

Leviticus Text on *Tikkun Olam*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Leviticus 19:16 and Rashi's Commentary

Leviticus 19:16

Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is in danger. I am God.

* To "stand idly by" means to stand still.

Many rabbis offer explanations of the Torah text. Rashi was a French rabbi who lived in 11th century and commented on the Torah. He explained that this text teaches us that we must take action when we see others in danger:

"How do we know that if one sees one's friend drowning in the river, being dragged by a wild beast, or being attacked by robbers, that one [the witness] is obligated to save the friend? As it is said, 'Do not stand idly by.'"

Helping our neighbor is an act of kindness that helps perfect the world. Therefore, this text is ALSO telling us that we must do tikkun olam.

