

It's Raining Text. Hallelujah!
Niv Peulat Shabbat 6/28
Ez&Ell

Go through the provided text from Parshat Chukat and conduct a discussion that focuses on the theme of water in the text, how that leads or doesn't lead to God being sanctified in the text, and how our behavior with water and scarce resources in camp and out of camp on Etgar can sanctify God's name or fall short of that. The questions provided and notes below are meant to guide you but you can of course do your own thing. We suggest you follow the main subject heading progressing from text, to camp, to Etgar.

At the end, ask your group the challenge prompt and give them a minute or two to think before going around for them to share their commitments. Not everyone has to share if the vibe of your group isn't right.

Water in the text

What role does water play in this story? Is it just something that the people physically need to survive or something more?

-Note v. 13 where the narrator says that God was sanctified through the water and God's struggle with the people (va'yikadesh bam)

How is the water related to God's sanctification in v. 13 and Moshe's failure to sanctify God in his behavior with the rock?

-The water plays a dual role in that Moshe fails to sanctify God by not recognizing God's role in the production of the water but God's struggle with the people results in a sanctification of God.

Why in the end, despite Moshe's failures, does the narrator view this story as an example of God being sanctified?

-The people learn the error of their ways. Their complaining led Moshe to hit the rock and resulted in him receiving the ultimate punishment.

Water at Camp

What role does water play in our lives at camp?

How do we use it and is it used responsibly? In what ways could we be more responsible with our water consumption?

How can we sanctify God at camp when it comes to our water use? How is being mindful of the water we use and its scarcity in some parts of the world a sanctification of God?

-Protecting the environment and remembering the suffering of others even when we have it pretty good (just a couple answers out of many possibilities)

When we take water for granted at camp, are we acting like Moshe in not recognizing the greater powers at play that facilitate this water coming out of our faucets?

Water on Etgar

How will our relationships with water change when we are on Etgar?

How might that change help or hurt our ability to think about water and the resources we take for granted at camp in terms of where they come from and their significance to others around the world with different levels of access to those resources?

How does this fit into the theme of Etgar and pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones?

-Confronting tough realities, committing to being more conscious of water consumption even when it's hard

Challenge:

Ask the campers to go around and commit to one behavior they will undertake on Etgar to facilitate the sanctification of God through attention to the environment and scarcity of resources.

-Some ideas/examples: Volunteering to pump/purify water (on trips w/o running water) as much as possible to really get a feel for the work that goes into producing our water and an appreciation for its presence, reminding edah-mates to carry out the waste they bring in to their Etgar sites.