Peulat Shabbat

Location: Moadon Machon

Time: 5:15

Goals:

* Have them leaving thinking about
  + Care and appreciation and open-mindedness and positivity Vs Negative self-fulfilled prophecy
* Leads to a goal (a unified edah at the end of the machzor)
* Attitude is important

Procedure:

* Read the story appointment in Samaria
* Answer Debrief questions

Appointment in Samaria:

There was a merchant in Bagdad who sent his servant to market to buy provisions and in a little while the servant came back, white and trembling, and said, Master, just now when I was in the marketplace I was jostled by a woman in the crowd and when I turned I saw it was Death that jostled me.  She looked at me and made a threatening gesture, now, lend me your horse, and I will ride away from this city and avoid my fate.  I will go to Samarra and there, Death will not find me.  The merchant lent him his horse, and the servant mounted it, and he dug his spurs in its flanks and as fast as the horse could gallop he went.

Then the merchant went down to the marketplace and he saw Death standing in the crowd and he came to death and said, “Why did you make a threating gesture to my servant when you saw him this morning?”

“That was not a threatening gesture,” said Death. “It was only that I was surprised.  I was astonished to see him in Bagdad, since I had an appointment with him tonight in Samarra.”

Debrief Questions:

* Any questions about the story?
* What do you think the moral of the story is?
  + The fact that he ran away led to his own demise
  + Since he thought death was going to get him, death eventually got him
  + Don’t run away from hard situations, face them head on

This weeks Shabbat is Shabbt Chazon which is the Shabbat of visions. It talks a lot about fate and prophecy. In this weeks haftorah Isiah gave a prophecy to the Jewish people:

Isaiah 1:17,1:26-27

לִמְד֥וּ הֵיטֵ֛ב דִּרְשׁ֥וּ מִשְׁפָּ֖ט אַשְּׁר֣וּ חָמ֑וֹץ שִׁפְט֣וּ יָת֔וֹם רִ֖יבוּ אַלְמָנָֽה׃ (ס)Learn to do good. Devote yourselves to justice; Aid the wronged. Uphold the rights of the orphan; Defend the cause of the widow.

וְאָשִׁ֤יבָה שֹׁפְטַ֙יִךְ֙ כְּבָרִ֣אשֹׁנָ֔ה וְיֹעֲצַ֖יִךְ כְּבַתְּחִלָּ֑ה אַחֲרֵי־כֵ֗ן יִקָּ֤רֵא לָךְ֙ עִ֣יר הַצֶּ֔דֶק קִרְיָ֖ה נֶאֱמָנָֽה׃I will restore your magistrates as of old, And your counselors as of yore. After that you shall be called City of Righteousness, Faithful City.”

צִיּ֖וֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּ֣ט תִּפָּדֶ֑ה וְשָׁבֶ֖יהָ בִּצְדָקָֽה׃Zion shall be saved in the judgment; Her repentant ones, in the retribution.

Debrief questions:

* What do you think of the prophecy?
* Do you think it came true?
* How do you think the prophecy was meant to be interpreted?

ACTIVITY TO CONNECT THESE!!!!

Ideas

* Go around and say a time where you either positively or negatively affected yourself with a vision

Literary example:

A self fulfilling prophecy is a prediction that comes true because characters act on it believing it to be true. Therefore, the actions that the characters take after hearing the prediction directly cause it to happen; if the prediction had never been made, the results might have been different. The definition of self fulfilling prophecy was created by a sociologist named Robert K. Merton in 1948. He described the phenomenon of behavioral confirmation, in which someone believes something to be true—regardless of whether it is or not—and acts according to this belief, or delusion.

In the 5th Harry Potter book it is revelaed that a prophecy was made by professor Treawney about Voldemort and Harry. This is their dialogue from the 6th book about it.

“But Harry, never forget that what the prophecy says is only significant because Voldemort made it so. I told you this at the end of last year. Voldemort singled you out as the person who would be most dangerous to him –and in doing so, he made you the person who would be most dangerous to him!”

            “But it comes to the same— ”

            “No, it doesn’t!” said Dumbledore, sounding impatient now. (…) “If Voldemort had never heard of the prophecy, would it have been fulfilled? Would it have meant anything? Of course not! Do you think every prophecy in the Hall of Prophecy has been fulfilled?”

            “But,” said Harry, bewildered, “but last year, you said one of us would have to kill the other –”

            “Harry, Harry, only because Voldemort made a grave error, and acted on Professor Trelawney’s words [i.e., the prophecy]! If Voldemort had never murdered your father, would he have imparted in you a furious desire for revenge? Of course not! (…) Voldemort himself created his worst enemy… (…) He heard the prophecy and he leapt into action, with the result that he (…) handpicked the man most likely to finish him…” (…)

            “I’d want him finished,” said Harry quietly. “And I’d want to do it.”

            “Of course you would!” cried Dumbledore. “You see, the prophecy does not mean you *have* to do anything! (…) In other words, you are free to choose your way, quite free to turn your back on the prophecy! But Voldemort continues to set store by the prophecy. He will continue to hunt you… which makes it certain, really, that –”

            “That one of us is going to end up killing the other,” said Harry. “Yes.”

J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Ch. 23, p. 512

Debrief questions:

* What do you think of this example?
* How do you think this relates to camp?
* How can we bring this back to our edah?