

Beginning the Conversation Modern Jewish Families in Their Own Words

Eli and Sam and Natan and Yitz

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We are two men who live in Jerusalem. We are married and in between raising our active one-and-a-half-year old twins, we find time to work, learn, create, and be a couple.

As gay individuals and a couple we are all too familiar with uncomfortable comments and questions that are thrown our way on a daily basis, everything from the assumption that we are married to a woman, to questions of how we can live with ourselves as Jews when we ‘choose’ to live a gay lifestyle (funny choice of words since the wardrobe to match my lifestyle is usually stained and spotted). Over the years we have learned to deal with these comments, mostly to ignore them and respond only when we think that we can affect change or education in a person or situation.

The comments that hurt most have to do with our children, how they were created, their ethnic diversity and the fact that they have two *abbas*. The most difficult is in many ways the most innocent, “Which of you is the dad?” Most people ask this without malice but fail to consider the judgment couched in the question - that only one of us can truly be the dad, that the other is an outsider with little or no right to parent, that biology is more important than attachment and commitment, that a family without a woman is not really a family at all.

