

Peulat Shabbat "Expanding the Tent"

- *** "Forget about your friends"
- State our goal: that everyone walks away thinking more consciously about how to make camp a safe space for everyone
- Ground Rules of Discussion:
 - Respect all speakers.
 - Allow everyone the space to talk. The facilitator will call on people to speak. Do not call out.
 - If you don't understand a term or idea that someone uses, raise one finger up. They will explain it at the end.
 - Assume good intentions. We can't be articulate all of the time.
- Start off with 5 different perspectives on feeling safe expressing yourself at camp
 - As a counselor, I feel safe at camp knowing that my actions and decisions help to model a type of camper that I can be proud of and that I will be proud to be a counselor for. As a camper, I did not always feel safe expressing myself because the things I valued were not the things that were valued by my peers or counselors. And these things that my peers valued were often due to counselor pressure, and because of this I often disagreed and therefore felt I could not express myself.
 - When I'm at camp, I feel like I can be the best version of myself and have people follow that version and model themselves after it. I feel confident to try new things and to open myself up to growth and change. Yet, speaking as someone who was never a camper, I have also found myself trying to fit in in a place I can never truly be a part of. And finding it hard to manage being both myself and part of the norm. I can never get as emotionally invested in camp as my fellow counselors, which leads to me seeming aloof or disinterested, when all it is is me not experiencing my job as a counselor as the end of my road as a camper.
 - I think that camp is a place where everyone can truly feel comfortable and that there are no other places where this really happens. I see people all over camp looking out for others to make them feel safe.
 - I used to feel really insecure at camp because I felt a lot of pressure to make my edah like me. I liked my bunk, but I really experienced camp a lot through what I thought the edah would judge. Then, I started to feel more comfortable at camp as I started to grow into myself. It is interesting that camp provided me with these two polar opposite experiences. I really credit camp with allowing me to come into my own and be myself in front of people I know well and people I don't know as well.
 - For me, camp is a safe space because of the fact that it never changes. Everything looks the same, the people are the same, the prakim are the same and shabbat is always the same. But that's also the one thing that scares me the most. Every year I change more and more and every year I come to camp and realize that camp hasn't changed with me. One example, would be how camp sees my sexuality, or the fact that they don't see it at all.
 - Camp is a great place to become incredibly close with the people around me who I am living with all the time. I have always loved feeling like me and my friends merge into one blob of a person by the end of the summer. But sometimes this stopped me from realizing how much my feelings differed from my friends. This was a problem for me when it came to talk about getting close with guys. I knew that my friends thought that being with someone would make me happier but at the same time that was not really what I

wanted for myself. But when everyone around me was thinking and talking about the next upcoming relationship all the time it became hard to differentiate my feelings from my friends. I didn't realize that this was happening until later, but it made everyone feel like they didn't have a successful summer if they were not in some sort of a romantic relationship. It was never a conscious thought but at the end of the day, or the week, or even the summer, the disappointment was and is still there. I still see this happening at camp. I don't know how to stop it.

- Switch into perspectives - the goal here is to see how we can maintain our religious, Jewish, integrity and also be a safe space
 - analyze/ ask/ discuss the various perspectives and how we can get them to work together
 - Kavod Ha'briyot: restrictions can be overridden on the basis of respect for others or human dignity.
 - Sun and The Moon Midrash
 - God made the two great lights. The moon said to G-d, "is it possible for two kings to wear one crown?" He answered, " Go then, and make yourself smaller." But the moon cried to G-d, saying, "Because I suggested that, do I have to make myself smaller?" G-d replied, " Go, and you will rule day and night." "But what is the value in that, what use is a lamp in broad day light?" " G-d said, "I am giving you this and the stars because I asked you to be smaller."
 - Ask if anyone sees why we might have picked this for inclusion.
 - The moon was not in a space where it could thrive, so G-d created one for it.
 - Can you give something as compensation to right a situation? (the stars, and out during the day)
 - Discuss these religious texts and as a group talk about how to keep camp as an environment filled with Jewish Learning, while at the same time making it a safe space for everyone
 - Is there a way to do this without lessening someone else's experience?
 - What do individuals need to do to make this happen?
- At end: ask everyone to pause, to think about two ways in which they will now work to achieve our goal of working towards making camp a safe space for everyone.