

FLOWERS AND TORAH

Time needed	30 mins
Age range	Any teen
Background of teen	Any background
Set up	Group around a working table

Goals: To explore the concept of Torah and its depth through designing edible flowers.

Relevance: Shavuos, depth and beauty of Torah.

Active Learning:

- ❖ The activity involved making soil, roots, a stem / tree trunk, leaves, buds, flower pedals, etc. I made an example prototype and then let the students create their own, which were phenomenal, much better than I imagined they would be.
- ❖ For soil, we put a thin layer of marshmallow fluff or frosting on small plate and coated it with cocoa pebbles cereal.
- ❖ For roots, we used mini pretzel sticks.
- ❖ For the tree trunk, we used a large pretzel rod (it was better when it was broken in half - if it's too big it won't stand properly).
- ❖ For those wanting to make proper flowers, they would've covered the pretzel rod with green fruit roll up or other assorted green sugar paper like candies.
- ❖ Craisens were to serve as buds.
- ❖ Leaves were made from green 'sour belt' type candies. We had the green sour belts cut into small squares and attach them in the shape of diamonds (folded into leaf shapes) to the stem / trunk with vanilla frosting.
- ❖ The pedals of the flowers / Upper leaves of the trees were made from fruit roll up / fruit by the foot rolled out into the shape they chose. Varying colors at this point were awesome, and red was popular too for roses.
- ❖ For pictures of how this club has run in the past:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t4mo35m0qthu67e/AABya4g88eM5lusSE1UIK15Ea?dl=0>

Supplies needed: (Variations of or similar to)

1. Marshmallow fluff/ cake frosting
2. Pretzel rods
3. Fruit roll up assorted colors
4. Green sour belts and similar green candies
5. Cardboard base

Step by step planning:

Time	Facilitator Activity	Teen activity
5 mins	Intro to Shavuot	
15 mins	Make edible flowers and discuss the ideas below	Make edible trees
10 mins	Wrap up discussion about Torah, Shavuot and trees and flowers imagery	Discussion

Wrap up message and Torah thought:

Proverbs Chapter 3	משלי פרק ג
18) It is a tree of life to those who take hold of it, and those who support it are fortunate	(יח) עֵץ־חַיִּים הִיא לַמְחַזְקִים בָּהּ וְתַמְכֶּיהָ מְאֹד: פ
Mishna: PirkeiAvot 3:22	משנה פרקי אבות ג:כב
A person whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds is likened to a tree whose branches are numerous, but whose roots are few. The wind comes and uproots it and turns it upside down. But a person whose good deeds exceed his wisdom is likened to a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are numerous. Even if all the winds of the world were to come and blow against it, they could not budge it from its place.	הוא היה אומר, כל שחכמתו מרובה ממעשיו, למה הוא דומה-- לאילן שענפיו מרובין ושורשיו מועטין, והרוח באה ועוקרתו והופכתו על פניו. וכל שמעשיו מרובין מחכמתו, למה הוא דומה--לאילן שענפיו מועטין ושורשיו מרובין: אפילו כל הרוחות שבעולם באות ונושבות בו, אין מזיזות אותו ממקומו

- ❖ For more ideas to develop the theme of Torah and trees: <http://www.torah.org/learning/pirkei-avos/chapter6-7b.html>
- ❖ The Torah messages are abundant, rich and relate-able to teens.
- ❖ You can talk about the different aspects of flower and how each and every part is so deep and purposeful, just like every Jew has a part in a greater whole of Klal Yisroel.
- ❖ You can also discuss how even when plants are separated from the ground, they still get nutrients and always know to get their strength from their 'roots', (case in point, roots growing down the side of the mountain, or flower pits having holes to connect to ground) just like us Jews. Likewise, we always grow upwards, just like flowers / trees, so too us.
- ❖ For a background on why we decorate our shuls and homes with flowers on Shavuos see this link <http://etzion.org.il/vbm/english/archive/salt-bemidbar/35-4naso.htm> (first half of the page)