



Kol Hanearim – Infertility and Simchat Torah

The holiday of Simchat Torah includes the whole family in celebration – dancing, singing and honors at the Torah for all. The tradition to call everyone up the Torah during Simchat Torah brings about the occasion to invite all the children especially (Kol Hanearim for boys in the traditional realm) so they know that they are included in the inheritance of Torah as well. The High Holidays in general and rituals like this one in particular can be difficult for people struggling to have children.

The last Aliyah for Simchat Torah is often when all the children are called to Torah and is considered a special honor. To reside under a tallit canopy with all of the children is to share in the honor of introducing them to Torah, which is considered the highest form of parenting. Sometimes the honor is given to someone as an honor to show them as a role model or as a wish that they may have many grandchildren.

Take the opportunity to add comments recognizing that children, however, are not granted on merit. That we know people among us who are quite worthy and still hoping to be parents... and grandparents.

Say a prayer on behalf of those in the community who might find this ritual difficult because they are experiencing challenges building their family or someone they love is struggling. Sharing a few words or a prayer can turn this ritual from being an experience of isolation to one of inclusion.