



Judaism Your Way



# Barchu: Moving From Me To We

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## The Power of Community



# Community: *according to the Cambridge dictionary*

The people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality





# Why is Community Important?

# What communities are you a part of?



# Minyan: *what community looks like*





How do  
people show  
they are part of  
a community?

# The Root of “Barchu”

ברכ



# Adapted Commentary

*By Rabbis Lawrence Kushner & Nehemia Polen*

The central structure of all Jewish prayers is the bracha, the blessing. The worship service itself is an elaborate sequence of blessings, one after another. It is only fitting, therefore, that the first words of the service summon us to blessing “Barchu et Adonai, Let us bless God.”



## *Adapted Commentary continued*

But how can a person bless God! Through speech suggests Chaim of Volozhyn, people can “call forth the Divine flow of blessings.”

When we “bless” God, we effectively enable the Holy One to bless us. In blessing God, we are blessing ourselves.



## *Adapted Commentary continued*

The one who offers a blessing is like a coach whispering to an athlete before the competition “You can do it!” More than encouragement, positive spin, or sincere wish, the words of blessing make something formless, concrete.

God needs us to summon blessings, just as we could not live without them. And so the service begins “Barchu et Adonai,” “Bless God.”

