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Justice, justice you shall pursue

Deuteronomy 16:20

Welcome to this learning pack on the topic of *Tzeddakah*

This pack is designed for small Jewish communities or groups of Jewish people who do not have a rabbi or teacher close by and who want to deepen their knowledge of Jewish teachings on *tzeddakah*.

If you are not Jewish you are of course welcome to learn with us!

Perhaps if you are learning on your own you may find yourself a study partner, or *chavrutah*.

Each of these community learning packs aims to give you the connection to Jewish sources that you need to really make a difference in the world.

Many progressive Jews feel that ethical behaviour and the demands of social justice have a greater call on us than Jewish traditions or law. But we also know that it is in the study of our traditional sources that we find the inspiration and the demand to fulfil our ethical potential.

We therefore seek to root ourselves in our traditions, bringing to them our own experiences, and allowing ourselves, too, to be shaped by them.

Unit 1 explores the situation of rich and poor people as a relationship, with obligations and benefits on both sides.

Unit 2 tests out the ethical question of how to give *tsedakkah* through learning how Maimonides approached this through his Eight-Runged Ladder. As you will see, Maimonides' primary concern also seemed to be about the quality of relationship between rich and poor.

A glossary, acknowledgments and recommended reading can be found in the **Notes**.

Wishing you inspiration and success, *b'vracha*, with blessing,

Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu & North London Progressive Jewish Community

you shall pursue

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Justice justice



The NLPS Trust
for Progressive Judaism