morning, the teachers in the *Beit Midrash* saw that the room was dark. They looked up and saw something on the window. It was Hillel! He was covered in snow and very cold. The teachers ran outside and carried him inside. They gave him warm clothes and food.

One teacher said, "Hillel loves learning more than anything. From now on, no one will stop a poor man from learning!"

Hillel later became a great teacher. He always said, "Never give up! Learning is for everyone, rich or poor!"

## Understanding the Story

### A. Choose the correct answer:

1. Why did Hillel climb up to the roof?
  - a) He wanted to fix the roof.
  - b) He had no money to enter the Beit Midrash.
  - c) He wanted to see the snow.
  - d) He was hiding from the teachers.
2. What work did Hillel do to make money?
  - a) He was a teacher.
  - b) He was a baker.
  - c) He cut and sold wood.
  - d) He worked in the Beit Midrash.
3. What happened to Hillel on the roof?
  - a) He fell asleep and rolled down.
  - b) He built a small house.
  - c) Snow fell on him, and he got very cold.
  - d) The teachers told him to leave.
4. How did the teachers react when they found Hillel?
  - a) They were angry and told him to go away.
  - b) They helped him, gave him food, and let him study.
  - c) They laughed at him.
  - d) They asked him to pay double next time.
5. What lesson do we learn from Hillel's story?
  - a) Learning is only for rich people.
  - b) Hard work and money are more important than learning.
  - c) Never give up, and learning is for everyone.
  - d) Climbing roofs is a good idea.

**B. Answer the questions:**

1. Who was Hillel, and why was he famous?

---

2. What did Hillel do when he had no money to enter the Beit Midrash?

---

3. Where did Hillel go to listen to the teachers?

---

4. Why did the teachers bring Hillel inside in the morning?

---

5. How did Hillel show that learning is important to him?

---

**C. Put the sentences in the right order 1-6, according to the story:**

- ☐ The teachers saw Hillel covered in snow and helped him.
- ☐ Hillel had no money to enter the Beit Midrash.
- ☐ He climbed to the roof and listened through the window.
- ☐ Hillel worked hard every day, but sometimes he had no food or money.
- ☐ Snow fell on Hillel, but he stayed on the roof to listen.
- ☐ Hillel became a great teacher and taught that learning is for everyone.

## Vocabulary Practice

Fill in the missing words. Use the new vocabulary words.

1. Hillel was very poor, but he did not \_\_\_\_\_ on learning Torah.
2. He worked hard, but sometimes he did not have enough money to \_\_\_\_\_ the Beit Midrash.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ did not let him inside the Beit Midrash.
4. Hillel decided to \_\_\_\_\_ up to the roof.
5. He went up the \_\_\_\_\_ to the roof.
6. It was very cold, even \_\_\_\_\_ at night, and snow fell on Hillel.
7. Soon, snow \_\_\_\_\_ Hillel's body.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ teachers wanted to help Hillel.
9. They \_\_\_\_\_ him inside and gave him food.
10. Hillel became a \_\_\_\_\_ rabbi and teacher.





## Writing

**Imagine you are Hillel.**

- Write a short diary entry from Hillel's point of view. (40-50 words)
- Describe his feelings when he had no money and when he climbed to the roof.
- What did he learn from this experience?
- Remember: You are writing a diary entry, so use "I" instead of "he".

**Example sentence starters:**

- *Today was a very cold day...*
- *I wanted to learn Torah, but I had no money...*
- *When I lay on the roof, I felt...*
- *In the morning, the teachers saw me and...*

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing. The background is a light cream color. At the bottom of the area, there are several green leaves and branches, resembling a decorative border or a natural scene. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the writing area.