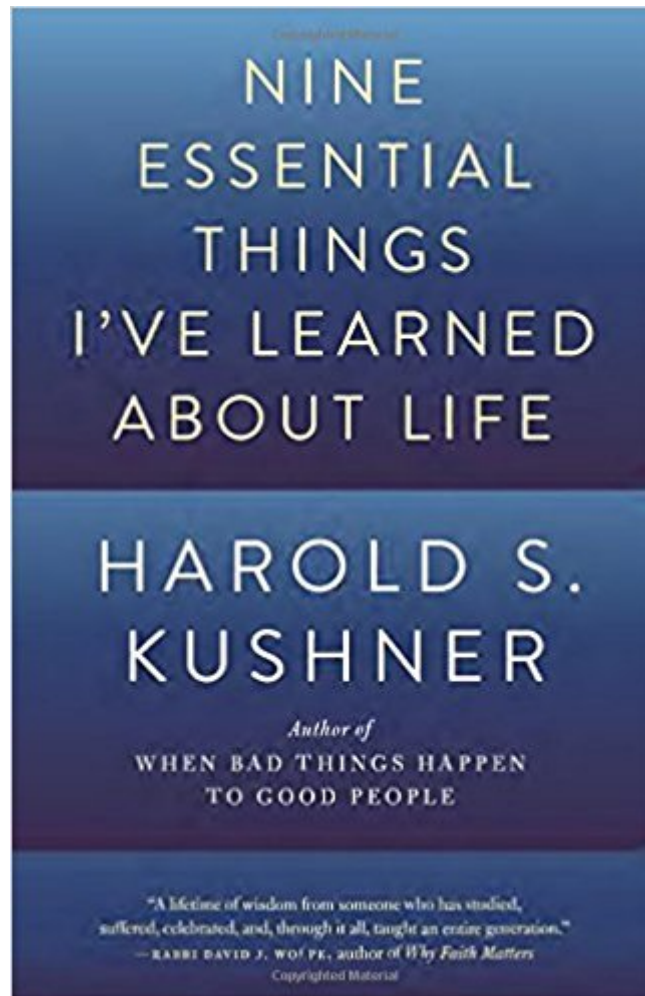




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Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life



Synopsis

In this compassionate and deeply personal work, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner distills his experiences as a twenty-first-century rabbi into nine essential takeaways. Offering readers a lifetime's worth of spiritual food for thought, pragmatic advice, and strength for trying times, he gives fresh, vital insight into belief, conscience, mercy, and more. Grounded in Kushner's brilliant readings of scripture, history, and popular culture, *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* is practical, illuminating, and compulsory advice for living a good life.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804173451

ISBN-13: 978-0804173452

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 76 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,084 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Theology](#) #10 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life](#) #39 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Jewish](#)

Customer Reviews

"A lifetime of wisdom from someone who has studied, suffered, celebrated, and through it all, taught an entire generation." —Rabbi David Wolpe, author of *Why Faith Matters*

"Whatever one's religious beliefs may be, Mr. Kushner has much to say about the enduring value of community, the universal need for a sense of belonging, the moral sense that makes us human and the ways in which we also help ourselves by helping others." —*The Wall Street Journal*

"Kushner both wrestles with and celebrates the capacity of faith and community to re-affirm life's purpose and generate joy and meaning in the 21st century." —Dr. Erica Brown, author of *Happier Endings: A Meditation on Life and Death*

"As always, Rabbi Kushner writes in a way that makes deep religious thought accessible to the casual reader while giving the more sophisticated reader a great deal to ponder. . . . This is a book that will stimulate your mind and encourage you to examine what are the lasting lessons in your life." —*The Jewish Book Council*

"This book is a provocation and a

balm for the skeptical and the religious, offering persuasive evidence that belief, forgiveness, hope, altruism, and joy are all possible, even in the face of death." •Publishers Weekly• "An absorbing read and easy to comprehend." •Library Journal• "In *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*, the empathy and understanding of Rabbi Harold Kushner shine forth on every page. He draws upon his vast storehouse of knowledge and speaks clearly from his compassionate heart to provide insight and comfort to his readers. This is a profoundly wise and spiritual book." •Rabbi David Ellenson, chancellor emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion • "I remember how, when I was in school, Harold Kushner's words opened up Judaism to me in new ways. He spoke with wisdom and clarity, a love of the tradition, and a willingness to challenge it all the same. Now, decades later, Rabbi Kushner's wisdom and his understanding of faith have grown even richer. His book offers inspiring guidance from a man who has embraced life." •Rabbi Mychal B. Springer, director, Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Harold S. Kushner is rabbi laureate of Temple Israel in Natick, Massachusetts, having long served that congregation. He is best known as the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. This is his thirteenth book.

An excellent book about the truly important things in life. Rabbi Kushner nails it exactly, especially if you are Christian. He gets down to the roots of the Judeo-Christian beliefs as they probably originated and discards the concepts that have been added over the last 2000 years that detract from the usual, exclusive interpretation.

Like all his books, *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*, is well written and thought provoking. I find that I need to read Rabbi Kushner's books twice, once for the broad themes and observations, and then again to digest and think about the arguments presented. I like to walk early in the morning, and have spent the last week or so "arguing" with Rabbi Kushner and his conclusions. It is clear that his perspective is very different from New Testament theology, but that is what is so enjoyable about his writings. He presents well reasoned, theologically sound, insights that stimulate thinking. In a time when so many books try to overwhelm with mind-numbing actions and contrived circumstances, Rabbi Kushner presents observations steeped in experience and life learned lessons. The book is well worth your time. It is good to wrestle with your beliefs and look at

life from another perspective. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

This is a wonderful book. I am not Jewish, but he brings an understanding of a loving God to anyone who believes or wants to believe that God is Good and Kind. He is a great writer.

Rabbi Kushner is a man for all seasons, and religions.

Must read for everyone regardless of their background.

Another good book by Rabbi Kushner. Thought provoking. He explains this in a way that is easy to understand.

As expected Harold Kushner did it again writing a book full of good advice.

Dr. Rabbi Kushner soothes as he writes, always telling us what we need to hear and see... even though we might not have known we needed it. His words are sermons spoken in easy, conversational phrases.

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