

JSU CLUB ACTIVITY

Being True

Rabbi Yitz Levi

GOAL



The goal of this club is to help teens realize the value of being true inside and how to accomplish it.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:



This club focuses on if what is on the outside is reflected on the inside. Push the teens to consider if what they show off to the world is reflective of their true selves. This club does require a little bit of preparation before the club.

MATERIALS NEEDED:



- Wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons
- Newspaper
- Assortment of cheap/random items and small gifts

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS:



First, wrap the random/cheaper items in wrapping paper topped with a bow and the more substantial toys in newspaper. Have each kid pick a number out of a hat to determine the order each teen opens their gift. Then, you can facilitate a discussion with questions like: how did you pick your gift, how did you feel when you opened it, etc.

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE AND TORAH THOUGHT:



The Aron (ark) was created in an interesting way—first gold then wood and then gold. But why did gold need to be on the inside? Gold on the outside makes sense because it looks nice, but why would we also need gold on the inside—no one sees that. Our presentation and external appearance needs to match our inside—it is important to be consistent. In Hebrew, the word *face* and *inside* share the same root—so we match our exterior to our interior. The wood of the Aron represents organic growth and it could be unnatural to have an instantly gold exterior. We need to grow naturally to be in sync.