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Belonging to a religious group implies community and belonging, a set of shared, if not totally agreed-upon values, in addition to common direction and purpose.

The Jewish religion teaches us - among its vast array of lessons - to respond to the needs of the most-vulnerable and to resist overlooking the suffering of others.

We are lovers of peace: prayers and blessings for peace are fundamental to Jewish liturgy.

We are lovers of life, as the rabbis of the Mishnah [first major codification of Jewish law] taught: When one saves a single individual, it is as if that person saved the whole world [Sanhedrin 4:5].

We are lovers of justice: justice, justice you shall pursue, that you may thrive... [Deuteronomy 16:20].

And: the Jewish people are a people bound by hope, as expressed in the Israeli National Anthem hatikvah, meaning 'the hope.'