



## How to use the Mishnah Chart for the Mourners' Home

### For the mourner:

1. Fill in the full Hebrew name of the deceased and the deceased's father.
2. Fill in the name of the deceased as he or she was known.
3. Fill in the English date and Hebrew date that you would like the Mishnah study completed (customarily the שלשים/*shloshim* or יארצייט/*yahrtzeit*).
4. Fill in your telephone number, (or cell number, or e-mail address), so that the Mishnah study participants can contact you when their Mishnah study is complete.

### For the Mishnah study participants:

1. Choose a מסכת/*tractate* that you will study in memory of the deceased. Fill in your name, telephone number, (or cell number, or e-mail address), in the appropriate box on the Mishnah Chart, so that you can be contacted to assure the completion of the Mishnah study.
2. For your own records, fill in one of the enclosed **Mishnah Study Reminder Cards** with the name of the deceased, the name of your chosen מסכת/*tractate*, the date when the Mishnah study is due, and the contact number of the mourner, so that you can contact the mourner when your Mishnah study is complete.



## About Mishnah Study

It is an ancient Jewish custom to study Mishnah – the succinct compendium of the Oral Law – in memory of a loved one. This uplifts the departed soul, as Mishnah study elevates it in the spiritual realms. One allusion to this concept is that the Hebrew word *משנה*/Mishnah has the same letters as the Hebrew word *נשמה* (soul).

There are varying customs as to when as to when the Mishnah study should be completed. Some complete the entire Mishnah in time for the *שלשים*/*shloshim* (the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the burial), while others complete the study in time for the *יארצייט*/*yahrtzeit* (anniversary of passing). Many choose to do both. There is a custom as well to complete the study of the entire Mishnah for the occasion of each subsequent *יארצייט*/*yahrtzeit*.

Customarily, the family of the departed divides the Mishnah study amongst many participants, since it can be a daunting task to study all 528 chapters of the Mishnah at such a rapid pace. Mishnah study participants may choose a *מסכת*/tractate (section of Mishnah) or two (or more), to study, while others often divide the longer and more difficult *מסכתות*/tractates. The Mishnah Chart lists the number of chapters in each *מסכת*/tractate.

The greatest merit for the departed soul is that all *ששה סדרי משנה*/Six Orders of Mishnah be completed on its behalf. Completing one or more *סדרים*/Orders of Mishnah is also a respectable accomplishment. Completing even one tractate, or any amount of Mishnah study, in merit of a loved one is also of great significance for the departed soul.

There are many beautifully written commentaries on the Mishnah (available in many languages). Mishnah study in memory of a loved one is a wonderful opportunity for anyone to gain knowledge in Mishnah while concurrently engaging in a *חסד של אמת*/*chessed shel emes* (an act of kindness without any recompense).