

## Peulat Shabbat 7/14: Appreciation of Surroundings

The theme was “appreciation of surroundings”. Campers rotated around three different stations using lines from “Tov Li B’Machaneh Ramah” as the clues to each station. One station had to do with different levels of compliments, how superficial ones are at the bottom and how specific character compliments are at the top, one station had to do with creating a skit around the brachot in the back of the siddur about seeing a storm, beautiful people, etc., and the final station had to do with finding God’s answers to our prayers all around us, even if they’re not what we might expect.

K’far/Softball field station (for Solomon/Dena)

“Ma tovu ohalekha Ya'akov, mishk'notekha Yisra'el. Va'ani b'rov hasd'kha, avo veytekha,”

“How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel!  
As for me, O God abounding in grace,”

Activity: Pyramid of compliments (Appreciating the people around you!!)

- Madrich reads the verse from Mah Tovuv above, Hebrew then English,
- SAY:

o “Within Mah Tovuv God can be found in many types of structures, and that Balaam (who utters Mah Tovuv) finds holiness in the tents of Israel and compliments them at the same time”

Then, Madrich explains what a backhanded compliment is, gives an example

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(below), and why it is never appropriate and thus not included in the following activity

- Ask for a few volunteer in group to make a human pyramid/tent structure (whatever they prefer, make sure there are AT LEAST 3 people in the structure)
- Ask one camper to approach the bottom level and give a superficial compliment
- Ask another camper to approach and give a personality compliment to the second level
- Ask a third camper to come up and give a specific character compliment to the one at the top
- Positions are scrambled, complimentors become pyramid and pyramid members become complimentors
- Ask each Chanich who was part of the structure how each type of compliment made them feel
- SAY:

o The message here is to make your compliments as specific as possible about the character of a person, not just what they’re wearing or a random aspect of their personality

Types of compliments:

- Backhanded:

- o An insult that is disguised as a compliment. Usually connotes an intent to belittle or condescend.

- o “Those glasses make you look smarter than usual”

- Superficial

- o Something meaningless about their appearance

- o “Nice shirt”

- Personality compliment

- o “You’re really funny!”

- Specific compliment

- o Complimenting someone about something they did which shows their character

- o “You were an amazing friend to me when I was going through a tough time. Thank you.”

Chadar/Moadon Machon Station (for Sarah/Ariella)

“Eshtahaveh el heikhal kodsh'kha b'yir'atekha.

Adonai ahavti m'on beitekha, um-kom mishkan k'vodekha.

Va'ani eshtahave v'ekhra'a.

Evr'kha lifnei Adonai osi.”

“I enter your house to worship with awe in Your sacred place.

I love your house, Eternal One, the dwelling-place of Your glory;

humbly I worship You, humbly I seek blessing from God my Maker.”

Activity: There’s a blessing for everything!

- Read the “Hebrew”, then English verse, make segue into activity about blessings and how there are SO MANY for things found in nature

- Divide the kids into 3 groups and give each group a set of 3 blessings (below and on separate paper) found in the siddur that have an appreciation for many things in nature

- Tell the groups that they have 5 minutes to present one skit incorporating all 3 blessings that they were given

- Chanichim then present their skits

- Ask the following questions to each group once all skits have been finished (tell them they can come up with an answer in each of their groups then present it to everyone):

- o Why do you think Judaism has all these brachot for things in nature?

- o If there is enough time (remember, each station should take 10 minutes), ask:

If there is a common theme between all of these brachot, what do you think it is?

Blessings:

- Upon smelling the fragrances of herbs or plants
- Upon seeing wonders of nature, including lightning, shooting stars, vast deserts, high mountains, and a sunrise
- Upon seeing trees blossoming for the first time in a year

Upon hearing thunder (or upon seeing a storm)

Upon seeing a rainbow

Upon seeing the ocean

Upon seeing trees or creatures of striking beauty

Upon seeing one who is distinguished in worldly learning

Upon hearing good news

Valley/Ohel Station (for Scott/Batya)

“Va'ani t'filati l'kha Adonai et ratzon.

Elohim b'rov hasdekha aneini b'emet yish'ekha”

“To You, Eternal One, goes my prayer: may this be a time of your favor.

In Your great love, O God, answer me with Your saving truth.”

Activity: Mirror-Window

- Group is split in half, 2 sets of builders on each side and 1 messenger for each set
  - Builders sit far apart, facing away from each other
  - One set of builders constructs a set-up with the objects, they can only talk to the messenger
  - Messenger cannot see either construction but is the only person who can talk
  - Based on the messengers' instructions, the second group of builders constructs their attempt of a mirror image of the structure the first set of builders built
  - Questions:
    - o What are the differences between the two arrangements?
    - o How would you describe the differences?
    - o What do you expect to happen when you pray to God?
- \*\*\* You are trying to get the Chanichim to realize that “We need to appreciate God's answers even though they may not be the answers we are looking for.”

CLUES for TRACK 1 – K'far fence Chadar Valley track: (The clues you give to the campers are in bold after you've read both the “Hebrew” and English verse of Tov Li.)

To K'far fence:

“Baboker kam parpar ve-af me-ever legader, siman sheba hashemesh tzohorayim.”

“In the morning a butterfly rises up and flies over the fence: A sign that the sun will

come in the afternoon.”

This fence separated the old from the unknown.

(K’far fence in front of train tracks—“old” represents Nivonim and “unknown” represents outside of camp)

To valley:

“Etmol yardu g’shamim velo hifsiku ledaka, hakol ratuv, hakol kevar hishtana.”

“Yesterday rain fell, not stopping for a minute. Everything’s wet, everything suddenly changed.”

You wouldn’t want to be caught here if it started to pour.

(In the valley a little down from Moadon Bogrim)

To outside Chadar:

“Tov lir-ot hashemesh, tov li lechayech, Tov li lashir et hashira. Tov shehashamayim bichchol liktzat lavan. Tov li be-Machaneh Ramah. Tov li be-Machaneh Ramah.”

“It’s good to see the sun, it’s good to smile, it’s good to sing the song. It’s good that the sky is blue with a little white. It’s good at Camp Ramah.”

It’s good to sing the song, but only after we’ve had our fill.

(Right outside the Chadar Ochel)

CLUES for TRACK 2 – Softball field Ohel Moadon track: (The clues you give to the campers are in bold after you’ve read both the “Hebrew” and English verse of Tov Li.)

To B-side Softball field fence:

“Baboker kam parpar ve-af me-ever legader, siman sheba hashemesh tzohorayim.”

“In the morning a butterfly rises up and flies over the fence: A sign that the sun will come in the afternoon.”

This fence protects an Amitzim bunk from wayward tosses.

(Softball field fence, around home plate)

To Moadon Machon:

“Tov lir-ot hashemesh, tov li lechayech, Tov li lashir et hashira. Tov shehashamayim bichchol liktzat lavan. Tov li be-Machaneh Ramah. Tov li be-Machaneh Ramah.”

“It’s good to see the sun, it’s good to smile, it’s good to sing the song. It’s good that the sky is blue with a little white. It’s good at Camp Ramah.”

We sing the song, and we sing it loud. Maybe even louder if it weren’t so early...

(Inside Moadon Machon)

To Ohel:

“Etmol yardu g’shamim velo hifsiku ledaka, hakol ratuv, hakol kevar hishtana.”  
“Yesterday rain fell, not stopping for a minute. Everything's wet, everything suddenly changed.”

If it starts to flood, everything will change, and it might not be so delicious...  
(Inside Ohel)

Super awesome program description/procedure (for everyone)

Edah gathers in Moadon

They are given description of program by Solomon (Appreciation of surroundings, use verses of Tov Li B’Machaneh Ramah as clues to go to stations where Chanichim will interact with parts of Mah Tovu)

The Edah will be divided into 6 groups

Three of the groups will be on one track (going from K’far Chadar Valley), and the other three will be on the other track (going from softball field ohel Moadon). The same three activities will be used between the two tracks. There will be one group at a station at a time.

Madrichim will be divided up between being station leaders and group leaders (6 station leaders, 6 group leaders)

Station leaders leave the Moadon and head to their stations

The Edah exits the Moadon, and group leaders read their first clues to their group

o TRACK 1: (K’far [Solomon] Chadar [Sarah] Valley [Scott])

Group 1 leader: Gal and Ben (First clue to K’far)

Group 2 leader: Shlomi and Yotam (First clue to Chadar)

Group 3 leader: Becca and Chen (First clue to Valley)

o TRACK 2: (Softball field [Dena] Moadon [Ariella] Ohel [Batya])

Group 1 leader: Krulee (First clue to softball field)

Group 2 leader: Eitan and Lee (First clue to Ohel)

Group 3 leader: Jill and Adie (First clue to Moadon)

Each station should take about 10 minutes

After all three stations have been completed, the Edah will meet back up in the Moadon for debrief by Solomon/Sarah/Scott (Va’ad SSSSSSSSSS!)