



# KIBBUTZ KFAR MENACHEM: CROSSROADS

A 16mm Sound Film, 26 Minutes

SOCIAL STUDIES  
CULTURE STUDIES

Produced by  
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## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- To outline the characteristic political, social, and economic structures of an Israeli kibbutz.
- To investigate the frustrations of some people living in kibbutzim and to explore the origins of such feelings.
- To raise the question of whether the kibbutz represents a viable long-range system of social organization.

## SUMMARY OF CONTENT

*Kibbutz Kfar Menachem: Crossroads* is a tour of the mind and mood of an Israeli kibbutz. Only the general lines of economic, political, and social organization are indicated as the viewer watches and listens to conversations between kibbutz members exploring their attitudes toward the community.

The visual portion of the film is a subjective overview of the kibbutz environment. The impression it conveys is varied but clearly positive, turning from panoramic views of farmlands to close-ups of intimate, homey scenes in parks and nurseries. In contrast, the audio portion of the film focuses on the individual, and the impression it conveys is more uncertain. Kibbutz members discuss their views on the structure of the kibbutz, the satisfactions they derive from life there, and the frustrations they experience.

A young man who was born on the kibbutz tells of how he and his mother went to live in the United States when he was twelve years old. When he was in his twenties, he returned to Kfar Menachem to see his birthplace and, thinking he would like it, resettled there. But he found he was not entirely happy, and after the shooting of this film was completed, left Kfar Menachem to become one of the original settlers on a newly formed kibbutz. Thus, the film presents a paradox of kibbutz life: even those who are dissatisfied with the kibbutz on which they live are likely to remain strongly committed to the ideals it represents.

The film also illustrates a generation gap on the kibbutz that is in some ways unique. The older members of the community are the ones who laid its foundations, and their children are only the second generation to experience the life-style they established. For the young members of the kibbutz, therefore, the question of formulating their own alternatives is part of their immediate heritage.

The principal question raised by this film, then, is whether the kibbutz system will prove to be a lasting form of social organization. It clearly illustrates that the problems involved in formulating a new way of life are to be sharply distinguished from those involved in providing for its longevity.