

The 4 Questions

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“The 4 Questions” serves as a general introduction to the entire workbook. I have done this exercise with my audiences more than 100 times. It has proven to be the most useful stimulus I know for people of all ages who want to match their individual personality with specific kind(s) of Tikkun Olam.

(And, yes, there really are 10 questions. But, as the joke goes, there are 3 kinds of people relating to math — those who can do it and those who can’t. If I had called this section “The 10 Questions” no one would have paid much attention to it.)

1. What are you good at?*

2. What do you like to do?*

3. What do you care about? What do you really care about?

4. What things do you do that make you feel good about yourself?

5. What are you passionate about? What are you really passionate about?

6. What bothers you so much about what is wrong in the world that you weep or scream in anger and frustration. What is so terribly wrong that you are at a loss for words...and you are determined to do something to change it?

7. Who are your heroes, and what is it about them that you admire?

8. Whom do you know?

9. Why not?

10. What can you do right now?

10. What are you not good at, but might do anyway because it would make a big difference in someone else's life?

***A Comment and a Hint**

Comment: #1 and #2, though frequently identical, are often two separate categories. For example: You are a fabulous salesperson. Your husband says you could sell double-layered overcoats to Tahitians. Sometime in your career you realize you no longer enjoy it and that it is time to "get on with your life" and do something else. An example of the opposite: You love to play the clarinet, but you have no sense of rhythm and your off-key performances drive others crazy. Worn down by the cacophony, your friends and family politely (but firmly) insist that you play when no one is around.

Hint: 6 often gets the most articulate and deeply-felt response.