TEACHING RESOURCES
WORKSHEETS

RAMBAM'S LADDER
WORKSHEET

Instructions: Step 1: Show students Rambam's ladder of tzedakah, noting that the highest rung (i.e., #8) is the most honorable form of giving to those in need. Ask students why they think Maimonides put the rungs of the ladder in the order that he did. Ask if Maimonides may have forgotten any important concepts. Would they change the order of the rungs of the ladder? If yes, how?

Step 2: Divide the class into small groups and give each group a stack of tzedakah cards. Ask them to order them as a tzedakah ladder. Bring the groups back together to share their results and discuss.

Maimonides Eight Levels of Charity

8

**Giving in a way that helps someone be self-supporting
(such as a gift, loan, business partnership, education, or a job)**

7

Giving so that neither the giver nor recipient knows who the other is

6

**Giving so that the giver doesn't know who receives the money, but the recipient
knows who gave the money**

5

**Giving so that the recipient doesn't know who gave the money but the giver
knows who got it**

4

Giving before being asked to do so

3

Giving when asked to do so

2

Giving less than one should, but being nice about it.

1

Giving less than one should and not being nice about it

Cut cards as follows:

Give money so that a woman in Thailand can set up her own business to support her family.	Give when a friend calls and asks you to donate to a good cause.
Give spontaneously when you see that there are not enough water bowls for the dogs in a local animal shelter.	Give anonymously to a fund even though you do not know who will be the recipient of your donation.

Cheerfully give to someone asking for money on the street corner.	Begrudgingly (i.e., showing that you'd rather not) give to someone asking for money on the street corner.
Give when your principal asks you to help a needy family at school, knowing that your name will be listed on the card given to the family.	Give anonymously when your principal asks you to help a needy family at school.