

6:15-7:15 PM Shuk Yerushalayim

I. Intro (3 mins)

Setting:

- 25 Beit Midrash session groups of 5-6 teens are set from previous program
- Divide by groups and start with their advisor
- 3 stations (Bikkurim, Hakheil, Maaser Beheima), Front of rec hall, back of rec hall, 1 outside
- In each station, space for 7 BM groups
- When time is called, the NCSYer groups all move and the advisors stay put
 - Advisor runs the same 14 minute activity three times
- Advisors tells group which advisor to find at the next station to keep it simple (should be the same for all rounds)
- Minimum of 4 staff helping the transitions happen quickly

Bikkurim- Gratitude

There is a mitzvah to bring first fruits to the Temple. Bikkurim were the first fruits to ripen on a tree of one of the special species of the land of Israel. When doing so, one had to recite a passage from Deuteronomy 26:5-10, the section of “Arami oveid avi” (“an Aramean tried to destroy my ancestor” or, possibly, “my ancestor was a wandering Aramean.” This passage may be familiar from the Passover Seder).

The reason for this mitzvah is because a person is inspired by what comes out of his mouth. By speaking the declaration aloud, the message is impressed upon him. The landowner doesn't only bring his first fruits to the Temple in order to share the good things that God has given him, he verbally acknowledges God's goodness. The passage describes how God saved the patriarch Jacob from Laban, redeemed the Jews from Egypt and brought them into Israel. It culminates with the personal goodness with which God has graced the person making the declaration, as demonstrated through his first fruits.

At the height of what could be a self-aggrandizing moment, when our labors have finally reached fruition, we instead turn towards the source of all blessing and express our feelings of gratitude.

2 minute intro and rules by session leader, 11 minutes game, 1 minute cooldown and recap about importance of gratitude towards Hashem and everyone/everything else.

Gratitude Family Feud aka Gratifeud- Rules

Will be played in Family Feud Style. Teens are split up into two teams (**advisors** should distribute among these teams as well), and each team sends up one person, and when given a word or phrase, the first to hit the table and give **three reasons** within **ten seconds** for why they are grateful for that particular item gets the point, and the right to continue with the next word or phrase. All of the answers must be logical and acceptable (or at least funny!) to the host (aka Benjy Katz aka Steve Harvey). [At least two of the answers must be genuine and not just trying to be funny.] If they are not able to list three, the other team has the opportunity to steal the point (they can huddle together to discuss), but they must come up with **two different reasons** in **five** seconds why they are grateful for this thing.

Each team can get a maximum of five points in a row, before the board goes to the other team. After each team has gone once, the teams again send up one person to the table/podium to try and hit the table first and get the board for their team.

Like the game “Whose Line is it Anyways?”, the points do not matter a lick, but don't let that stop you from pretending they do!

1. Parents
2. Air conditioning
3. NCSY Advisors
4. Chairs
5. Rainy days/rain
6. Shabbos
7. A nice cozy bed
8. Amazon/Amazon Prime
9. Electric lights
10. Shoes
11. Noses
12. Traffic lights
13. Jolly Rancher Bites
14. Nail clippers
15. Showers
16. Fingers
17. Judaism
18. Post it notes
19. Trees
20. Car commercials
21. Watches

22. Digital cameras
23. Air/oxygen
24. Torah
25. Clothes
26. Microwaves
27. Spring Regional
28. Airplanes
29. Youtube
30. Plumbing and Sewage system
31. Seedless watermelon
32. Shoes
33. Mosquitoes
34. Eating utensils
35. Siblings
36. The wheel
37. Eyeglasses
38. Printers
39. Tissues
40. Music
41. iPhone
42. Umbrellas

Hakheil/Aliyah L'Regel- Excitement in Judaism and in Torah

Hakheil

Every member of the nation – men, women and children – were commanded to assemble at the Temple on the second day of Succos in the year after shemittah (i.e. every seven years) in order to hear the king read certain passages from Sefer Devarim. This mitzvah is called hakheil, the assembly.

The reason for this mitzvah is that Torah is the heart of the Jewish people. This sets the nation apart from all others. It is only appropriate that the entire nation should gather together periodically to hear words of Torah from the mouth of the king, serving as a reminder of this significant reality. But importantly, the *way* in which the Torah was presented was the most important factor: as it was read in front of the entire Jewish nation with palpable excitement throughout the year, it was truly *the* event. When Torah is presented with such importance and in such an electric manner, the words that the nation heard would not soon be forgotten.

Aliyah L'Regel

We would come to the Beis Hamikdash three times a year (on the chagim), which would inspire us and pump us up to be incredible ovdei Hashem the rest of the year (**like Regionals!**).

Session leader has everyone do a STOMP or something of the sort, to get people pumped up, get a nice background beat going, then proceeds to tell a story, say over some Torah, etc. Challenge the teens to see if they could remember this a day later.

Advisors- It is incredibly important to pump up the energy in the room, and make sure everyone is really into it. After the STOMP Torah, you will quickly break the kids up into min-groups to discuss some of the following:

Discussion- Talk about how the point is to have Torah make an impression on our lives. We may not appreciate it because it is not presented to us in the right way, but at its core, Torah is the center of life, the greatest pleasure that a person can have, in this world or the next, the pleasure of connecting to Hashem in an integral way. In this case, remembering what exactly was said is less important than the overall impact that the words and the presentation make

Ask if the teens can recall any events that they think made a lasting impact on their lives, either positively or negatively. [It is also very possible that they may not be able to come up with any of these events off the top of their heads, or encountered many of these events yet in their lives.]

Try to see what could qualities link these impactful events together, such as how memorable the event was, if they had friends, family, or peers who went through the event with them, if they immediately followed up that event with a plan of action (**like setting up a chavrusah after Regional**), etc.

2 Minute Intro by session leader, 7+ minutes of STOMP, 5 minutes discussion

Maaser Beheima- Role Models

Each year, one-tenth of the cattle, sheep and goats born to a person's flocks and herds had to be designated as maaser beheima, the tithe of animals. These animals had to be brought to Jerusalem where, after being sacrificed, they were eaten by their owners.

The reason for this mitzvah has to do with the fact that Jerusalem –home of the Temple and the Sanhedrin –was the spiritual heart of the nation and the home of many of the Torah scholars of the generation. Accordingly, God gave the people many reasons to go there, such as the three annual pilgrimages and the second tithe in four years of the Shemittah cycle, so that they could learn from these exemplary role models. In fact, it was not uncommon for people to send their sons to study Torah in a Jerusalem yeshiva and live off the animals of maaser beheima. The result was that there would be a proliferation of learned people in families throughout the land.

2 minute intro, 8 minutes game, 4 minutes discussion

(advisors- take kids and split up into mini-groups)**

Torah Role Models- Basically Top Tier

1. Rav Moshe Feinstein
2. Nechama Leibowitz
3. Rav Ovadiah Yosef
4. Rav Elyashiv
5. Rav Soloveichik
6. Rav Aharon Lichtenstein
7. Shani Taragin
8. The Chofetz Chaim
9. Rav Kook
10. Rav Schachter

Secular Celebrities- mix of upper/lower tier

11. JJ Abrams
12. Wayne Gretzky
13. Wanda Sykes
14. Kevin Hart
15. Duchess Kate Middleton
16. Kevin James
17. Charley Barkley
18. Amy Poehler
19. Martin Freeman
20. Serena Williams

(If you aren't familiar with who some of these Torah Role Models are and what they accomplished, then definitely look them up beforehand)

Discussion

Why is it that we recognize one group more than the other, even though qualitatively, the Torah role models are much greater in their categories than the celebrities that we chose are in theirs? If athletes or celebrities, then it may be because we are used to seeing their picture in connection with their feats, as opposed to the Torah figures where you may just hear their names (if you've even heard that) or their thoughts.

Ask teens what they think we can do to better connect to Torah role models, both past and present. Why is it important to have Torah role models?



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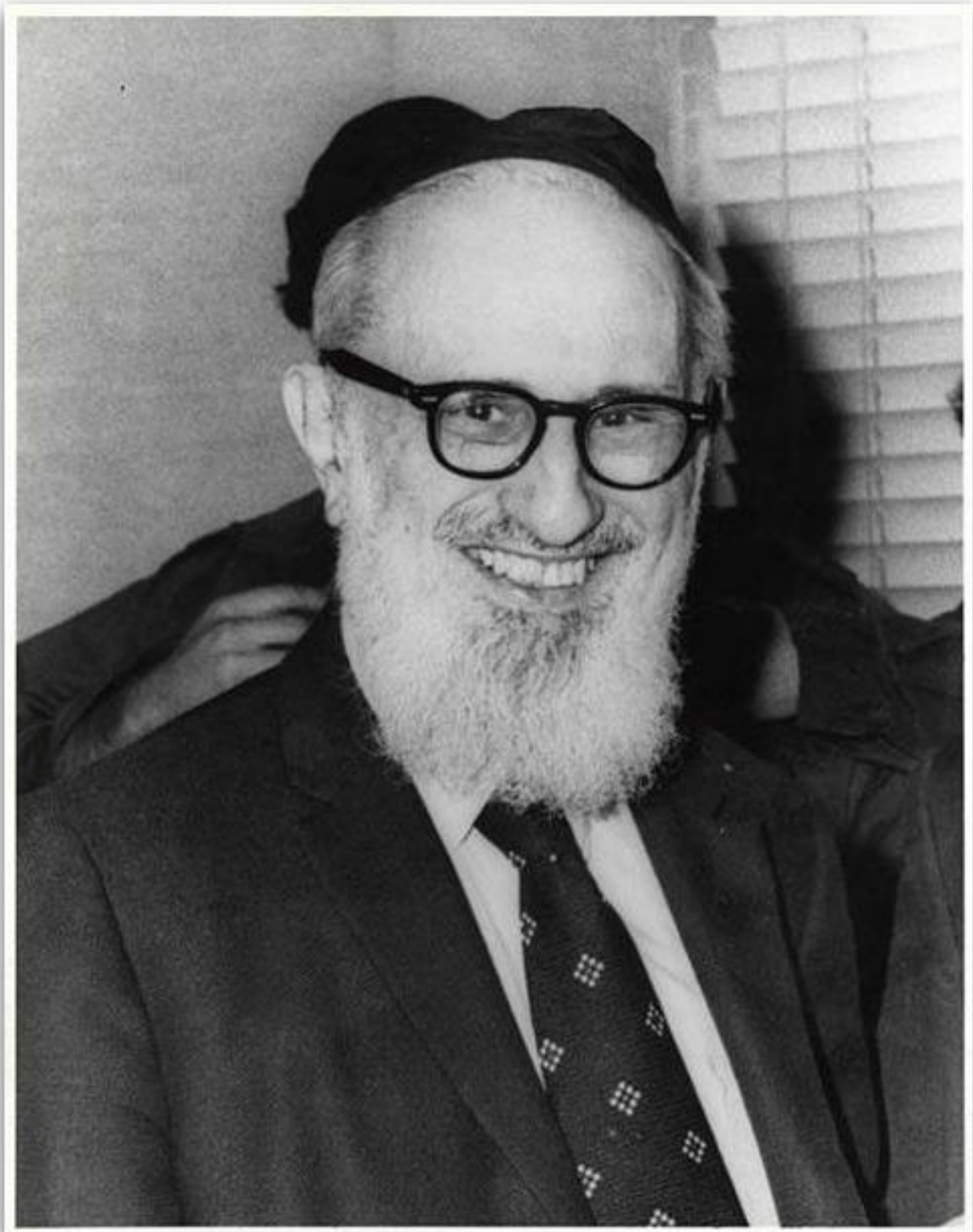
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