

## Am I a Committed Jew?

כמה אני יהודי מסור?



### What's It All About?

This program provides an opportunity for campers to consider aspects of their lives that contribute to their being committed Jews.

<b>Category of Activity</b>	Shabbat
<b>Grade Level</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> grades
<b>Time</b>	Shabbat evening: 20 minutes Shabbat afternoon: 45 minutes
<b>Method</b>	Presentation, decision making, small group discussion
<b>Size of Group</b>	Eidah
<b>Keywords</b>	Jewish identity

#### GOALS

1. The campers will have an opportunity to identify those aspects of their lives that contribute to Jewish identity.
2. The campers will have an opportunity to clarify their own ideas of what it means to be a Jew.

#### BACKGROUND

None

#### PLACE

Shabbat evening: An indoor meeting place for the entire Eidah.

Shabbat afternoon: An indoor meeting place to begin the program and locations for many small discussion groups.

#### PREPARATION OF SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

1. A list of Jewish identity descriptions for each camper.
2. Packages of stick-on stars or colors to indicate choices on the paper.
3. Groups of 4-6 campers and a staff member.

#### STAFF PREPARATION

1. The program leader should review the program outline with the counselor staff in advance of the program and clarify any unclear

issues.

2. The program leader should clarify the exact responsibilities of each staff member.
3. The program leader should clarify and practice with the staff the use of the stickers and choice sheets.

#### SETUP PREPARATION

The program leader should make sure that all of the supplies are prepared in advance of Shabbat.

#### METHODOLOGY AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

#### **Shabbat evening** (20 – 30 minutes)

1. The program leader should introduce the general theme for Shabbat.
2. The program leader should introduce a guest speaker who will talk about Jewish identity and how one can demonstrate Jewish identity.

#### **Shabbat afternoon** (45- 55 minutes)

1. The program leader should introduce the main idea of the program to the Eidah.
2. The program leader should divide the Eidah into groups of 4 – 6 campers each. One staff member should be assigned to each group as a discussion leader.
3. Each camper should be given a list of those aspects of their lives that help build a strong Jewish identity. (**Attachment 1**)
4. The discussion leader should give each camper a copy of the list of Jewish behaviors and some colored stickers or stars. He/she should ask each camper to place a sticker next to the sentence which she/he believes can contribute the most to strengthening his/her identity as a Jew. Each camper should choose only 4 items.
5. The discussion leader should invite each camper in turn to read his/her choices. The discussion leader should encourage the camper to explain as clearly and with as much detail as possible his/her thinking about why these items were chosen.
6. Following the responses, the discussion leader should ask the campers to consider the following questions:
  - a. At the beginning of the summer how did you hope that your experience at camp would contribute to your becoming a more committed Jew?
  - b. In what ways do you think that your camp experience has, so far, helped you to strengthen your Jewish identity?
  - c. What experiences here do you think that you could perhaps take back to your home synagogue and Jewish community?
  - d. What kinds of Jewish behaviors would you add to this list that can contribute to strengthening your commitment as a Jew?

#### ATTACHMENTS- RESOURCE TEXTS AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### **Attachment 1**

## **Jewish Behaviors that can strengthen Jewish commitment**

1. Attending Hebrew/religious school after public school.
2. Attending synagogue services on Shabbat and Holidays.
3. Keeping Kosher at home.
4. Keeping Kosher both at home and away from home.
5. Being active in a Jewish youth group – USY/NCSY/BBYO.
6. Wearing a kippah all the time.
7. Wearing a kippah at Jewish events.
8. Keeping Shabbat at home.
9. Keeping Shabbat at home and away from home.
10. Observing the Jewish holidays including not attending public school.
11. Not going out on Friday night to non-Jewish events such as school dances and sports events.
12. Openly sharing your Judaism with others.
13. Attending a Jewish camp.
14. Attending a Jewish day school.
15. Praying at least once a day either at home or in a minyan.
16. Visiting Israel.
17. Participating in a Friday night meal.
18. Giving *tzedakah* (charity) on a regular basis from your own funds.
19. Volunteering for a Jewish or non-Jewish organization.

**This program was developed by SimRon Interactive Programming, 2002**