

Directions - For Birkhot Hashachar T'fillot program

Sol  
2003

Give each group 15 notecards with the 15 different brachot of the birkhot hashachar on them (1 bracha per card, excluding the 1<sup>st</sup> six words of each bracha)

Ask kids to put brachot in order that we say them w/o consulting a prayer book

Then ask them why they are in that specific order

Then ask them to put it in an order that shows their priorities

Then ask them to explain their orders

Conclude by saying that the birkhot hashachar are the morning prayers that were once meant to be said personally when one woke up, prior to communal services, which would start w/ Psukei dezimra. Discuss, if kids did not already, different reasons or theories for putting it in a specific order, i.e. it's in the order that we do things in the morning, or it's in the order according to God's interaction with the Jewish people (making us Jews, then freeing us from Egypt, then guiding our steps through the desert), and lastly that all the personal, individual-minded brachot are in the beginning, then the community-minded ones are in the middle and the ones for all of Israel are at the end. Finish by stating that different prayer books (usually Conservative vs. Orthodox) have the prayers in different orders and each has a justification because the Birkhot Hashachar are meant to be personal prayers so the order is up to the individual.