

World Religions
100 Voices: A Journey Home

After reading and sharing your observations about the history of the Jewish people in Poland, you might be able to begin to have some appreciation of the loss suffered by not only by Polish Jews murdered in the Holocaust, but by those who survived. The film you will see today and tomorrow shows how one group of American Cantors attempts to remember and rekindle what the film makers call “the Jewish culture that produced one of the most artistic and educated societies that once flourished in Europe.” As you watch the film, your task will be to look for examples of Judaism as practiced in the larger world. For even though Judaism does not encourage the practice proselytism there is a strong belief that Jews have an important responsibilities to the world:

- ♦ ***Tikkun Olam - “repairing this world” through justice and righteousness; through “deed, not creed”*** [concept originated in the early rabbinic period in the Mishnah’s interpretation of biblical law. The concept was given new meanings in the kabbalah of the medieval period and further connotations in modern Judaism]
 - ♦ ***Mitzvot- “good ethical and ritual deeds” to serve as an example for the larger world*** [through practicing Mosaic law]
1. What are the reasons given for planning and staging a concert of Cantorial music in Poland?

 2. What is Cantorial music as defined early in the film?

 3. How did Cantorial music develop into an art form? Why did some famous cantors take their music to the secular [non-religious] world?

 4. As you observe the concerts in Poland, make a note of what you observe and your impressions of how the cantors and their music are received.

5. What are some of the ways the cantors were affected by their visit to Poland?

After the film:

Describe how the film illustrates the concepts of Mitzvot and Tikkun Olam. Think about the objectives of the cantors and the effects on people in Poland.

Based on your reading about the differences between Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative Judaism, discuss how Mitzvot might be interpreted differently by each of these