The Rodef Shalom Who Runs to Say Shalom First

“Run” over to one person you may not have previously know, say shalom, introduce yourself, and invite them to be your Havruta (study partner/friend) for just one source. Choose who will read out loud the source below then take turns discussing the question under the source. At the end of 3 min. you will be asked to run to someone else and repeat the exercise with the next source.

(1) Seinfeld (season 2, episode 1, "The Ex-Girlfriend", Jan. 23, 1991)

Then one day, he doesn't nod. Like I don't exist?! He went from nods to nothing…. And now, there's this intense animosity whenever we pass. I mean, it's like we really hate each other. It's based on nothing….

Discussion Question: Do people say hello to each other in your community?

(2) Ethics of Our Fathers 4:20

R. Mattityah ben Heresh said:
Take the initiative, and be the first to greet with a shalom, every person.

Discussion Question: When you are not participating in an icebreaker, do you like to be the first to greet someone you do not know? Why yes/no?
### Discussion Question: Why would Aaron, who was known as a pursuer of peace, open with a “peace be upon you my master” to each side in a conflict? How do you, as a third party in a conflict, greet conflicting sides?

### Discussion Question: Why, in your opinion, would Aaron say shalom even to the wicked? Have you ever tried greeting someone who may be considered your enemy? What happened?

### Discussion Question: Can you recall a time when you greeted someone first and was not greeted in return? Did you feel ‘robbed’ or humiliated? If not, can you think of such a scenario?
However, if he (the other person) was not accustomed to saying *shalom* to him (you), he (you) should not say *shalom* to him first, out of concern that his (your) friend (by not responding with *shalom*) will be called a 'robber'.

**Discussion Question:** Can you think of a scenario when it would be inappropriate to greet someone else first?