Suggested Questions and Tasks for Chevruta
By David Levin-Kruss

**Translation**
Look for the root of a word.
Use the relevant dictionaries e.g. BDB, Jastrow.
Give a few translations and discuss which one is correct.

**When you see something interesting/unusual**
What do you notice here?

**When what your chevruta is saying is unclear to you**
Please expand on your idea.
I don't really understand that. Please explain it another way.
I don't really understand that. Please give me an example.

**When you want to make sure that you and your chevruta are being thorough in your reading and understanding and true to the text**
What do you mean when you say X?
What in the text makes you say that?
How did you arrive at that idea?
What other ways are there of understanding X?

How could I defend the position taken by this text, commentator?
What leads this commentator to understand the text as s/he does?

**When you are surprised by what a text is saying or are stuck or bored**
What do you suppose the text is going to say next?
How else could the text have continued?

**Summarizing**
Let's summarize.
What can we conclude from all the information we have so far?
Repeat what the other is saying and check in if your understanding is correct. Then swap roles.

How is this similar to what we have learned in other classes?
What themes does this text have that we have seen elsewhere?
How is this different to what we have learned in other classes?
What themes does this text have which you did not expect?

**When you disagree with your chevruta or the text**
Some people say X. What do you think?
What do you like about this text?
What do you find problematic in this text?
I feel very strongly that X. Please share with me what you think and how it is similar/different. What do you think about my statement?
Let's argue this out!