Peulat Shabbat Chukat

Goals:

* Think about leadership
* Examine different texts
* Engage in intelligent discussion

5 groups: ~9 people per group

~2 madrichim per group

Procedure:

-Break into groups. Sit in a circle.

-Ask the following questions:

Who is your role model?

Why?

Have they ever done something that they/you are not proud of?

Similar to your role models, even some of the most historically praised leaders had their pitfalls...

-Read through the texts and ask the questions for each text.

Numbers 20:7-12

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, | וַיְדַבֵּ֥ר יְהוָ֖ה אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֥ה לֵּאמֹֽר׃ |
| “You and your brother Aaron take the rod and assemble the community, and before their very eyes order the rock to yield its water. Thus you shall produce water for them from the rock and provide drink for the congregation and their beasts.” | קַ֣ח אֶת־הַמַּטֶּ֗ה וְהַקְהֵ֤ל אֶת־הָעֵדָה֙ אַתָּה֙ וְאַהֲרֹ֣ן אָחִ֔יךָ וְדִבַּרְתֶּ֧ם אֶל־הַסֶּ֛לַע לְעֵינֵיהֶ֖ם וְנָתַ֣ן מֵימָ֑יו וְהוֹצֵאתָ֨ לָהֶ֥ם מַ֙יִם֙ מִן־הַסֶּ֔לַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ֥ אֶת־הָעֵדָ֖ה וְאֶת־בְּעִירָֽם׃ |
| Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as He had commanded him. | וַיִּקַּ֥ח מֹשֶׁ֛ה אֶת־הַמַּטֶּ֖ה מִלִּפְנֵ֣י יְהוָ֑ה כַּאֲשֶׁ֖ר צִוָּֽהוּ׃ |
| Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, “Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?” | וַיַּקְהִ֜לוּ מֹשֶׁ֧ה וְאַהֲרֹ֛ן אֶת־הַקָּהָ֖ל אֶל־פְּנֵ֣י הַסָּ֑לַע וַיֹּ֣אמֶר לָהֶ֗ם שִׁמְעוּ־נָא֙ הַמֹּרִ֔ים הֲמִן־הַסֶּ֣לַע הַזֶּ֔ה נוֹצִ֥יא לָכֶ֖ם מָֽיִם׃ |
| And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. | וַיָּ֨רֶם מֹשֶׁ֜ה אֶת־יָד֗וֹ וַיַּ֧ךְ אֶת־הַסֶּ֛לַע בְּמַטֵּ֖הוּ פַּעֲמָ֑יִם וַיֵּצְאוּ֙ מַ֣יִם רַבִּ֔ים וַתֵּ֥שְׁתְּ הָעֵדָ֖ה וּבְעִירָֽם׃ (ס) |
| But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them.” | וַיֹּ֣אמֶר יְהוָה֮ אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֣ה וְאֶֽל־אַהֲרֹן֒ יַ֚עַן לֹא־הֶאֱמַנְתֶּ֣ם בִּ֔י לְהַ֨קְדִּישֵׁ֔נִי לְעֵינֵ֖י בְּנֵ֣י יִשְׂרָאֵ֑ל לָכֵ֗ן לֹ֤א תָבִ֙יאוּ֙ אֶת־הַקָּהָ֣ל הַזֶּ֔ה אֶל־הָאָ֖רֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נָתַ֥תִּי לָהֶֽם׃ |

1. Why do you think Moshe did what he did?
2. Did Moses deserve his punishment?
3. Why did God punish Moses in this way?
4. If you were in his shoes, what would you have done and why?
5. Is Moshe any less of a great leader because of his mistake?

* Are there any other leaders you can think of, famous or in your life, that are more complicated than meets the eye?

Thomas Jefferson: Founding father of the USA

“Has not the British seaman, as much as the African been reduced to this bondage by force, in flagrant violation of his own consent, and of his natural right in his own person? and with the laborers of England generally, does not the moral coercion of want subject their will as despotically to that of their employer, as the physical constraint does the soldier, the seaman or the slave? but do not mistake me. I am not advocating slavery. I am not justifying the wrongs we have committed on a foreign people, by the example of another nation committing equal wrongs on their own subjects. on the contrary there is nothing I would not sacrifice to a practicable plan of abolishing every vestige of this moral and political depravity.”

BUT: Thomas Jefferson inherited 5,000 acres of land and 52 slaves from his father and owned hundreds of slaves during his lifetime.

1. Are his words valid if he did not follow them in practice?
2. What situations led to him not living by what he believed was right? Was it justified?
3. Is it hypocrisy or was it just a reality of the time?
4. Should he have taken further action and led by example? Do you think his legacy is tarnished because of his actions?

John T Chambers (CEO of Cisco Systems)

“I think at least my philosophy of leadership is you focus more on the areas you have to improve or the mistakes than you do on your successes. And that's just how I am in real life. I don't want to let down my customers, my employees, my shareholders.“

* Any comments or criticism? Questions?
* Does this sound like Moshe’s style of leadership? Jefferson’s?
* In what way?
* What is more effective?

Robin S Sharma (Author)

“Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence and inspiration. Impact involves getting results, influence is about spreading the passion you have for your work, and you have to inspire team-mates and customers.“

* Any comments or criticism? Questions?
* Does this sound like Moshe’s style of leadership? Jefferson’s?
* In what way?
* What is more effective?

Chris Hadfield (Astronaut)

“Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine.”

* Any comments or criticism? Questions?
* Does this sound like Moshe’s style of leadership? Jefferson’s?
* In what way?
* What is more effective?
* **HOW CAN WE CONNECT THIS TO CAMP? WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS LEADERS?**

Moshe never did the glorious crowning moments. Aaron did much of the public speaking for him. When he did, and tried to do too much, he failed.

Thomas Jefferson accomplished great things but has this lasting legacy of being a slave-owner.

This goes to show that there is always room to learn and improve. We have to look at ourselves and see what we’re doing. Really think about what we need to change or improve.