

## Peulat Shabbat 7/4

**Goal:** *(do not read this to your campers)*

In this peulah we will explore the way in which body language and tone are used to convey meaning. Just like God was able to change the meaning of Bilam's speech, we too are able to change the meaning of our speech through tone and body language. Unlike Bilam, who was unable to read his donkey's body language, we should be wary of the body language of those around us.

### **Recommended Timeline (more detailed instructions below)**

5:00- Assign groups and read introduction

5:10- Work on creating the skits

5:25- Present the skits

5:35- Discuss using the questions

5:50- End of peula

**Step One-** Meet at the tennis courts!

**Step Two-** Split into the following groups:

**Step Three-** Read the following to your group:

In parashat Balak, Balak tells Bilam to curse the Israelites, but when he goes with his donkey to curse the Israelites his donkey stops because an angel does not let him pass further. Bilam doesn't see the angel and gets mad and almost kills the donkey, but it speaks and tells him the situation. Bilam continues and when he goes to make the curse God sends a blessing from his mouth instead.

**Step Four-** Do the following activity:

Split your campers into three groups to create short skits in order to explore the role of body language and tone in interpersonal interactions. One of the groups may only use monotone speech and neutral body language, one of the groups may only use harsh speech and angry body language, and the last group may only use upbeat speech and happy body language.

**Skit Prompt:**

It is right before bedtime, and the lights are off. Some campers are talking to each other, but another campers is trying to fall asleep and is bothered by the noise.

Each skit should be a maximum of three minutes.

**Step Five-** Discuss the questions below.

1. How did performing in and watching these skits make you feel?
2. What can you take away about body language and tone from this peula?
3. What impact can poor use of body language and tone have on our relationships?
4. What can you do to make sure your intentions are clear when you speak?
5. How can you apply these lessons to life at camp?
6. How does this activity relate to this week's parasha?
7. Do you think the story would have ended differently if Bilam had properly read his donkey's body language?
8. Which character do you relate to most based on your role in the skit and in general?