

Parshat Balak - Bucket Game

S. Selim 2015

Peulat Shabbat:

Approximate Duration: 45 min

Group Size: Edah

One-Line Description:

Teach the campers about the importance of understanding other people's motivations through a game that makes them have conflicting goals.

Overall Goal/Themes:

Teach about the parsha of the week. Teach the importance of understanding why other people do the things they do.

Methods Used:

Games, Skit, Discussion

Supplies/Resources Needed:

Skit Props, 7 Buckets, 14 Sponges, Water

Ideal Location:

Bet am Aleph and Tzad Aleph migrash

Tzevet Preparation and Roles:

Read over the script if they are in the skit. Facilitate the bucket game. Read over discussion questions and Lead discussions in small groups.

Instructions:

1. Perform the skit for the campers. John and Reut will be setting up the bucket game. Staff not in the skit is sitting ben hachanichim.
2. Break the kids into their groups and have them stand by their buckets, which will be labelled by group.
3. John will explain the game to the chanichim. Each group will be trying to empty their bucket into another groups bucket using only sponges. The result will be that each group is accomplishing nothing in particular as their buckets are being filled as they are emptied.
4. After ~15 minutes or significant camper disinterest or demoralization, break into the small groups for discussion. Follow this basic outline for discussion:
 - Why was it hard to empty your bucket?
 - Is it wrong that the other teams had goals that conflicted with yours?
 - A lot of water ended up getting spilled while we were struggling. Do you think that is a metaphor for something in the real world as well? Are we as humans spilling the water of opportunity and prosperity as we are spilling blood in our petty wars and conflicts?
 - Why do good things happen to bad people?

- Is there a such thing as the RIGHT thing to do?
- If there is no objective morality, what purpose do our lives have?
- Is Satan a misunderstood hero, and God the real villain?
- how did the other group putting water into your bucket make you feel?
- Was Balak wrong in hitting the donkey? Why or Why not?
- Why did God wait to open the donkey's mouth until Balaam had hit the donkey three times?

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Skit:

(Matt walks on stage riding Jack, who is on his hands on knees wearing a donkey mask)

Matt: Hey kids, my name is Bilam. I'm a wizard. I do magic and stuff.

Jack: Ee-oh

Matt: Shut it Donkey! Keep going! We've got to go to that Israeli camp and curse them. There's no time to mess around.

(They move across the stage)

Matt (to the chanichim): So I got this job from this guy named Balak, he's a big shot king. I'm going to make me some keseph up in here. That is if we ever get there!

Jack: Ee-oh

(Rachel, the angel of the Lord, enters carrying a sword)

Jack: Ee-oh! Ee-oh!

(Jack moves to the side and tries to stop)

Matt: Woah, what are you doing?!? Stupid donkey!

(Matt hits Jack. Jack moves a little farther forward then turns aside again)

Matt: Stop doing that! Move forward! You're going to make the GPS recalculate at this rate!

(Matt hits Jack again. Rachel lifts her sword. Jack bucks to the side and Matt falls off. He gets up and hits Jack again)

Matt: What's wrong with you! I knew should have bought that other donkey! You stink!