**Peulat Shabbat Ve’etchanan: Listen vs. Hearing**

Program Planners: TBT, Eli Greisman

**Program Type**: Peulat Shabbat

**Date:** 8/20

**Description:** sing “Listen” to introduce the theme of listening (Shema); chanchis break into groups, play Chinese Whispers (explained below) and Marco “Polo” Zuckerberg; finish with story of The Wright Family and ensuing discussion

**Goal:** Discuss the shema and the meaning of listening

**Methods used:** Thought provoking and inspiring song session, wherein we serenade Edat HaShoafim (veHaShoafot) with the impassioned ballad “Listen” by our lord and savior Beyonce.

Games & discussion. Hilarity ensues.

**Supplies needed:** An open mind, a free spirit, and maybe a roll of toilet paper just in case.

Charmin 2 ply. Also, perhaps a giant check for a million dollars.

\*\* get everyone seated & quiet, then sing Listen b’kol ram \*\*

Eli: In Parashat Ve’etchanan, Moses recites the shema to Bnai Yisrael - in other words, he asks them to LISTEN!

TBT: Moses continues relaying the importance of following G-d’s commandments to Bnai Yisrael, including the rewards they will receive if they obey G-d and the ways they’ll be punished if they don’t.

Eli: So now we will partake in some engaging, well planned, and educational activities related to listening!

**Activity: Listen Up**

1. Chinese Whispers (basically Telephone as a spectator sport)

a. Choose three volunteers to leave the group

b. Bring back one volunteer and ask a member of the group to repeat the story to them

c. Bring back volunteer #2 and have volunteer #1 repeat the story they were told

d. Bring back volunteer #3 and have volunteer #2 repeat the story they were told

e. Reread the original story to the group to illustrate how details get changed/lost when we don't listen carefully

2. Marco “Polo” Zuckerberg

a. Everyone closes their eyes / is blindfolded except one person. The object of the game is for the blind people to find & tap the seeing person on the shoulder, by echolocation.

b. The blind people call out “Marco” and the sight person responds “Zuckerberg” and can run around / avoid the blind people. The game sucks if kids cheat, so make sure they don’t.

**Life with the Wright Family**

1. Have your entire group sit in a circle

2. Give each person in the circle a small item that can be passed easily from hand to hand

3. Tell the group that you are going to read them a story and every time they hear any word that sounds like “right”, they are to pass the object in their hand to the person on their right, and every time they hear the word “left”, they should pass the object to the left.

4. Start reading the story slowly so that they have a chance to catch on to what you want them to do

5. After a few passes stop the story and ask them how they are doing. Check to see that everyone has an object in his hand. If your group is typical, some will have two or three objects and others will not have any. Have them redistribute the objects so that everyone has one again.

6. Now continue to read the story, getting faster as you go. Stop the story a couple of more times to check on how they are doing

One day the Wright family decided to take a vacation. The first thing they had to decide was who would be left at home since there was not enough room in the Wright family car for all of them. Mr. Wright decided that Aunt Linda Wright would be the one left at home. Of course this made Aunt Linda Wright so mad that she left the house immediately yelling "It will be a right cold day before I return".

The Wright family now bundled up the children, Tommy Wright, Susan Wright, Timmy Wright and Shelly Wright and got in the car and left. Unfortunately, as they turned out of the driveway someone had left a trash can in the street so they had to turn right around and stop the car. They told Tommy Wright to get out of the car and move the trash can so they could get going. Tommy took so long that they almost left him in the street. Once the Wright family got on the road, Mother Wright wondered if she had left the stove on. Father Wright told her not to worry he had checked the stove and she had not left it on. As they turned right at the corner, everyone started to think about other things that they might have left undone.

No need to worry now, they were off on a right fine vacation. When they arrived at the gas station, Father Wright put gas in the car and then discovered that he had left his wallet at home. So Timmy Wright ran home to get the money that was left behind. After Timmy had left, Susan Wright started to feel sick. She left the car saying that she had to throw up. This of course got Mother Wright's attention and she left the car in a hurry. Shelly Wright wanted to watch Susan get sick, so she left the car too. Father Wright was left with Tommy Wright who was playing a game in the backseat.

With all of this going on Father Wright decided that this was not the right time to take a vacation, so he gathered up all of the family and left the gas station as quickly as he could. When he arrived home, he turned left into the driveway and said "I wish the Wright family had never left the house today! Right?”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What did all of these activities teach us about listening?

2. Why is it important to listen / what happens when we don't listen to each other?

3. In a camp setting, what happens when we don't listen to our counselors? Specifically at the beginning of peulot, why is it important to listen?

4. What is the difference between hearing and listening?

5. Why do you think the Shema begins with us commanding the people Israel - each other - to hear before saying that God is one?