

OLAMI MENTORSHIP

SEASON 1



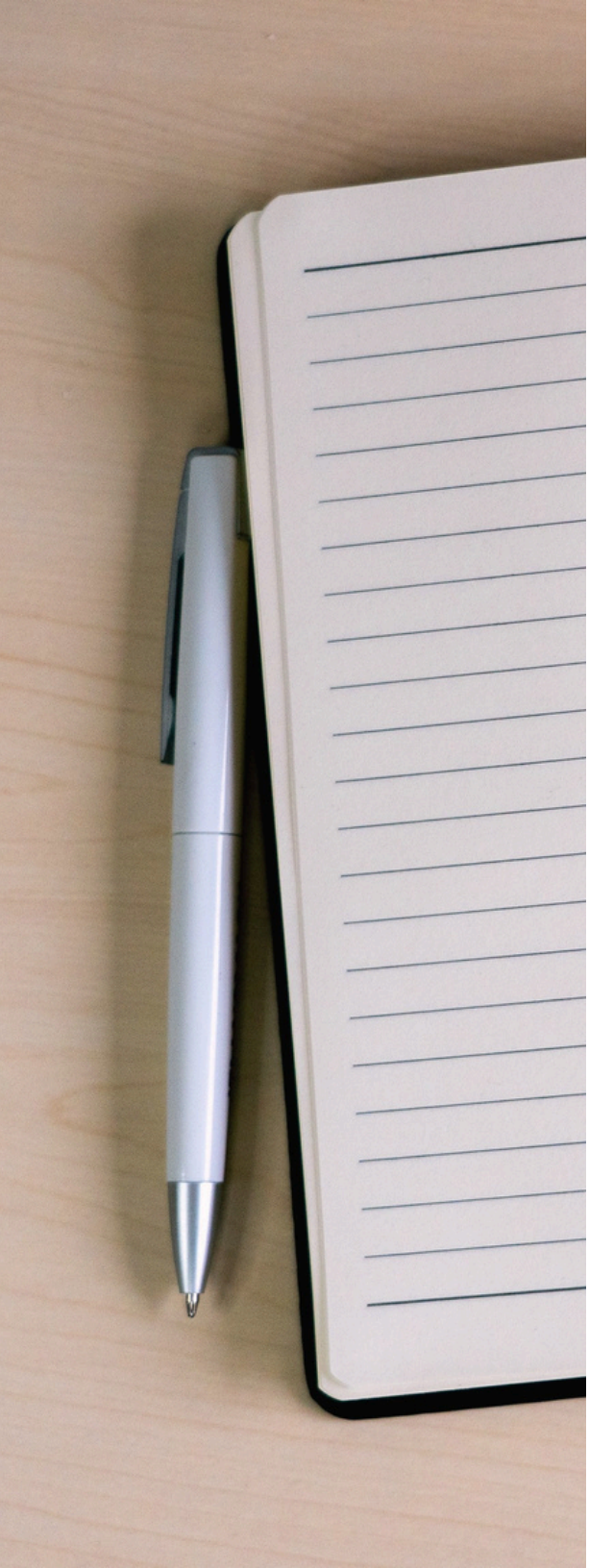
SESSION 9: A ROADMAP FOR LIFE



DEAR MENTEE AND MENTOR,

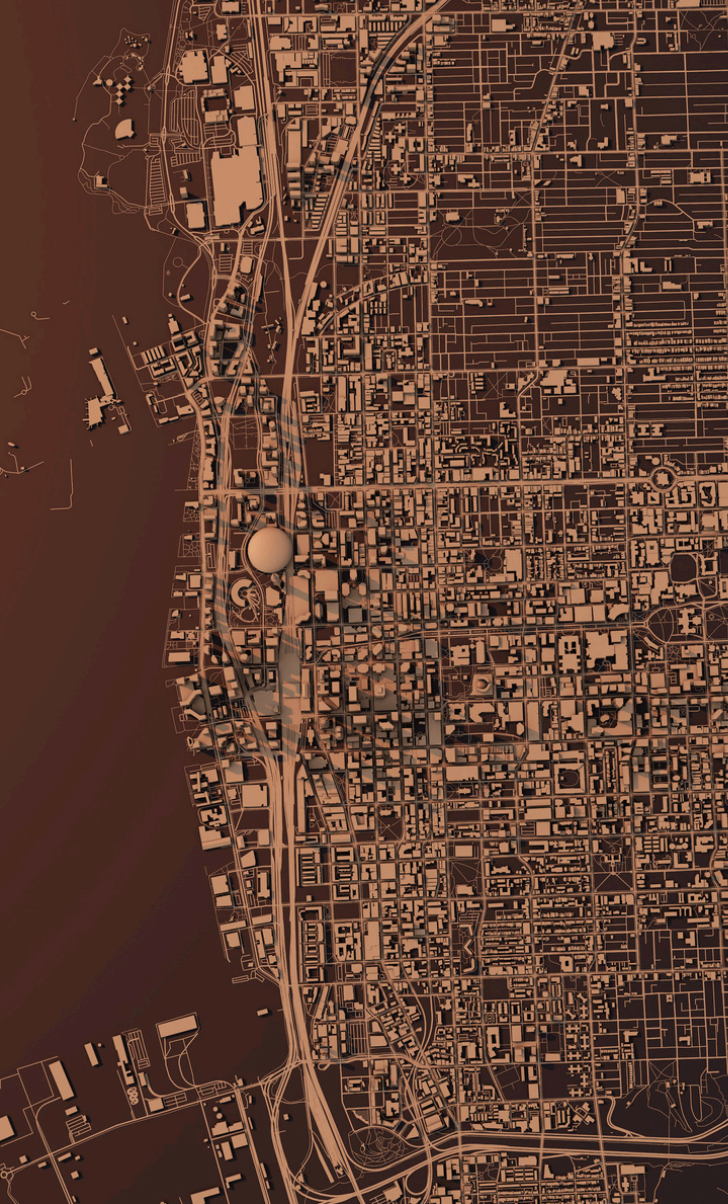
Imagine you're driving to a destination, but you have no map, no GPS, and no idea of the best route. It's easy to get lost, waste time, and end up somewhere far from where you wanted to be. Now, think of your life in the same way. Without a personal mission statement, it's easy to drift, lose direction, or become overwhelmed by life's demands. But when you have a clear mission—your personal roadmap—everything you do becomes more intentional, aligned with your values, and aimed at a purpose greater than yourself.

A personal mission statement is a powerful tool. It's not just about having goals or a sense of purpose—it's about designing your life to reflect your deepest values and the impact you want to have. It's your guiding compass, helping you navigate life with clarity and direction. Whether in your career, relationships, or community involvement, your mission statement acts as a constant reminder of why you do what you do.



REMINDERS:

- Check-in: How was your week?
- Goal check-in. Do you both feel on track?
- Journaling: The journal is a space to track progress and growth throughout this journey.
- Set a time for your next meeting.



WHAT IS A MISSION STATEMENT?

The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks so beautifully stated:

"If I could ask God one question, and it is a question I actually ask God every single day, it is, what do you want from me? I believe that each one of us has a task that God wants us to fulfill.

And the great challenge in life is to know what God wants from us. So since I am not going to be able to get up to heaven in this life and actually ask Him that question, I will continue to look and to listen until I sense I know what it is that I am here to do. I think that's the best question anyone should ask God."

Your mission statement is a clear declaration of what you stand for and the impact you want to make in the world. It integrates your personal and professional life into a cohesive vision, ensuring every decision contributes to your overarching purpose.



WHY A MISSION STATEMENT MATTERS

Living with Purpose:

A mission statement helps us define our purpose. What's really incredible is that the Torah instructs each person to live with purpose and that every person has a unique purpose, rooted in being created b'Tzelem Elokim—in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). This divine imprint reminds us that we are here to fulfill a role that no one else can. A mission statement aligns you with this sacred calling, helping you understand how your actions contribute uniquely to the world.

There is a directive in the Torah to choose life (Devarim 30:19):

הַעֲדֹתִי בְכֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַחַיִּים
וְהַמּוֹת נִתְּנִי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה וּבִבְחֹרֶת בְּחַיִּים
לְמַעַן תִּבְחַרְהָ אֶתְּהָ וְזָרַעְךָ:

“This day, I call upon heaven and the earth as witnesses I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. **You shall choose life**, so that you and your offspring will live.”

This directive isn't just about physical survival; it's a call to live a meaningful, purpose-driven life—one infused with values, connection to God, and the pursuit of goodness. It challenges us to actively choose a path that aligns with our soul's purpose rather than simply existing.

If the Torah mandates a person to “choose life,” then it behooves us to reflect on our personal understanding of the essence of our existence.

1. What does “life” mean to you?

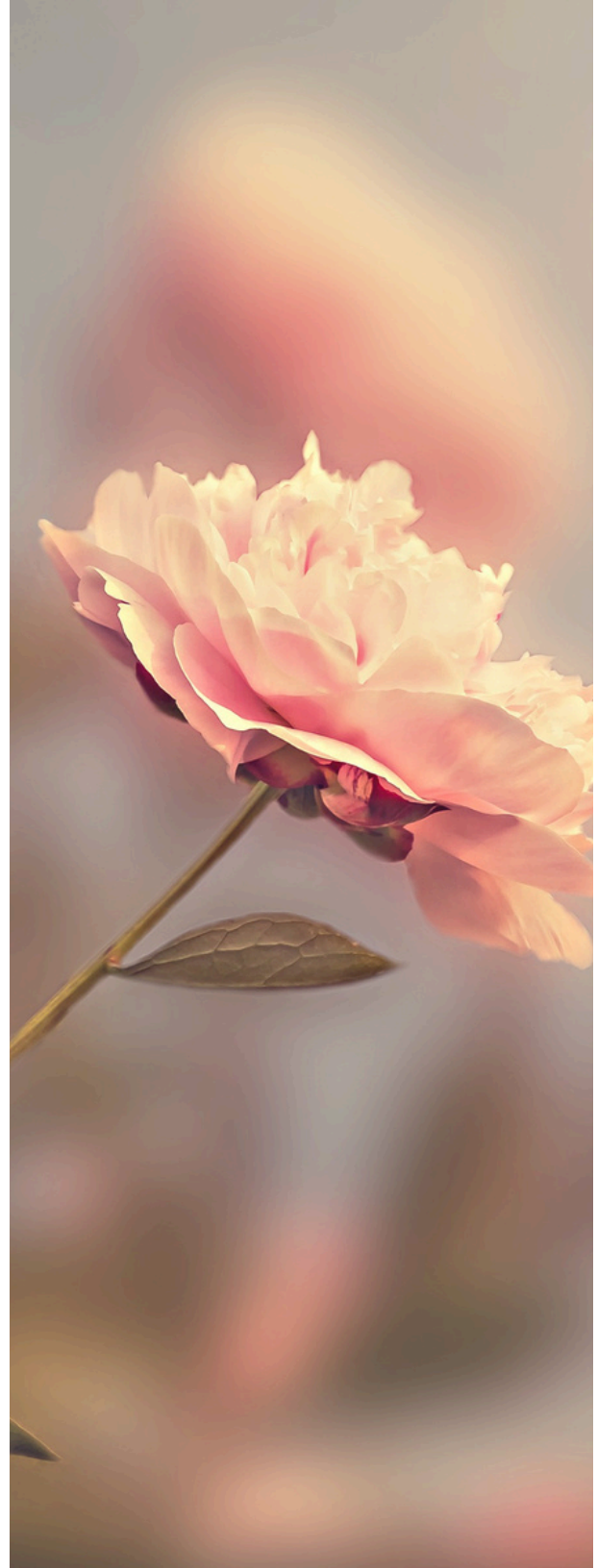
- Consider joy, purpose, service, connection. Are these the essence of life or is it something else?
- When do you feel most alive?

2. Can you identify a moment in your life where you felt like you were “choosing life”?

- Was there a moment where you felt truly aligned with your purpose?

By reflecting on these questions, a person can start to uncover what “choosing life” means for them personally and how and when to choose life. The key is recognizing that “choosing life” is not just a one-time decision but an ongoing journey of growth and purpose.

Creating a mission statement is a valuable tool in helping us live with purpose.



OUR HISTORY IS REplete WITH CHARACTERS WHO WERE ABLE TO DEFINE THEIR PURPOSE AND ALTER THE DESTINY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

One of Judaism's best noted examples is Queen Esther.

Esther HaMalka (Queen Esther)

The story of Esther takes place in ancient Persia, where the Jewish people were a minority living under King Achashverosh. When a decree was issued to annihilate the Jews, Esther—a Jewish woman who had become queen—was in a unique position to intervene. However, approaching the king uninvited could mean death, and at first, Esther hesitated.

Her uncle Mordechai's response in Esther 4:14 is powerful. He says to Esther: **What if everything in your life has led you to this exact moment? What if you were placed in this position for this very purpose?**

This message speaks to the idea that we all face moments in life where we have to choose life - we have to step up, even when it's difficult or risky. Sometimes, we find ourselves in positions of influence, leadership, or opportunity, and we have to ask ourselves: Why am I here? How can I make a difference?





Mordechai suggests that Esther's rise to queenship wasn't random—that perhaps she was placed there for a greater purpose. Do you believe that life events, talents, or challenges can be signs pointing toward your mission? How can you begin to recognize and embrace the role you are meant to play in the world?

Esther ultimately steps us, embraces her mission, risks her life, and saves her people. Her courage and sense of responsibility serve as a timeless reminder that we all have moments where we must decide whether to act or remain passive.

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you felt uniquely positioned to make a difference?
- How did you respond?

In the next session you will take the time to identify and record your unique life purpose by drafting a mission statement. Creating your unique mission statement will enable you to consistently reflect on your individual mission and the Divine plan for your life.

**For educational questions or support,
please contact:**

Rabbi Shlomo Landau
Director of Mentorship
908.770.0056
slandau@olami.org

Jordana Baruchov
Associate Director of Mentorship
973.370.0414
jbaruchov@olami.org

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