

The Torah Is an Open Book

BY Caryn Broitman
Discussion Guide

For a book club, synagogue study group, education class, interfaith gathering, or Lehrhaus-style learning session around *The Torah Is an Open Book*.

1. What does the title *The Torah Is an Open Book* suggest to you? How has the book challenged or expanded your understanding of what it means to read and interpret Torah?
2. The author emphasizes the importance of asking questions. Why do you think questioning has been such a central part of Jewish tradition?
3. Were there any biblical passages or interpretations in the book that you encountered in a new way? What surprised you?
4. How does the book invite readers to see themselves as participants in an ongoing conversation rather than as passive recipients of tradition?
5. How does including more diverse perspectives change our approach to Torah study and our overall understanding of an ancient text?
6. How do your life experiences shape the way you read Scripture or other meaningful texts?
7. The author suggests that ancient texts can continue to speak to contemporary concerns. Which themes felt especially relevant to issues facing society today?
8. How does the practice of midrash help readers engage with questions that the biblical text may leave unanswered?
9. Were there moments in the book when you disagreed with the author's interpretation? What did those moments teach you about your own assumptions?
10. How do we balance respect for tradition with the need to reinterpret texts for new generations?
11. The book presents Torah study as a communal activity. What are the benefits of studying and interpreting texts in conversation with others?
12. What responsibilities come with interpreting sacred texts? Can every interpretation be equally valid?
13. How might the book change the way you approach future encounters with Scripture, whether in personal study, worship, or discussion?
14. What is one question the book left you with, and how might that question continue to shape your learning journey?
15. If you could add your own midrash or commentary to a Torah passage, what story, question, or perspective would you contribute?