

THREE ELEMENTS OF JEWISH CONNECTION

Three major ways of connecting to Judaism are through personal attachment, a spiritual connection to Judaism as a way to seek/worship God and attachment to the Jewish people (community) as a whole. These connections may be made in each of the Faith Stages, to a greater or lesser extent.

RELATIONAL: Becoming attached to a Jewish partner, friend, family, role model. This person(s) becomes a means of increasing admiration for, and understanding of, Judaism. If the relationship fails or is seen as negative, the connection may end. If the relationship remains strong and supportive, the connection has the potential to draw the non Jew closer to Judaism.

Ruth to Naomi: "*Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you.*" Ruth 1:16

PEOPLEHOOD: Beginning to see Jews as a community--one whose boundaries extend over time and geography. The Jewish family illustrates, in microcosm, the wider relationship with all of Israel. The emotional, religious and social bond of the family extends to Jews everywhere. The individual has attachment and responsibility to the whole.

Ruth: "*your people shall be my people....*"

GOD/FAITH/ULTIMATE MEANING: There is a recognition and valuing of the unique covenant between God and Israel. The unique concept of *mitzvot* is appreciated as equally essential to faith and worship in a relationship with God. Realization that Judaism's covenant with God is a unique, desirable and fulfilling spiritual connection.

Ruth: "*your God, my God.*"

