Mishnah Berakhot Chap. 1 – (Some) Guiding Questions

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Mishnah 1

* Is this where you would have expected the Mishnah to begin?
* There are things this mishnah presumes the reader knows even before beginning to read the mishnah. What are some of those things?
* The mishnah begins by asking “*from* when may one recite Shema” – but the rabbis seem to have a difference of opinion about something slightly different – what is that something?

Mishnah 2

* This mishnah presumes you know a very particular source – what is it? (Hint – it shows up in mishnah 3…). How does that source underlie the debate here even without being explicitly cited?

Mishnah 3

* Another version of the question just above: Now that you’ve seen the verse – how does the discussion between Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel regarding how to interpret the requirement(s) of the verse relate to the different opinions in mishnah 3 about the latest time one can fulfill the obligation of the morning recitation of Shema?

Mishnah 5

* Have you ever encountered this source (or a version of it) somewhere else (hint: if you have, it would have been relatively recently, i.e., just a few weeks ago…)? Does seeing it here in this context change your understanding of it?