

## Peulat Shabbat 7/11: Parashat Pinchas

Theme: Egalitarianism

**Step One-** Meet at the tennis courts!

**Step Two-** Split up into the following groups.

**Step 3:** Read the following parasha overview to your group.

In parashat Pinchas, God tells Moses to take a census of all the Israelite men. He then tells Moses to apportion the land in accordance with the amount of male children and family members each man has. As Moses is doing this, a group of women whose fathers died complained that this was an inequitable system. Moses and God agreed, and the daughters received material possessions just like the Israelite men. This established the principle that if a man has no male heirs to give his inheritance to, then the daughters should receive the inheritance. This became the legal norm among the Israelites.

**Step Four-** Discuss the following questions:

- **What does egalitarianism mean to you?**
- **Do you believe that there are essential (non-physical) differences between men and women?**
- Why might the wage gap exist?
- Should women be required to sign up for the draft in the United States? Why?
- Should they also be required to serve a full three years in the Israeli army like their male counterparts? Why?
- How might the internet help or hurt egalitarianism?
- How does egalitarianism apply to life at camp?
- Since women have equal opportunities and responsibilities during tefillot, should they also be required to wear talitot and tefillin? Why?
- Should the Imahot always be included in the Amidah? Why?
- In previous years, "Oh My Lord" was considered to be a male tradition in the same way that the Miriam Dance was/is a female tradition. Is it right to include females in "Oh My Lord" but discourage males from participating in the Miriam Dance? Why?
- Is camp an inclusive environment for the LGBTQ community? Consider sleeping, bathroom, etc. arrangements. Why?
- Should women be required to sign up for the draft in the United States? Why?
- Should they also be required to serve a full three years in the Israeli army like their male counterparts? Why?
- **Do you think the Torah and other Jewish texts are egalitarian? Why? (Use parashat Pinchas as part of this discussion)**