Peulat Shabbat 7/16/16

Parshat Chukat

**Impulse Control, Consequences, Positive Reinforcement**

**Goal:** To have chanichim try their impulse control and teach them about how Moses struck the rock instead of talk and the consequences he was given.

**Structure:**

The chanichim will participate in various tasks in groups. The counselors will be the shoftim (judges) and hold the bag of candy and will take candy away if they are unable to complete the task in order to test their impulses. Groups will be staggering when they leave the Beit Kinesset.

**Tasks:**

**http://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading.asp?aid=2495760&jewish=Chukat-Torah-**

**Reading.htm&p=complete**

***Start in grove****:* (10 min)

Introduction:

God says to Moses: *"Take the staff and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and speak to the rock in their presence so that it will give forth its water. You shall bring forth water for them from the rock and give the congregation and their livestock to drink."*

Instead, *“Moses raised his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, when an abundance of water gushed forth, and the congregation and their livestock drank.”*

Moses could not control his impulses and hit the rock. God punished Moses by forbidding himfrom entering the Land of Israel. Similarly, we are going to test our impulses through a bunch ofdifferent tasks.

Group 1 will leave first and then Group 2 will leave 2 minutes later, Group 3 will leave 2 minutes after that...etc.

Chanichim will begin by having to walk along riverside to the gazebo without touching the rope. If they touch the rope, they will lose candy.

***At the gazebo:*** (5 min) → Hannah

Line up chanichim in front of the agam and give them each a rock. Have them stand there for 2 minutes without throwing the rock. If anyone throws the rock, they will lose candy. Distract the group by asking them about their pet rock names.

***Turtle near Mercaz:*** (5 min) → Hillel

Half the group will face the agam and the other half will face the mercaz. The two groups have to switch sides without touching the ground. If they touch the ground, they will lose candy.

***Grass in front of Omanut Building:*** (10 min) → Tova

Give the group cups to build a 10 cup story-high tower. They will have 30 seconds to discuss their strategy and then they must be silent while completing this task. If they talk or the tower falls, they will lose candy.

***Upper Migrash:*** (5 min) → Oren

Paper plate game - each member of the group has to walk across the migrash only stepping on the paper plates. If they touch their feet touch the ground, then they will lose candy.

***Beit Am Aleph:*** (10 min) → Adina

Each group will stand in a circle and will be given a balloon. The group has to keep the balloon in the air but only one person can hit it at a time or else they will lose candy (kind of like hot potato). They will also lose candy if the balloon hits the floor.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Did you find it difficult to control these impulses (talking, throwing rocks, touching the rope)?

2. Do you believe that Moses was correct in disobeying God considering it is difficult to control impulses?

3. Was Moses’ punishment fair? Why/why not?

4. How were you like Moses in this peulah?

**Notes:** This was a fun peulah which simulated the experience of Bnei Israel. I think that the peulah ran well except the staggering of groups from the chorshah posed a problem because the trivia did not occupy much time. I would say that it would be important to come up with a better way to occupy the chanichim while attempting to stagger groups.