

### Step 8 - Move onto Talmudic and Midrashic Literature

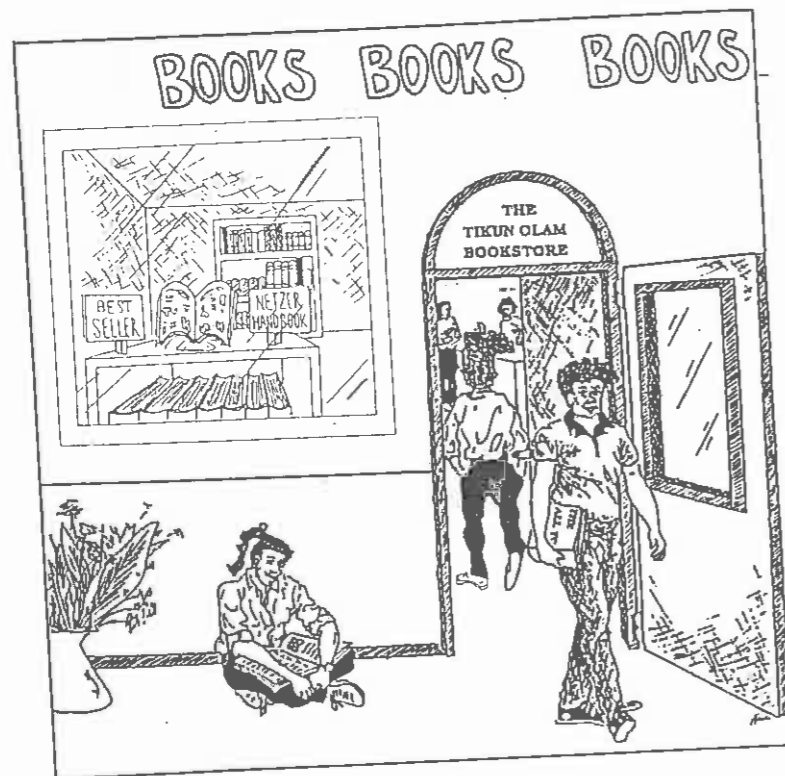
To see how the subject is dealt with in midrashic literature turn to Sefer HaAggada, The Book of Legends, edited by Hayim Nahman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky. This is a topic based collection of many midrashim from various books. It is an excellent source book which has recently been translated by William Braude.

Louis Ginzburg's Legends of the Jews is also a very readable collection of midrashim, organized according to Biblical chronology.

A Rabbinic Anthology, edited by C. Montefiore and H. Lowe is also useful.

You may wish to look at Maimonides' Sefer Hamitzvot, which appears in two volumes, one relating to positive commandments, one to negative commandments. Check here for references to your subject; it may give the subject a new dimension.

Sefer HaChinuch, translated by Charles Weingrov, originally written in 1257-58 might be helpful. The book is organized by the weekly portion and focuses on all the mitzvot in the Torah. Take the most useful Biblical references you have found, check which weekly portion they fall under, and look for it in the Sefer HaChinuch.



### Step 9 - Look at Halachic Responsa

It is worth checking several different works in this category.

The Concise Code of Jewish Law (the Kitzur (short) Shulchan Aruch), translated and edited by Rabbi Gershon Appel. Appel has not only translated the original work, but also includes other halachic notes based on contemporary responsa. His perspective is traditional, so no non-Orthodox responsa are included.

Contemporary Halachic Problems, by David Bleich. The book is written from a Modern Orthodox point of view. It gives an clear overview of many issues in legal literature from Rabbinic literature to Modern Responsa.

The Progressive point of view can be found in Solomon B. Freehof's Modern Reform Responsa.

### Step 10 - Check what Non - Legal Literature has to say on the issue

Non-legal literature would now help clarify ideas. It might be worthwhile to examine Martin Buber's two volume Tales of the Hasidic Masters. The books are organized chronologically, according to the tellers of the tales, and not thematically, so the index has to be checked.

Also examine Louis Newman's The Hasidic Anthology which is organized thematically.

### Step 11 -

Thoroughly exhausted? Is there no end to this? Do not forget one more important source: the Siddur. Look through an English translation, looking for any relevant prayers or passages.

### Step 12 - A final word...

The last stop is a different kind of book; this is not a book on sources, but rather a curriculum put out by the UAHC, the Reform Movement, called To See the World Through Jewish Eyes. There are several sections of the curriculum, divided according to age groups from preschool to adult education. (Check both the sections for young people as well as the adult section, as this provides more in-depth information.)

### Step 13 - Putting it all together

Enough! Now it is time to sit down and try to work out for yourselves what the sources say, and only later, to think how they may be used. Many of the traditional sources are difficult, and it may be worth turning to a shaliach/a, a Rabbi, or a Jewish educator for help in deciphering them. It is important that you take the time to study the sources before you try to convey the issue to chanichim. Only after you have a good sense of the subject, can you begin to plan the peulah.

Having studied the subject, reexamine your original goals and ask "Do we still agree with these goals? Are there other goals that are equally or even more important?"