

JSU CLUB ACTIVITY



FRIENDSHIP BUILDING

Time needed	30 mins
Age range	Any teen
Background of teen	Any background
Set up	Tables to make candy bags at back of room

Goals: Teens will learn about the importance of achdus and sincerely complimenting each other.

Relevance: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/11/fashion/no-37-big-wedding-or-small.html?_r=0

One of the activities between the lovers is to seriously compliment ones partner. This develops feelings of kinship. We're going to try it.

Supplies needed:

1. Candy and sweets
2. Bags
3. Cards
4. Pens
5. Slips of paper
6. Hat

Active Learning:

This is based on M'Shloach Manos and Secret Santa.

All names are put on slips of paper and mixed into hat. Each participant gets a name. They need to do two things for the name they chose:

- 1) Make a sweets package from provided snacks or treats
- 2) Write an honest compliment about that person on a provided card. The card and peckelech then get delivered to the person it was intended for (after being screened).

Step by step planning:

Time	Facilitator Activity	Teen activity
5 mins	Put names in a hat	Each teen should pick a name
10 mins	Facilitate activity of making packages	Prepare gifts and write complements
5 mins	Facilitation questions think about how giving and achdus is important	
10 mins	Link to purim and the idea of unity bringing everyone together is the theme.	

Facilitation Questions:

1. How did you feel receiving a gift?
2. How did you feel receiving a compliment?
3. How did you feel giving a gift/ complement?
4. Do you find giving compliments easy or challenging? Why?

Wrap up message and Torah thought:

The Jews of the purim story were divided (מפוזר ומפרד בין העמים) and this may have been the cause for the decrees. Esther fixes (לך כנוס את היהודים) the problem and we commemorate it forever with the 4 mitzvahs of the day: meal together, communal reading, charity and gifts to each other.

<p>Esther chapter 3</p> <p>8) Haman said to King Achashverosh, "There is one nation scattered and dispersed among the nations throughout the provinces of your kingdom, whose laws are unlike those of any other nation and who do not obey the laws of the King. It is not in the King's interest to tolerate them.</p> <p>9) If it please the King, let [an edict] be issued for their destruction, and I will pay ten thousand silver talents to the functionaries, to be deposited in the King's treasuries.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">אסתר פרק ג</p> <p>(ח) וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ לְמֶלֶךְ אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ יִשְׁנוּ עִם־אֶחָד מִפְּזָר וּמִפְּרֵד בֵּין הָעַמִּים בְּכָל מְדִינֹת מְלְכוּתְךָ וְדַתֵּיהֶם שְׁנוֹת מִכְּלָעִם וְאֶת־דַּתִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵינָם עֹשִׂים וְלִמְלֶךְ אִין־שׁוּהָ לְהַנִּיחָם: (ט) אִם־עַל־הַמֶּלֶךְ טוֹב יִכְתֹּב לְאַבְדָּם וְעִשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים כֶּכֶר־כֶּסֶף אֲשָׁקוּל עַל־יָדַי עֹשִׂי הַמְּלֶאכֶה לְהַבִּיא אֶל־גִּנְזֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:</p>
<p>Esther Chapter 4</p> <p>15) Esther said to relay to Mordechai:</p> <p>16) "Go and gather all the Jews who are in Shushan and fast for my sake, do not eat and do not drink for three days, night and day. My maids and I shall also fast in the same way. Then I shall go to the king, though it is unlawful, and if I perish, I perish."</p> <p>17) Mordechai then left and did all that Esther had instructed him.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">אסתר פרק ד</p> <p>(טו) וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְהַשִּׁיב אֶל־מֶרְדֵּכָי: (טז) לֵךְ כְּנוֹס אֶת־כָּל־הַיְהוּדִים הַנִּמְצָאִים בְּשׁוּשָׁן וְצוּמוּ עָלַי וְאַל־תֹּאכְלוּ וְאַל־תִּשְׁתּוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים לַיְלָה וַיּוֹם גַּם־אֲנִי וְנַעֲרֹתַי אֲצוּם כֵּן וּבָכוּן אָבוּא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־כֹדֶת וְכֹאֲשֶׁר אָבְדַתִּי אָבְדַתִּי (יז) וַיַּעֲבֹר מֶרְדֵּכָי וַיַּעַשׂ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־צִוְתָהּ עָלָיו אֶסְתֵּר</p>
<p>Esther Chapter 9</p> <p>18) And the Jews of Shushan gathered on the thirteenth and fourteenth [of Adar], and rested on the fifteenth and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.</p> <p>19) Thus the prazi Jews, those who live in unwalled cities, make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a holiday, a day of feasting, rejoicing and sending portions of food one to another.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">אסתר פרק ט</p> <p>(יח) וְהַיְהוּדִים וְהַיְהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר־בְּשׁוּשָׁן נִקְהְלוּ בְּשִׁלְשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וּבָאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וְנוּחַ בַּחֲמֵשָׁה עָשָׂר בּוֹ וַעֲשֵׂה אֶת־יוֹם מִשְׁתֵּה וְשִׂמְחָה: (יט) עַל־כֵּן הַיְהוּדִים הַפְּרוּזִים הַפְּרִזִּים הַיֹּשְׁבִים בְּעָרֵי הַפְּרוּזוֹת עֹשִׂים אֶת יוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר לַחֹדֶשׁ אֲדָר שִׂמְחָה וּמִשְׁתֵּה וַיּוֹם טוֹב וּמְשֻׁלַּח מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ: פ</p>

At the time of Purim, there was a lack of achdus, unity, amongst the Jewish people. In fact, Haman predicated the success of his extermination plan on their lack of achdus, describing the Jews to Achashveirosh as a distinct nation that is splintered and scattered (Esther 3:8). Klal Yisrael finds strength and success in their achdus, as was the case when they gathered together at Sinai like one person with one heart (Rashi, Shemos 19:2) to receive the Torah. Divisiveness, on the other hand, can cause their destruction, as can be seen by the fact that divisiveness was the main cause of the destruction of the second Beis HaMikdash (see Yoma 9b).

However, although Haman based his success on Jewish disunity, his decree sparked a teshuvah movement amongst the Jews that fostered tremendous unity. Upon the issuance of the decree, Esther called for the Jews to gather together in their cities to fast for three days in repentance, saying Go gather all the Jews together (Esther 4:16). The Jews also banded together in defense of their enemies on the following 13th of Adar, as the Megillah says The Jews came together in their cities (Esther 9:2 (HaRav Michoelson of Warsaw)