

# Yagdil Torah Chavrusa Guide

## Why a Chavrusa?

So you want to learn, you've found the right sefer and inyan and you're thinking to yourself, should I learn by myself or find someone to learn with?

You may think that you can learn on your own, and you don't want to bother yourself to find someone or for that case bother him to learn.

Chazal tell us, that learning with a chavrusa sharpens the mind and that acquiring a chavrusa is a fundamental part of learning.

The advantages of having a chavrusa are many:

- You feel responsible for the learning (being punctual, and using your time appropriately) as there's someone else there too.
- It's proven that when reading inside and saying the words to someone else, you can grasp the concepts quicker and easier
- You can cultivate a learning relationship with your chavrusa which could continue for many years, and motivate your thirst for learning.
- You won't feel uncomfortable being in a shul alone, as you'll be with your chavrusa.

## Finding your Chavrusa

Here's the tough part:

Your chavrusa has to be right for you.

You have to decide whether you want to be taught, teach someone else or learn with someone on an equal level.

Once you've decided that, you should look around your group of friends and family and see if anyone has the time to learn with you and to see whether they are compatible to learn with you.

If it won't work out with friends and family, ask them if they know of anyone who wants to learn with a chavrusa.

### **In most cases your friend will be glad that you offered to learn with him.**

Here is one simple powerful tip; if you see someone in Shul learning alone; a topic that you like at a time that you like; if its someone you are comfortable learning with you already isolated most of the issues and there is a viable chance you found a chavrusa that works for you.

Someone will hear of another person who also wants to find a chavrusa.

Alternatively, you can visit the Yagdil Torah website – [www.YagdilTorah.com](http://www.YagdilTorah.com) – and you can fill out the online form, detailing what you'd like to learn, when and where etc. Yagdil Torah would be happy to help you, and they will get in touch with you promptly.

When a Chavrusa is arranged by Yagdil Torah it is followed up with a phone call or email to see if it actually took off, here is one of their typical responses:

"Yes we learned twice so far and it is going quite well. Thanks for your help"

REMEMBER: Be certain of what you want to learn and what type of chavrusa you want, and your search will be a lot easier.

### **Keeping your Chavrusa:**

You're a busy person and things come up all the time.

You were at a simcha or fabrengen which goes late, and the next day you're feeling the effect, and sitting at a table and learning is not very conducive right now.

Your chavrusa will understand if you want to postpone your learning for a few hours or for another day. It's a better idea to push it off than to go and not be able to learn, wasting your own and the chavrusa's time.

Here's a few pointers to keep your chavrusa happy and want to continue learning with you:

- Be on time – **No one likes to be kept waiting!**
- Be considerate of the style in which he'd like to learn – **Let him read inside too. It will enhance the chavrusa.**
- Avoid chatting during time that is set aside for learning – **A small schmooze in the beginning and the end is one thing, but you want to use out the time you have to learn together.**
- Let him know if you're running late – **your chavrusa can plan his schedule accordingly**
- Rather than cancelling often, choose a practical time for both of you – **If you have to cancel all the time, it shows a lack of interest, so organize a better time for the two of you, and no one gets upset.**

If you have to break off your chavrusa due to time restraints, going away for the summer etc, call him back when you're free to learn again. Be assured that he'll take you back with open arms.