

Peulat Shabbat for 5 July  
Sarah Sloan, Arnon, and Mel

Theme: The Power of A Curse

Materials: Ropes, Tennis balls, papers, stickers, happy campers but not too too happy or this might not work as well

Order of events:

1. Break into groups
2. Start the first teamwork game (say it's about etz hayyim #itsnot #trickedyou #you=campers)
  1. have kids split into pairs, or you can split them it doesn't really matter
  2. give a pair (or two pairs) two ropes, put a piece of paper on the ground. Put a tennis ball on the ropes, the kids must work together to get the tennis ball to land and rest on the paper but they can only touch the ropes. #YAY
    1. as they are doing this task whenever they say something negative towards other campers put a sticker on their shirt  
#orthearmifyouareworriedaboutinadbertentlygropingpeople
  3. when the activity is complete proceed directly to the reading of the story
3. Read the story
  1. Nails in the Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now put out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

The little boy then understood how powerful his words were.

2. Discuss the following
  1. After hearing the story what do you think the stickers mean?
    1. Explain that the stickers represent any time something was said negatively that could have been said positively/ in an encouraging manner
  2. What do you think about the number of stickers you see?
  3. How much of an impact do you think positive vs. negative comments have?
    1. When you were doing the rope activity how do you think (if at all) the activity would have changed if the group had changed their language/word choice?
    2. snowball effect
  4. Was there an instance in life when you were going through a challenge with a group of people, how did you navigate this situation?
  5. How do you feel body language affects a situation?
  6. Metaphorically speaking, do you think that you always have stickers on you? Is it possible to go through the day without any "stickers"?
  7. Can we each think of a way in which we can actively try to be positive when we might otherwise be negative?