

Conversation Starters



THE SHOFAR'S CALL

The shofar is a wake-up call.
What in your life most needs "waking up"?

What sound, other than the shofar,
stirs something spiritual in you?



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TRADITION AND MEANING

What's one tradition from Rosh Hashanah that has the deepest meaning for you and why?

Share a time when you forgave someone or when someone forgave you. How did it feel?



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VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Imagine the person you want to be at this time next year. What three words would describe that version of you?

If you could change one thing in the wider world this year, what would it be?



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SWEETNESS AND COMMUNITY

If Rosh Hashanah is like the birthday of the world, how can you give the world a “gift” this year?

What is one way we can make our family’s or commUNITY’s year sweeter?

Rosh Hashanah focuses on both individual and communal renewal. Where do you feel the greatest need for change in the Jewish commUNITY?



Reflection Questions



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Looking back on the past year,
what is one challenge that helped you grow the most?

Who inspired you with kindness in 5785
and how can you honor or emulate them in 5786?



Reflection Questions



THE SOUND OF RENEWAL

What is one fear you want to release
as the shofar sounds this year?

What does "renewal" mean to you
at this stage of your life?



Reflection Questions



LIVING JEWISH VALUES

Which mitzvah or Jewish value do you want to live out more consistently this year?

How have you balanced giving to others and caring for yourself this past year?



Reflection Questions



PERSONAL LEGACY

When did you feel most connected to your Jewish identity this past year?

How do you want others to remember you at this season next year?



Family & Community Activities



SWEET DEEDS JAR

Each family member writes down an act of kindness they commit to in the coming month. Place them in a jar and read them aloud before Yom Kippur and/or over Succot to reflect on progress.



Family & Community Activities



MEMORY CHAIN

Write highlights from the past year on strips of paper and link them into a chain.

Hang it up as a visual reminder of gratitude and growth.



Family & Community Activities



CHESED LADDER

Create a paper “ladder” with rungs labeled with acts of kindness (help a neighbor, call a grandparent, donate food). Each time a member completes one, add a sticker to the rung.



Family & Community Activities



FUTURE BLESSINGS LETTERS

Invite each person to write a short letter to themselves for next Rosh Hashanah — what they hope to achieve, let go of, or embrace. Seal and save it until 5787.



Family & Community Activities



INTERGENERATIONAL STORIES

Encourage younger family members to ask grandparents or older relatives:

“What was Rosh Hashanah like for you growing up?”

Share these stories to strengthen memories and connection.

