

Peulat Erev Wednesday, August 3 "Grilled Chessus and Jewish Summer Camp"

Goals:

- Teach Chanichim that bad things happen in the world, and it's something that shouldn't be off-limits in discussions at camp
- Understanding that modern "texts", like Glee, can be used to help counselors discuss difficult topics with campers

PART 1: "God is/isn't" App. 10-15 minutes

- Chanichim will be split up into 7 groups, with a counselor in each group
- Each Chanich will receive a notecard
- On one side, they should write, and complete, this sentence: "I believe that God is/isn't..."
- On the other side, they write and complete this sentence: "When things are bad, I think God is/isn't..."
- After they finish writing both, the counselor should collect and redistribute the cards at random to the Chanichim. As much as time permits, have volunteers read each side beginning with "I believe...". It should remain anonymous
- Questions for group after all volunteers read:
 - Which response did you agree/disagree with most? Why?
 - This session is going to be about dealing with God and theodicy (bad things happening in a world with a God). What do you think about theodicy?

PART 2: Grilled Cheesus App. 25-30 minutes (Maybe longer)

- Remain in the groups but direct attention to the screen
- One Chanich will be asked to describe Glee, and this specific episode
- Intro clip/intro to faith (0:00-1:36; 2:50-4:33)
 - Does Finn's experience relate to your religious experience in any way?
 - Do any of you use any object to pray/meditate/ward off homesickness?
- Father goes to hospital, class and Kurt (6:15-8:52; 9:32~13:49)
 - How many of you are comfortable talking about your belief in God?
 - How would you talk to someone who has experienced something bad that is out of his or her control?
- Kurt and Atheism (19:02-19:42)
 - If you went through an experience like this one, what would you want your friends here or at home to do?
 - If they didn't believe in God, how would you talk to them? What would you say?

PART 3: Larger discussion App. 10-15 minutes (Maybe shorter)

- What other movies, songs, or clips do you think would serve a similar purpose in teaching people about God or other Jewish values/beliefs?
- Show West Wing clip
 - How would you communicate with God during tough times?
 - If you don't believe in God, how would you cope spiritually?