

Foundations

What is a Kiddush Hashem?

Best for ages 3-8. The goal of this conversation is to help children realize that there is no limit to how many times a day we can be Mekadesh Sheim Shamayim.

Children often tend to think that they only have the opportunity to “make a Kiddush Hashem,” the few times a year that they go public places with their school/family (Chol Hamoed, Lag B’Omer, etc).

Begin the conversation by asking your child how they define a Kiddush Hashem. Once they’ve responded with their definition, define it properly for them.

A Kiddush Hashem is defined as anytime we are being Mekadesh Sheim Shamayim, doing Hashem’s Will. Each time we make a decision based on the values of the Torah and lifestyle Hashem wants us to follow, we are “making a Kiddush Hashem.” This can be in private, in public, in front of Jews or non-Jews.

It may be interesting to inform your child that it is considered a greater Kiddush Hashem to perform a mitzvah in front of a Jew than a non-Jew.

Hashem provides us with limitless opportunities to engage in His Will. We have clearly defined opportunities like Kashrus and Shabbos and we have more global ones, like “v’nishmartem es nafshoseychem (you shall guard your soul)” and “v’ahvta l’reiachah komochah (love your neighbor like yourself).”

Once the definition of a Kiddush Hashem is explained, begin to identify the unlimited opportunities we have daily, to “make a Kiddush Hashem.”

- Each time we take care of our hygiene
- Each time we listen to our parents when they ask us to do our HW, set the table, or anything else
- Each time we make a bracha, daven or dress appropriately
- Each time we walk away from a sibling instead of saying something mean
- Each time we help a friend understand something in school, work through a problem, or just show we care by listening

Example of how the conversation may play out:

Parent: Do you know what a Kiddush Hashem is?

Child: Yes! When we go places and there are not Jewish people around and we act well.

Parent: That’s one way to make a Kiddush Hashem – great example! The actual meaning of a Kiddush Hashem is whenever we do something that makes Hashem proud. It doesn’t make a difference if you are with non-Jews, Jews, or even by yourself. Any time you do anything that would make Hashem happy, you are making a Kiddush Hashem.

Child: Wait, like anything? Like when I say Modeh Ani in the morning and no one is around? Or if I share my snack with my friend?

Parent: Yes! The opportunities to make a Kiddush Hashem are endless...

Note – Foundation’s activity for ages 3-8 is directly correlated with this concept. This conversation can be a good segue into introducing the activity to your child.



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