

Shnat Shmita

“מקץ שבע שנים תעשה שמטה”

How much is enough?

what can we learn from Shnat Shmita

about consumerism



The concept of Shnat Shmita, the sabbatical year, originated in a time when agriculture was the primary livelihood in the land of Israel. Its principles, while rooted in ancient tradition, hold profound relevance for our modern world. In today's technologically driven, globalized society, where consumption is dominant, the ideals of Shnat Shmita challenge us to reconsider our relationship with nature, society, and ourselves.

In our contemporary world, consumer culture dominates, driving us to consume rapidly and excessively. This mindset not only depletes natural resources but also shapes our identities and social structures. Products and possessions become intertwined with our sense of self, fostering a relentless cycle of consumption.

Amidst this culture of consumption, the principles of Shnat Shmita offer a compelling alternative. By emphasizing the value of non-ownership and sustainability, Shnat Shmita encourages us to reassess our relationship with the environment. It prompts us to adopt a lifestyle that prioritizes balance and harmony between humans and nature.

The sabbatical year invites us to reflect on our consumption habits and their impact on the world around us.

It challenges us to reconsider our use of

natural resources and the consequences of our actions. By doing so, we can begin to forge a more sustainable path forward, one that respects the delicate balance of our ecosystem.

This kit serves as a catalyst for critical reflection and action. By exploring the principles of Shnat Shmita in the context of modern society, we aim to empower individuals to make informed choices and contribute to the well-being of our environment. Through practical tools and insights, we seek to inspire positive change and foster a deeper connection with our surroundings.

Ro'ee Peled, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by the Hebrew letters 'רועי' (Ro'ee).

What is Shnat Shmita?

Shnat Shmita, also known as the Sabbatical Year, is a significant concept in Jewish tradition that occurs every seven years. During this year, agricultural activities cease, debts are forgiven, and the land is given a period of rest.

Shnat Shmita serves as a reminder of the importance of sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and social justice.

To learn more...

“What is the importance of Shnat Shmita”



Shnat Shmita = the Sabbatical year, during which the land is left fallow, and agricultural activities are restricted.



The connection between consumer culture and Judaism



Unlock deeper insights with our in-depth study sheets. Dive into these comprehensive learning materials, suitable for solo exploration or group study with friends. Take your understanding to the next level and enhance your knowledge.



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Navigating Modern Identity: Consumerism vs Judaism

Consumerism profoundly influences modern identity formation, serving as a symbol of status and self-expression in a fast-paced world. Rooted in material acquisition and societal pressure, consumer culture fosters a cycle of desire and dissatisfaction. However, beneath this surface lies a deeper search for meaning and belonging, often obscured by external markers of identity.

Judaism offers an alternative perspective, prioritizing inner virtues over material wealth and providing a framework for understanding our actions in the world. By embracing Judaism's emphasis on spiritual and communal values, individuals can navigate the complexities of modern identity and forge a path toward greater authenticity and connection.

For a list of books on consumer culture click here.

Click Here



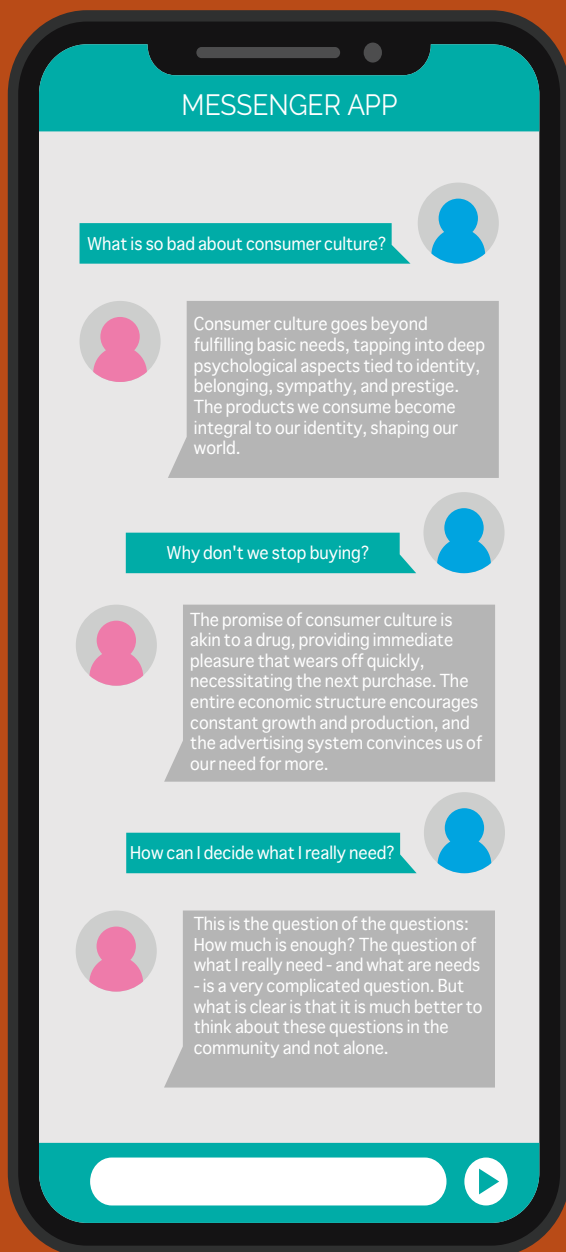
Who owns the land?

Discover the age-old question: Does the land belong to us, or do we belong to the land? Join Rabbi Joel Levy exploring this timeless debate within Judaism



*" Who is a rich person? One who is
happy with their portion" - Pirkei Avot.4.1*

This is the question of the question: How much is enough?



Discover Muslala – an Israeli initiative that connects art, environmental awareness and sustainable thinking- a unique green roof that is a space for research, creation, inspiration and play, for public use in the fields of art, sustainability, culture and community



From an interview with Dr. Lia Ettinger, the academic director of the Heshel Center for Sustainability

We live in a consumer-driven world where our worth is often judged by the possessions we have and the brands we wear. However, the principles underlying the Shmita year offer us a vision of a different world—one where private ownership isn't the sole focus, where life quality matters more than material accumulation, and where responsible, sustainable consumption is emphasized.

This perspective seeks a harmonious balance between individuals, society, and the environment. Through this collection, we aim to showcase how the values inherent in Judaism, particularly those of the Shmita year, can provide a valuable and alternative perspective on life.

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