

ECO JUDAISM

We will be discussing these questions in our interactive Zoom event on February 5th at 8:00pm:
<https://zoom.us/j/92016764548?pwd=TWVYajA4MUd0UUU0dktmL1RuMkF1QT09>

Discussion Questions for your Tu B'Shevat Seder

Question 1

The Torah is called 'the tree of life'

How many different trees in the Bible can you think of? What comparisons can you think of between Jews and trees, and the Torah and trees?

Question 2

"All of the trees, plants and spirits that dwell in nature conversed with one another. The spirit that lives in the trees and nature conversed with the humankind, for all of the beings in nature were created for mutual companionship with people" - Midrash Bereshit Rabbah 13:2

Do trees talk to us? To each other? Do they communicate with us, and / or we with them? If you could translate what they 'say' into human language, what might it be?

Question 3

"It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it" - Pirkei Avot 2:16

In face of an emergency that threatens the future survival of our species, how do we balance doing the work with responding to those who neglect it?

Question 4

In terms of the difference that they make to climate change and the preservation of the environment, does it matter where trees are planted?

Is it just as valuable to plant trees here in the UK as it is to plant them in the Amazonian Rain Forest or in desert regions? In a forest or in the middle of a city, such as on our Synagogue grounds?

Question 5

"See My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. And everything that I created, I created it for you. Be careful not to spoil or destroy My world - for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it." - Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 7:13

What are the most urgent and important things we can do as communities to fulfil the commandment of Bal Tashchit, 'Do not destroy' and to put into practice 'Tikkun Olam' restoring the world? More controversially, what do people feel about lobbying and political action?