



Say Amen



1. Key "gathering" questions:

- Do you think the film had a happy ending?
- Would David be better off with a family that was not so close-knit?
- Did anything surprise you about the Israel and Israelis we meet in "Say Amen"? Did any aspects confirm an understanding of Israel and Israelis that you already had?
- When the film was screened for a group of Gay Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem, many of the viewers were troubled by the eponymous scene, when David refuses to say "Amen" to his mother's prayer that he be "cured". Why do you think he refused? Do you think he did the right thing?
- Were there aspects of this film that could "only have happened in Israel"? Were there aspects of the film that "could have happened anywhere"?

2. Saying it...

It would seem that speaking out is very important in this film.

As far as David's mother is concerned, if he would but say "Amen", everything will be all right. Much of the film, David is trying to persuade his sisters to keep quiet, while they urge disclosure. His brothers push him to open up, but not to their father, while his father is upset that he does not pray the *Amida* prayer (The Standing Prayer) that is traditionally said in silence!

- Perhaps the film is trying to explore whether speaking out is always a virtue?
- What do you think is the answer the film reaches? Do you agree with this answer?

Saying it... The Nuclear Analogy

One of his brothers uses a remarkable metaphor. He suggests that just as Israel maintains ambiguity about the nature of its nuclear weaponry, so too David should refrain from revealing his sexuality to his parents.

What do you think about the use of this metaphor in relation to David coming out to his parents?

3. Blessings

David's mother gives him a full and heart-felt blessing:

"I wish you health and a good income and a good wife who will bring you back to religion and be wise, and look after your money... Make good friends."

- What value do you place on what she wishes for her son?
- Would you be happy to receive a blessing like this?
- Write down the blessing you wish you might receive from your loved ones.
- If different, write down the blessing you yourself would offer your children.





A Wider Bridge works to bring the LGBTQ communities of Israel and North America closer together. Our programs include educational and cultural activities here in the U.S., including this film series, LGBTQ trips to Israel, and our online magazine, www.awiderbridge.org.

A Wider Bridge commissioned these study guides from Makom, and consulted fully in their development. Makom is the think-and-do tank for adult Israel engagement. You can find Makom at www.makomisrael.org and at facebook.com/makomisrael.

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