1. **Tzedakah:** (15 mins)

Tzedakah means “righteousness” in Hebrew, and yet it is used to describe the giving of alms, charity, to the needy. Discuss the relationship between Charity and Righteousness in the context of the following passages of scripture and historic writings:

Matthew 6:31-34; 1st Corinthians 13:3 (note, the word translated as “love” (agape) is translated as “charity” in the OKJV); 2nd Corinthians 9:9; and Tobit 4:4-11:

> “Remember, my child, all the risks she ran for your sake when you were in her womb. And when she dies, bury her at my side in the same grave.
> 
> ‘My child, be faithful to the Lord all your days. Never entertain the will to sin or to transgress his laws. Do good works all the days of your life, never follow ways that are not upright; for if you act in truthfulness, you will be successful in all your actions, as everyone is who practises what is upright.
> 
> ‘Set aside part of your goods for almsgiving. Never turn your face from the poor and God will never turn his from you.
> 
> Measure your alms by what you have; if you have much, give more; if you have little, do not be afraid to give less in alms.
> 
> So doing, you will lay up for yourself a great treasure for the day of necessity.
> 
> Almsgiving is a most effective offering for all those who do it in the presence of the Most High.”

**Background to Tobit:**

This book of Tobit is a part of the Apocrypha, and recognize as part of Jewish religious writings, even included in the Septuagint. It is about a righteous Israelite of the tribe of Naphtali, living in Nineveh after Sargon II had deported the northern tribes of Israel to Assyria in 721 BC.

The book is closely related to Jewish wisdom literature. This is especially clear in Tobit's instructions to Tobias before his departure for Media in Chapter 4, which particularly praise the value of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

2. **Sh'ma Israel, .... Adonai Echad:** (15 mins)

In the Talmud, Shavuot is referred to as the “marriage day” between G-d and the Children of Israel.

G-d’s plan of redemption is associated with the mystery of a marriage where two become one, just as a union between a man and women in marriage become one (echad – Genesis 2:24).

Discuss the concept behind “echad” as it used in the following passages:

Genesis 1:5, 1:9, 32:22, 37:9; Nehemiah 7:66

Now discuss the application of this concept to us, as Grafted In Believers, through the following passages:

Yochanan 10:16, 10:3; Ephesians 2:15; Yochanan 17:22; Acts 4:32; Romans 12:5