



Sample



**G'milut Hasadim:** There are lots of ways of helping other people. You can do it with a smile. You can do it by helping to carry things. You can do it by feeding a hungry person. You can do it by buying food to feed a hungry person.

The Hebrew word for making the world better by giving money is **tzedakah**. The Hebrew words for making the world better by doing the work ourselves are **g'milut hasadim**. It is the way we help other people with our hands, ears, mouths, and especially our hearts.



# A Visit to Heaven and Hell

Everyone has two angels. One angel collects our good deeds. The other angel collects our sins.

Once there was a rabbi. This rabbi was a totally good person. He did almost nothing wrong. One of the rabbi's angels collected three bags of good deeds. Each bag was heavy. Each bag was full to the top. The other angel who collected sins had an empty bag. There were almost no sins to collect.

The rabbi and his two angels stood in a very long line. Everyone in the line was going to be judged. The judge would decide if a person went to heaven or if a person went to hell.

The judge saw the rabbi at the end of the line and told everyone else in the line, "Please wait a

minute.” He walked up to the rabbi. He looked at the three bags of good deeds. He lifted the almost empty bag of sins. He said, “Rabbi, you are a very good man.” You are the best person we have seen around here in a long time. We have a very special deal for you. You can visit both heaven and hell.”

He said, “Rabbi, you chose between heaven and hell.”

A chariot came and landed by the rabbi. The chariot was on fire but did not burn up. All-white horses pulled the chariot. The rabbi got in. The chariot took off and began to fly. It passed many clouds. After hours and hours it came to a castle floating on a cloud. The chariot stopped.

The drawbridge came down. The door to the castle opened. The rabbi walked across the drawbridge. He went into the great hall. It was filled with many tables. On each table was lots of food. There was every kind of food in the world. It was the best feast ever. The rabbi got hungry.



All of a sudden the rabbi heard the sound of chanting. It was slow and sad. A door opened, and many people entered. They were singing a sad song. They came to the tables, but they could not eat. They were thin and hungry. They were sad. On each person's left hand was tied a giant fork. On the right hand was tied a giant spoon. They could not bend their elbows. They could not bring food to their mouths.

An angel said, "Rabbi, this is hell. Now go and visit heaven."

He got back in the chariot. It flew and flew again. After hours it came to another castle floating on a cloud. It looked just like the first. The chariot stopped.

The rabbi came into the great hall. It looked just like the first. This great hall was also filled with many tables. On each table was lots of food. There was every kind of food in the world. It was the best feast ever. The rabbi again got hungry.

Again the rabbi heard the sound of chanting. It was happy and glad. A door opened. Many people entered. They were singing a happy song.



They came to the tables. They seemed to be well fed. They were happy. On each person's left hand was tied a giant fork. On the right hand was tied a giant spoon. They could not bend their elbows. The rabbi watched and they began to eat. Each person picked up food and carried it to his neighbor's mouth. Here the people fed each other.

The rabbi said, "This is heaven. The people make it heaven. Even though there is no money in heaven, people still found a way to do **g'milut hasadim**."

Then the rabbi said, "I choose to go to hell. I will teach them the secret of creating heaven. That will be my last good deed."

## TO THINK ABOUT

1. What made heaven into heaven?
2. Why did the rabbi choose to go to hell?
3. The rabbis said that giving tzedakah was a good thing, but doing g'milut hasadim was even better. What makes g'milut hasadim better than tzedakah?

Name an act of g'milut hasadim you can perform with each of the following.

**A Ventriloquist's Dummy**



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**A Banana Split**



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**Old Crutches**



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**Three Trash Cans**



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**A Football**



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