Continue activities following the story – A Circle of Friends



By: **Giora Carmi**
Illustrations
הוֹצָאָה: כנרת
Age Group: **Preschool (3-5)**

כְּלָלִי

Family activities:
Leaf through the pages with your child and look for instances of giving in the book. Who gives openly and who gives in secret? The title of the Hebrew version of the story is "The Hidden Circle". Why do you think the author chose this title?

Draw your child's attention to the items on each page that are filled in with color. Why do you think the illustrator chose to highlight these pictures?

The facial expressions depicted in the illustrations convey the characters' emotions (e.g. – the face of the child watching the old man sleeping, or the face of the old man eating the muffin). How can we "read" others' feelings by observing their facial expressions?

You can play the game "Identify the Feeling" with your child. Make an expression that conveys a certain emotion and let your child guess which emotion that is. Then change roles and try guessing the feelings your child is conveying.

Look at the illustration of the old man crumbling a bit of his muffin for the birds. In the Talmud the rabbinical sages say: "Even a poor man who himself survives on charity should give charity" (Gittin, pg. 7b). What is the logic of this commandment?

"A Circle of Friends" is a story about everyday actions that are familiar to all of us. In the book of Deuteronomy (chapter 30, verses 10–14) it is written: "This mitzvah... is not in the heavens... or across the ocean... Rather (it) is very, very close to you, upon your lips and in your heart to perform it".

In other words, good deeds are within all of our reach. Even young children can perform mitzvot, or good deeds. Take the time to think together with your children about some of the good deeds they have done (and things they would like others to do for them), for example: sharing toys with a friend, helping their siblings or friends at school...

At the end of the book the boy receives a surprising gift that brings him joy. Draw a big, yellow sunflower together. On each petal draw a gift that appears in the story. In your opinion, does the cycle of giving end with the blossoming sunflower outside the boy's window? Invent together with your child a continuation to the story and illustrate it.