Boat T’fillot -- Solelim Tefillah Peulah

Goal: to help the chanichim focus better during services and understand why focusing is important; to help those who may not know prayers or Hebrew to feel more valid in the way they do or don’t pray

Part 1: Boats, boats, boats

1. Divide into groups based on bench groupings
2. Have printed pictures of a simple boat, one per group
3. Each one should be distorted or unclear in some way (half missing, blurry, etc)
4. Based on the picture, sing Row Row Row your Boat reflecting the quality of the photo (ex. if it’s blurry, they might hum it)
5. Each group will take 2 minutes to decide how to sing the song and then so for the edah
6. One group will have a clear picture and they will sing normally
7. Ask: How might this relate to tefillot?
   1. Answer: we need to be focused and sing and pray clearly in order to be understood, whether that is by god or the community or by ourselves.

Part 2: The Boy with the Flute

1. Say: we’ve discussed how it’s important to focus when praying but not all of us may now the prayers or know how to read Hebrew.
2. Tell the story about the boy and the flute.
3. Say: as you can see from this story, any prayer that comes from the heart and from a place of focus and intention is just as good and real as anything in the siddur and even can be better.

Part 3:

1. Say: We are now going to write our own solelim prayer. As we have talked about this kayitz, there are three main messages in tefillot- thanks, please, wow.
2. Ask: Specifically at camp, what are things we are thankful for? Want to ask for? Are amazed by?
   1. Take notes of them and either write in the moment or compile the Tefillah later.
   2. We can then say the Tefillah at the end of services as an edah.