

HEARING ELIE'S ECHO

FOR YOUNGER/NEW LEARNERS

Discussion Questions

- What do you know about Elie Wiesel? Can you give 2-5 words or phrases to describe him?
- Elie Wiesel has often been considered “the greatest Jew of our time”. What is the power of one person’s influence? How does being identified as a Jew help or hurt Elie (or you) in sharing a message with the world?
- Why do so many people filled with hate for Jews have a stronger echo effect than those with Jewish pride? How did Elie Wiesel express or combat this?
- Social media is the medium for many people’s megaphone for their echo. How is this a good thing? How is it also a bad thing? Elie Wiesel was pre-social media: he focused on the personal connection, the immediate, intimate interaction between people - he didn’t even let his students record his lectures! What are the benefits or downsides of having these face-to-face conversations instead of being behind the screen on social media?
- How can hearing the voice of Elie Wiesel help us to understand the impact he had on listening audiences? What is the impact of his “echo” now as he is no longer with us? What tools can we use to hear others’ echoes in a smarter and more effective way?
- When we speak to those who think just like us, it is called an “echo chamber.” All the same sounds, circulating and coming back to us to reinforce our existing opinions. How can someone be sure that they can hear the conversation outside that echo chamber in a healthy and positive way? How did Elie speak to or break outside of his “echo chamber”?
- If we aren’t the influencers with massive followers, does our sound still have an echo? What can we do to continue to transmit the “echo” of those like Elie Wiesel, those who aren’t the “influencers” of today but have a message worth hearing and sharing?