

<http://tikkunmiddotproject.wikispaces.com/Seder>

Source: Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

There are so many things we want to do each day. The middah of seder/order helps us to set priorities so that we accomplish those goals that are most important. Seder is the tenth of these ten middot, but all the others rest on this middah. Without order, we are pulled in many directions, and we diminish our ability to focus on our highest priorities.

How much time should I budget to address each objective? What should I address first? It is possible to be too orderly as well as not orderly enough. For example, I may want to spend more time speaking to you because I find that most rewarding, but if I delay a less rewarding responsibility, I'll have to take care of it later or tomorrow. On the other hand, if I cut off our conversation at a critical moment because our time is up, I may be missing an opportunity that can not be replicated. Seder/Order requires us to balance different middot.

Finally, the rabbis taught that if you grab hold of too many things, you will not be able to keep hold of any of them. For many of us, a major obstacle to achieving seder is that we are overloaded. We just have too much to do. Part of the work of bringing order to our lives is often giving things up, letting go of commitments and priorities that are dear to us. If there are not enough hours in a day to fulfill all of our commitments, it will not matter how we organize our time and priorities.