

Submitted by Rabbi Marisa Elana James (2017)  
To be read after the four children.

We may each look at the state of the world today and have the same reactions that these children have.

In the spirit of the wise child, we may ask “what are the laws and histories that have shaped the conflicts we face?” We commit to seeking greater wisdom.

In the spirit of the wicked child, we may ask “why should I care about these challenges if they don’t affect me personally?” We commit to seeking stronger connection.

In the spirit of the simple child, we may ask “what is going on, what does it mean, and how did we get here?” We commit to seeking deeper knowledge.

And in the spirit of the child who does not know how to ask, we commit to listening to others as they tell us their stories. We commit to hearing from Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Christians and Muslims, those who are religious and secular, to begin to see the fullness of the needs for a future of peace and justice for all.

We have these all inside us: we are wise, we are wicked, we are simple, and we are always learning how to listen and learn.

