

The Shabbos Club Skit

HOST: Deep in the woods, deep in the winter, five Jewish youths, strangers, have been thrown together by five twists of fate. One a Friday! Jewish youths so different in their styles, they are alike only in their ownership of Jewish souls. Can they survive Shabbat together? Will they fall apart or will they learn to resolve their differences? We bring you... The Shabbos Club.

(monologues)

HASSID: Shalom. I am Maury of Meah She'arim, and I baruch Hashem am still alive after my near-death experience. After my car swerved off the road during a snowstorm in Palmer, God led me to a log cabin in the woods. I managed to crawl inside and the light of Hashem has kept me warm. It is late on Friday afternoon and I will have to stay here for Shabbos. Hashem will bring me food, water, wine, and challah to perform the rituals of Shabbos, and a minyan for Shacharis. Oy Ha'kadosh Baruch Hu!

REFORM: My name is Blakey and I am from the Bay Area of California. I attend Temple People of the Book every Saturday, like, religiously. I can meet people easily there by the name tags they wear, and I like understanding the prayers, as they're done in English. Recently I was ice-fishing at a Palmer-area pond on a vacation from my life of surfing and hemp-weaving, and by accident I stepped on very thin ice. Crashed through the ice into freezing cold water. Struggling onto land, shivering from near hypothermia, I slipped out of my dangerously ice-cold clothes and found my way to a log cabin in the woods, where I was surprised to find a religious Jew, who fled in shock from my nubile body. I flung a blanket around my body and settled down to wear out the weekend.

MODERN ORTHODOX: I'm Dorothy Rivka Markowitz of the Lower East Side. I'm a 21-year-old independent young Jewish woman and have been looking for a suitable husband. This winter I was searching for the kosher, Shabbat-keeping man of my dreams in Palmer when an unkosher pagan bear chased me through the woods. I found refuge in a log cabin. I was impressed to find a dreadlocked hippie wearing a blanket and a Hassidic man with an IMPRESSIVE (pause) set of tzitzit. As Shabbat is approaching, I am both lucky to be with such a potentially good match and unlucky as my Shabbat candles fell from my backpack in the bear chase.

SECULAR: Sup. Name's Joshua Green. I was hiking in Palmer with my buddies when we got separated in a storm one Friday. I lost my boys but found some cabin in the woods. Figured I'd stay there at least overnight. There's a couple chicks, one clearly a religio, and a relig dude, like decked out totally with the payis and whatnot. Now I'm chill with this, I'm even Jewish by blood, my mom was Jewish, see, but I dunno, they seem uptight to me. We'll see how it rolls.

CONSERVATIVE: Hey. I'm Dan Rootman, Nivonim '97, Camp Ramah in New England for 12 years, baby! I've been going there so long they gave me the special job of checking up on the machaneh over winter break. I drove up, it's all good, and since I had some time to get back to Newton before Shabbat, I took a walk, intending to go to Ware. Instead, I got stuck in this storm and only made it by finding a log cabin in the woods. Inside was a pretty ragtag group of people. I hope we can get along.

Scene begins with CONSERVATIVE standing with his back to the group on one side,

SECULAR is sitting coolly on the floor down in the front, REFORM huddles for warmth near him, MODERN ORTHODOX stands nearby awkwardly, and HASSID stands far from the women.

MODERN ORTHODOX: It's 6 already. Shabbat is starting, like, now. I'm going to find something to light as candles. (starts looking around)

SECULAR: What for? What are you talking about?

HASSID: The Shabbos Malkeh is coming! Oh, and we to be so dirty in her presence!
Please, try to be respectful.

SECULAR: To who? What?

REFORM: The Sabbath Queen. Isn't that right? (lightly touching Hassid's hand)

HASSID: (jerks away) Gah! Yes. What? Yes. Sorry. Yes.

MODERN ORTHODOX: (has already started blessing candles) Lehadlik ner shel Shabbat.

HASSID: Amen.

SECULAR: Cool. I'm gonna start a nice warm bonfire.

REFORM: Yes please! I'm freezing my buns off!

MODERN ORTHODOX and HASSID: No!

HASSID: It's Shabbos! Oy, please, Shabbos! Don't touch it

MODERN ORTHODOX: I'm sorry to impose on you, but it would really both us. It's Shabbat already. We can't light fires.

SECULAR: Well, you're not lighting it.

REFORM: Don't be so insensitive. We'll be fine without it if we stick together. We'll settle down with some elk meat I shot earlier and we can wash it down with some homogenized milk.

*MODERN ORTHODOX faints into HASSID's uncomfortable arms.
CONSERVATIVE turns around.*

CONSERVATIVE: Please, Blakey, keep it for yourself and Josh. We three would like to keep kosher and feel uncomfortable breaking the laws of kashrut, even here in these dire circumstances in the forest. We'll just have fruit.

HOST: The next morning...

(Everyone is sleeping on the ground. HASSID is vigorously davening and MODERN ORTHODOX is tidying up. HASSID all of a sudden gets to a loud part of his prayer and wakes up the rest of them.)

SECULAR: Hey! Keep it to yourself! I don't mind if you howl at heaven, but quiet down! Some of us are trying to have a Saturday sleep-in!

CONSERVATIVE: Maury, it's fine if you pray, but Josh is having a shluff.

HASSID nods apologetically as he continues his prayer in silence.

REFORM: (gets up and loudly prays) Blessed are you, King of the universe, Creator of all things. Thank you for Your holy blessing of life, and

HASSID: (exclaims) Kol isha! Women musn't sing!

MODERN ORTHODOX: Don't be closed-minded, Maury. What bothers me is that she dares to forsake Hebrew, the language of her ancestors!

SECULAR: (laughs) Both of you, let her do what she wants!

CONSERVATIVE: He's right. As long as what you do doesn't bother anyone else, you should let everyone pray in their own way.

SECULAR: Right. And I've heard that God helps those who help themselves. So let's find a way out of here.

HASSID: Son, we musn't move until after Shabbos. You cannot travel on Shabbos.

SECULAR: Really?

CONSERVATIVE: Why don't we wait until after Shabbat? Josh, you could even try to keep Shabbat and maybe pray, and you all, all of you, you might learn something from each other!

HOST: And that night...

ALL are holding a Havdalah candle and singing together, arm in arm except HASSID isn't touching a girl.

A RANGER enters.

RANGER: That was a mighty nasty storm. I'll ride you all back to civilization on my ranger truck. I hope it wasn't too uncomfortable for you all here together.

SECULAR: It was really not bad at all! There's so many things to learn from each other, especially when they're so different from you. I guess we're all a little religious

HASSID: Or progressive

REFORM: Or traditional

MODERN ORTHODOX: And we can learn to coexist.

CONSERVATIVE: You all ought to come to Camp Ramah. We accommodate all folks.

RANGER: What are we talking about? Are y'all coming or not? I can come back later...