



IMAGINING JUSTICE IN BALTIMORE

Part 2: Water Justice in Jewish Tradition(s) Discussion Questions

In the Beginning...

What is water's place in creation? What are the implications?

What does this tell us about the power of water?

What does water teach us about God? How does this interplay with traditional conceptions of God?

Understanding Jewish Tradition

What is the significance of Jewish tradition beyond the Hebrew Bible alone?

What understandings come from the kind of interpretations / commentaries described?

What is the significance of the ambiguities of interpretation? What are the implications for the interpreter?

What are the implications for interreligious dialogue?

How does the fear of idolatry play into this process of interpretation?

Water in Jewish History

What are the similarities / differences in the role of water in the creation, flood, and exodus narratives? What significance to these hold?

What might contradictions teach us? In what ways are these remedied / addressed?

In what ways do you see the separating of waters as essential to justice?

In what ways is 'the crossing over' part of our theological living?

The Question of Ownership

What is the role of 'blessing' in 'ownership' of resources?

What is the significance of there being no blessing for water?

Water and Torah

What are the similarities between water and Torah? In what ways is this significant?

Justice in Jewish Tradition

What is the relationship between forgiveness and justice in Jewish tradition?
What is the significance / how might this play out in our current moment?

What is the relationship between "I" and "nothingness"? What might be the implications, generally, and for justice, specifically?

What is the role of accountability in Jewish traditions' understanding of justice?

In what ways might Judaism, when it comes to justice, act like a movement?

What is the significance of a communal understanding of justice?

What are the implications of imagining a perfect world?

Access and Commodification

What do you see as the problems of access and commodification of water, generally, and in Baltimore, specifically?

In what ways do you agree / disagree with the statement, "We start to know what a just society might look like when everyone has access to the most sacred thing in existence"?

In what ways do Jewish understandings of water and justice add a sense of urgency? In what ways might this be applied more broadly?