

## Peulat Shabbat Ve'etchanan: Listen vs. Hearing

Program Planners: Elena, Will, TBT

Program Type: Peulat Shabbat

Date: 8/1

Approximate Duration: 45 minutes

Ideal Location: Basketball courts

Description: TBT, Elena, and Will sing "Listen" to introduce the theme of listening (Shema); chanchis break into groups, play Chinese Whispers (explained below) and Marco "Polo" Zuckerberg; finish with discussion of hearing vs. listening

Goal: Discuss the shema and the meaning of listening

Methods used: Thought provoking and inspiring song session, wherein Will, Elena, and TBT serenade Edat HaShoafim with the impassioned ballad "Listen" by our lord and savior Beyonce. Games & discussion. Hilarity ensues.

Supplies needed: An open mind, a free spirit, and maybe a roll of toilet paper just in case. Charmin 2 ply. Also, perhaps a giant check for a million dollars.

### Lyrics to "Listen"

Listen to the song here in my heart  
A melody I start but can't complete

Listen, to the sound from deep within  
It's only beginning  
To find release

Oh, the time has come  
For my dreams to be heard  
They will not be pushed aside and turned  
Into your own  
All cause you won't  
Listen

*[Chorus:]*

Listen, I am alone at a crossroads  
I'm not at home, in my own home  
And I've tried and tried  
To say what's on my mind  
You should have known

Oh, now I'm done believing you  
You don't know what I'm feeling  
I'm more than what you made of me  
I followed the voice you gave to me  
But now I gotta find my own

You should have listened  
There is someone here inside  
Someone I'd thought had died  
So long ago

Oh, I'm screaming out, and my dreams will be heard  
They will not be pushed aside on words

Into your own  
All cause you won't  
Listen

*[Chorus:]*

Listen, I am alone at a crossroads  
I'm not at home, in my own home  
And I've tried and tried  
To say what's on my mind  
You should have known

Oh, now I'm done believing you  
You don't know what I'm feeling  
I'm more than what you made of me  
I followed the voice you gave to me  
But now I gotta find my own

I don't know where I belong  
But I'll be moving on  
If you don't  
If you won't

Listen to the song here in my heart  
A melody I start  
But I will complete

Oh, now I'm done believing you  
You don't know what I'm feeling  
I'm more than what you've made of me  
I followed the voice you think you gave to me  
But now I gotta find my own

My own

Elena: In Parashat Ve'etchanan, Moses recites the shema to Bnai Yisrael - in other words, he asks them to LISTEN!

TBT: Moses continues relaying the importance of following G-d's commandments to Bnai Yisrael, including the rewards they will receive if they obey G-d and the ways they'll be punished if they don't.

Will: So now we will partake in some engaging, well planned, and educational activities related to listening!

All: To infinity and beyond! Huzzah!

## Activity: Listen Up

1. Chinese Whispers (basically Telephone as a spectator sport) - 10 minutes
  - a. Choose three volunteers to leave the group
  - b. Read the following story to your group: "Butthole" by Edgar Allen Poe
    - i. There once was a bearded wizard named Merlin Brando who led a troop of 37 clowns to Africa. The group went on safari in a bright red clown car and saw lions, zebras, and leprechauns playing tag. They sent postcards home to tell their grandmas what a great time they had on their trip.
  - c. Bring back one volunteer and ask a member of the group to repeat the story to them
  - d. Bring back volunteer #2 and have volunteer #1 repeat the story they were told
  - e. Bring back volunteer #3 and have volunteer #2 repeat the story they were told
  - f. Reread the original story to the group to illustrate how details get changed/lost when we don't listen carefully
2. Marco "Polo" Zuckerberg - 13 minutes
  - a. Everyone closes their eyes / is blindfolded except one person. The object of the game is for the blind people to find & tap the seeing person on the shoulder, by echolocation.
  - b. The blind people call out "Marco" and the sight person responds "Zuckerberg" and can run around / avoid the blind people. The game sucks if kids cheat, so make sure they don't.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to listen / what happens when we don't listen to each other?
2. In a camp setting, what happens when we don't listen to our counselors?  
Specifically at the beginning of peulot, why is it important to listen?
3. What is the difference between hearing and listening?
4. Why do you think the Shema begins with us commanding the people Israel - each other - to hear before saying that God is one?