

Redesigning Forgiveness

A Introduction to Design Thinking for the High Holidays

- BrandeisHSP Design Lab -

a project of:



BrandeisHSP



How do we forgive each other?

One idea from the Jewish philosopher Maimonides (1135-1204)

Mishnah Torah, Laws of Repentance, Chapter 2, Law 9

Repentance and the Day of Atonement atone only for sins between humans and God, such as one who ate something that is forbidden, or had forbidden sexual relations, or something similar. However, sins between people, such as one who injures another, or curses another, or robs him, and similar sins — these can never be completely absolved until one returns to one's friend what one owes, and appeases that person. Even if one returns the money that is owed, one still must appease the other person, and request forgiveness. Even if one harmed another only through words, one must still appease that person and continue to contact that person until one is forgiven.

ב:ט אין התשובה ולא יום הכפורים מכפרין אלא עברות שבין אדם למקום, כגון מי שאכל דבר אסור או בעל בעילה אסורה וכיוצא בהן. אבל עברות שבין אדם לחברו, כגון חובל חברו או המקלל את חברו או גוזלו וכיוצא בהן—אינו נמחל לו לעולם, עד שיתן לחברו מה שהוא חייב לו, וירצהו.

Redesign the act of forgiveness...for your partner.

Start by gaining empathy.

1 Interview

8 min (2 sessions x 4 minutes each)

Notes from your first interview:

Describe a powerful (or awkward) time you apologized to someone, were apologized to, or where an apology would have been nice.

Switch roles & repeat Interview

2 Dig Deeper

6 min (2 sessions x 3 minutes each)

Notes from your second interview:

What questions remain about your partner's experience?
Ask "why" often!

Switch roles & repeat Interview

Reframe the problem.

3 Capture findings

3 min

Goals and Wishes:

What goals or wishes emerge from your partner's story of forgiveness?

*use verbs (connecting, relieving, moving on, etc.)

Insights: New learning's about your partner's feelings and motivations. What's something you see about your partner's experience that maybe s/he doesn't see?*

*make inferences from what you heard

4 Take a stand with a problem statement

3 min

partner's name/description

needs a way to

partner's goal or wish

because (or "but..." or "surprisingly...")

[circle one]

insight

When you've finished your problem statement, show it to your partner to make sure it's on target.

Ideate: generate alternatives to test.

5 Sketch at least 5 *radical* ways to meet your partner's needs. 5 min

write your problem statement above

A large rounded rectangular box with a black border. Inside, at the top left, is the text "write your problem statement above" followed by a horizontal line. Below this line are five smaller rounded rectangular boxes, each with a black border, arranged horizontally. These boxes are intended for sketching radical solutions to the problem statement.

6 Share you solutions & capture feedback. 10 min (2 sessions x 5 minutes each)

Start your feedback with sentences such as: I liked... I wish that... How might we...

Switch roles & repeat sharing.

Iterate based on feedback.

7 Reflect & generate a new solution. 3min

Sketch your big idea, note details if necessary!

Build and Test.

8 Build your solution.

Make something your partner can interact with!

[not here]

7 min

9 Share your solution and get feedback.

+ I liked...

- I wish that...

? How might we...

! Ideas...

8 min (2 sessions x 4 minutes each)