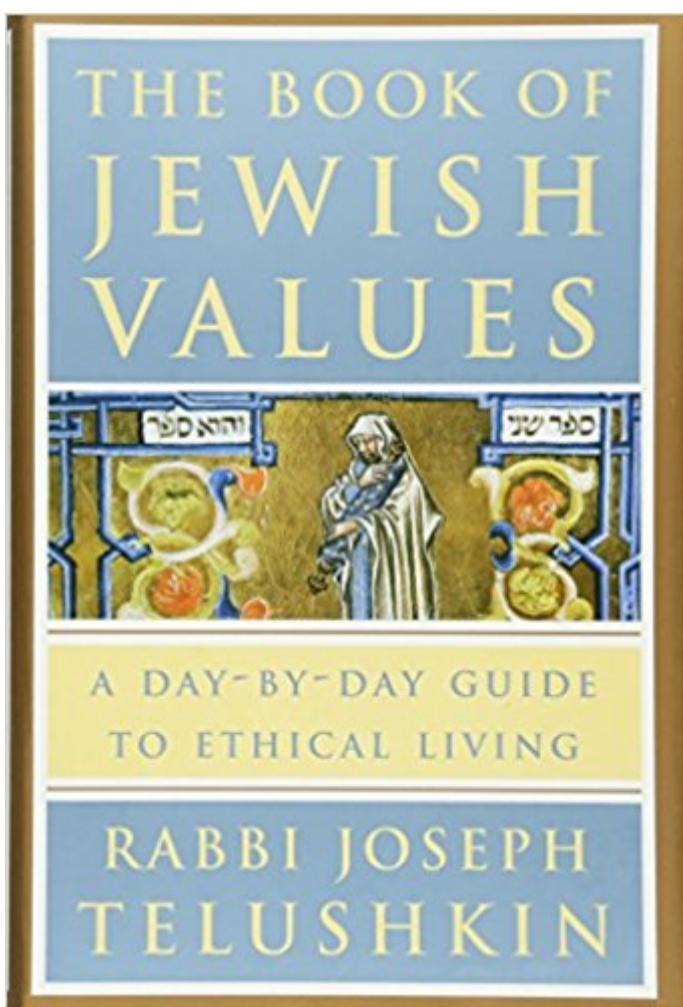


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# The Book Of Jewish Values: A Day-by-Day Guide To Ethical Living



## Synopsis

In *The Book of Jewish Values*, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin has combed the Bible, the Talmud, and the whole spectrum of Judaism's sacred writings to give us a manual on how to lead a decent, kind, and honest life in a morally complicated world. Telushkin speaks to the major ethical issues of our time, issues that have, of course, been around since the beginning. He offers one or two pages a day of pithy, wise, and easily accessible teachings designed to be put into immediate practice. The range of the book is as broad as life itself: The first trait to seek in a spouse (Day 17)When, if ever, lying is permitted (Days 71-73)Why acting cheerfully is a requirement, not a choice (Day 39)What children don't owe their parents (Day 128)Whether Jews should donate their organs (Day 290)An effective but expensive technique for curbing your anger (Day 156)How to raise truthful children (Day 298)What purchases are always forbidden (Day 3)In addition, Telushkin raises issues with ethical implications that may surprise you, such as the need to tip those whom you don't see (Day 109), the right thing to do when you hear an ambulance siren (Day 1), and why wasting time is a sin (Day 15). Whether he is telling us what Jewish tradition has to say about insider trading or about the relationship between employers and employees, he provides fresh inspiration and clear guidance for every day of our lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Book of Jewish Values requires great commitment from its reader, and it promises great reward. "[F]or ethical teachings to carve a way into our hearts, we must study and practice them ... day after day after day," explains Rabbi Joseph Telushkin in the book's introduction. The book is

structured as a daily guide to living, with scriptural lessons, meditations, and exercises covering topics ranging from "the first trait to look for in a spouse (Day 17)" to "how to change negative patterns of behavior (Day 150)." At the end of each week, Rabbi Telushkin provides a special Sabbath review of the prior six days' teachings, to ensure continuity among the book's many lessons. This simple, straightforward approach to religious and ethical teaching is an ancient and proven one. As Rabbi Telushkin points out, great teachers through the ages have always said that diligence is the beginning of virtue. (Consider, for instance, Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav: "If you are not going to be better tomorrow than you were today, then what need have you for tomorrow?")

--Michael Joseph Gross

Rabbi Telushkin, author of ten previous books, has offered 365 nuggets of rabbinical advice on everything from anger to Maimonides to the telephone. This is the latest of many recent publications to address the resurgence of Jewish spiritual life, and it is one of the more appealing entries; for many readers it will feel like a few minutes a day on the synagogue steps with a favorite rabbi. For collections where there is a significant Jewish readership. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A true beauty of a book to live by and keep forever. It is written for a man, not a woman. So you have to get past this error- then you see the beauty of what this hardbound, golden script book offers. I showed it to the Rabbi and he was impressed, but said he had never read it. I am certain this book will help me become the observant person I have always aspired to be. Well Done!

You don't have to be religious to enjoy this book. You don't even have to be Jewish. Just be spiritual and every short essay you read will provide you with a mission that day.

This book is an excellent examination of one's ethics and values and gives a great road map of the Jewish approach to these issues.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin has done it again. I think he is one of the best authors around. He has not disappointed me in anything I have bought. This book is a MUST to have. You can use it as a devotional in the fact you can use this book every day of your life year after year. Each day there is something interesting to read and the subjects will really change your life for the best if you let it. This book is not just Jewish values (even though we need to thank the Jews for so many teachings

they have given us) it is values for everyone. If everyone followed these practices we would have heaven here on earth.

My husband and I have been following this chapter-a-day guide since we started counting the Omer this year. I did not realize when we began that this is a very traditional thing to do. Reading the chapters one per day is the way this book is designed and should be read. Each week has a theme which is sometimes obvious and other times more subtle. The idea is to read each day's message and think about it throughout your day. How can you apply the message to your life? Do you agree with the premise? Every message is supported with quotes from the Torah, the Talmud or other sources, Rabbi Telushkin interprets the text as a message for modern life often with a story from his own experience. I like that he presents himself as an individual with fears and flaws struggling to be the person God expects him to be. Many of the stories are simplistic but I don't see that as a flaw. The purpose of the book is to get you to think about ethical issues and focus on your values and what Judaism teaches is the correct response. It's not intended to be a deep scholarly work. But it may push you to read more, to follow up on the sources referenced, to talk about the issues in the book with others. It's definitely a bit of tikkun olam.

Though the book was published in 2000, it can be used every year by adjusting the days for the current year. I like to think of it as a daily spiritual checkup and a nice way to start my day. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's writings are always refreshing and insightful. The book is very reasonably priced.

An interesting, lively topical discussion of dozens of Jewish ethics -- an interesting reader for anyone with an interest in ethics, or for anyone who wants to learn more about Judaism. This book feels like a conversation, with many stories and historical anecdotes of the teachings of famous rabbis. If you are not comfortable at times with the superficiality of the post-modern world, this book will show you what we are missing in our day-to-day lives and provides concise, thoughtful write-ups that suggest other ways we may navigate the world. One of my favorite books for years.

I have been using this book, in print form, for three years and was so happy to find it finally had been released in Kindle format. The daily readings draw upon Judaism's values and ethics and each reading makes a direct connection to current day, real life situations. Daily readings can easily be read in five minutes or less. Great way to start the day! Each year, as I reread the sections, new

understandings and meanings emerge. Very well written!

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