



## ACTT Activity/Action Ideas

**Acknowledgements:**

- 1) Some of the ideas for *Acts of Chesed* were adapted from Areyvut's 2005 "A Kindness a Day Calendar: 365 Ways to Make a Difference", see website: [www.areyvut.org](http://www.areyvut.org)
- 2) Some of the ideas for *Judging Favorably* were adapted from The Other Side of the Story by Yehudis Samet
- 3) Some of the ideas for *Kavanah During Davening* were adapted from Praying with Fire by Rabbi Heshy Kleinman
- 4) Some of the ideas for *Bitachon* were adapted from You Can Learn Bitachon by Yeshiva Zichron Eliezer and from The Garden of Emuna by Rabbi Shalom Arush
- 5) Some of the ideas for *Improving Anger Management* were adapted from Anger The Inner Teacher @ [www.aish.com/spirituality/growth/Anger\\_The\\_Inner\\_Teacher.asp](http://www.aish.com/spirituality/growth/Anger_The_Inner_Teacher.asp)
- 6) Some of the ideas for *The Six Constant Mitzvos* were adapted from The Six Constant Mitzvos based on Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz's lectures and [www.thesixconstantmitzvos.com](http://www.thesixconstantmitzvos.com)

IDEAS FOR ACTS OF CHESED		
Offer to run an errand for a friend Cheerfully greet someone Bake an unexpected treat for a friend Remember someone's birthday Call someone going thru a difficult time Leave a friendly note for a family member Listen patiently to others Clean up after dinner without being asked Call someone who lives alone Greet everyone you see with a smile Introduce yourself to someone Apologize for something you've done Take out the garbage without being asked	Give someone an unexpected compliment Spend time with a child with a disability Help strangers in shul feel welcome Take an elderly person shopping Pay attention to what people are saying Spend quality time with family & friends Call or visit someone who is sick Cook a meal for a person in need Visit someone who may be lonely Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while Say thanks - no matter how small the deed Help a child with his / her homework Compliment someone who helps you	Give someone an encouraging note When asked to do something, respond right away in a cheerful and willing manner Drive someone to the doctor Help out family members even if you're busy Help someone find a job Buy a gift for a loved one for no reason Greet everyone with a pleasant "good morning" Write a letter to an elderly person Take a neighbor's garbage cans in from the curb Call someone who recently lost a loved one Congratulate siblings on recent accomplishments

IDEAS FOR JUDGING FAVORABLY	
Don't jump to conclusions Judge your neighbor's actions favorably "Judge your fellow man fairly" (Leviticus 19:15) Look for a possible explanation in another's behavior Give your friend the benefit of the doubt Look for the good in others "Judge all people to the side of merit" (Ethics of the Fathers 1:6) Think about "Love your neighbor like yourself", and apply it to others. We all find excuses for ourselves.	Realize that your friend did not see you carrying packages when he/she passed by Remember, it could be a miscommunication... Are we missing any facts? Look for people's strengths Remember, things are not always what they seem! Try to explain... not complain about other people's actions Focus on solutions - not recriminations Remember the excuses one makes for oneself - apply these excuses to the one who wronged you



## ACTT Activity/Action Ideas (continued)

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING KAVANAH DURING DAVENING	
<p>Meditate for 5 minutes before davening            Write translations to difficult words in your siddur            Think about all Hashem has given you            Say the words, “I am standing before Hashem” out loud            Remember that Kavanah During Davening is a Halachik requirement of prayer            Pronounce each word slowly and clearly            Use a siddur, even for Tefillos you know by heart            Establish a specific place for davening            Concentrate for 3 seconds on each word of a specific tefillah</p>	<p>Learn the meanings of words you do not know            Select one prayer a week to say with more kavanah            Write down your favorite phrases from davening and focus on them when you daven            Arrive before the minyan begins to daven and be ready when they start            When davening at home, remove distractions from around you            Select one word a day to say with more kavanah            Select one phrase a day to say with more kavanah            Before you start to daven, review what Hashem has given you in the last 24 hours</p>
IDEAS FOR HAKARAS HA'TOV	
<p>Recognize the good that you possess            Appreciate what you do have rather than what you do not have            Acknowledge that what you possess is a gift, not something you deserve            Develop the habit of saying thank you for everything you receive, both big and small            Realize that everything comes from Hashem and is for your good, then thank Him            Always see the glass as being half full and be thankful            Focus on developing an attitude of gratitude            Appreciate the good that a family member does for you and say thank you            Appreciate the good that a friend does for you and say thank you            Appreciate the good that a colleague does for you and say thank you            Appreciate the good that strangers do for you and say thank you</p>	<p>Write a thank you note to express your appreciation            Make a telephone call to express your appreciation            Give a gift to express your appreciation            Express appreciation for routine actions such as taking out the garbage, preparing supper, doing the laundry, cleaning the house, bringing in the newspaper            Thank the school bus driver            Thank your teacher, thank your child’s teacher            Thank the mail carrier for delivering the mail            Say <i>Modeh Ani</i> each morning with great feeling            Reflect on <i>Modim Anachnu Lach</i> in <i>Shmoneh Esrei</i>            Thank Hashem for every breath that you take</p>
IDEAS FOR BITACHON	
<p>Trust that whatever Hashem does is for your good            Believe that if Hashem wants, He can solve your problem this very minute            Realize that Hashem forgets no one and that He loves each of His creations            Ask Hashem to help you pray, to teach you how to pray, to open your mouth in prayer            Internalize that success is from Hashem and if you turn to Him sincerely, He will certainly help you succeed if it is in your best interest            Acknowledge that Hashem knows what is best for you, more than you yourself know</p>	<p>Believe that there is no one but Hashem and that no one can do you harm against Hashem’s will            Acknowledge that just as Hashem has helped you many times in the past, He will help you again now            Trust that whatever happened is what Hashem wanted to happen and that it is in your best interest            Accept that the amount of money that you will make has been decreed by Hashem and have peace of mind that you will get exactly what you are supposed to get</p>



## ACTT Activity/Action Ideas (continued)

<b>IDEAS FOR IMPROVING ANGER MANAGEMENT</b>	
<p>In the past, when you have been able to overcome anger quickly, how did you do it?            Learn from people who are able to remain calm in situations that get you angry            Learn from people who are able to let go of their anger easily            Give anger a chance to subside before speaking by counting from 1 to 10, 1 to 20, etc.            When you notice that you are feeling angry, breathe slowly and deeply, exhale slowly            When you are about to get angry because of something that someone did to you, focus on some good quality of that person</p>	<p>Use physical exercise to release anger: take a brisk walk, run, dance, jump rope, etc.            Meditate on: "Ein od milvado - There is nothing else besides G-d"            When you get angry, look at yourself in a mirror to see and hear yourself as others see and hear you when you are angry            Write down all your angry thoughts in a letter addressed to the person you are angry at, but do not send it            When you are about to get angry, ask yourself, "How important is this in my life?"</p>
<b>IDEAS FOR SHMIRAS HALASHON</b>	
<p>Think before speaking            Pause to think about what to say and how to say it before responding to someone            Give each person the benefit of the doubt            Train yourself to avoid judging others            Think positive thoughts and avoid negative thoughts            Stay calm and avoid getting angry            Avoid joking around that could lead to making fun of others            Develop a character of humility - avoid arrogance</p>	<p>Be extra careful with Shmiras HaLashon for 1-2 hour(s) each day            Never give up hope of one's ability to guard one's tongue            Accept the idea that it is possible to speak without gossiping            Train yourself to avoid complaining about others            Learn the laws of Shmiras HaLashon            Walk away from a group that is speaking Lashon Hara            If someone starts speaking Lashon Hara to you, respectfully ask them to stop            Realize and say to yourself: "It's Not That Important"</p>
<b>IDEAS FOR EMES – TELLING THE TRUTH</b>	
<p>Be honest while taking exams            Return extra change if salesperson makes a mistake            Do not cut corners on taxes            If one doesn't know the answer, say "I don't know"            Say items that can be fulfilled            Be on time</p>	<p>Be honest with oneself - not hypocritical            Don't promise items to one's children that one can't keep            Do not keep people waiting            Give people credit for items they do            When quoting, mention the proper source for the quote            Admit when one is wrong</p>



## ACTT Activity/Action Ideas (continued)

IDEAS FOR FULFILLING THE SIX CONSTANT MITZVOS	
<p>Talk about <i>Emunah</i> to reinforce your knowledge of Hashem's existence</p> <p>Love life and identify each circumstance in life as an opportunity for spiritual perfection</p> <p>Identify the yetzer hara (evil inclination) as a messenger from Hashem that challenges you and helps you grow</p> <p>Study nature and Torah as a means of building love for Hashem</p> <p>Consider the spiritual consequences of your actions as seriously as you consider their physical consequences</p> <p>Avoid situations in which your eyes might see something that could lead you to sin</p> <p>Try talking to Hashem on a regular basis aside from the scheduled prayer services-- this will help to make Him a real part of your life and your decision making process</p>	<p>Use prayer as an opportunity to build a relationship with Hashem by asking Him for the things you need to serve Him properly, not just for the things you want</p> <p>Each day when you say Shema take a moment to recognize that any hardship or challenge in your life is really a gift from Hashem to bring you closer to Him</p> <p>Take a moment each day, either during davening, while learning, or before going to sleep and thank Hashem for something good in your life</p> <p>At the end of each day take a moment to make a cheshbon hanefesh (spiritual accounting) of your actions that day - ask yourself if you succeeded in building and maintaining your relationship with Hashem or if you damaged it</p> <p>Try to develop an emotional relationship with at least one daily mitzvah or area of Torah by learning more about the deeper <i>kavanas</i> (intentions)/ <i>hashkafa</i> (religious outlook/perspective) in order to see how it helps to connect you to Hashem</p>