

Peulat Tisha B'Av: Standing Up For Justice

Goal/Theme: Importance of being an "upstander" and learn about famous Jewish upstanders.

(upstander is the opposite of bystander, see below for more)

- Relate to Amidah, 9 Av
- Format: Kids in groups around the migrash. Counselors playing the parts of the famous people will rotate around the migrash to the different groups, talking about "their" stories of standing up for justice in different ways. Other counselors will stay with the kids, keeping order, leading the starting and ending discussion, and introducing the heroes. Note: Only the "hero" counselors are moving. Everyone else stays where they are the whole time.
 - Opening discussion: 5-6 minutes
 - Each hero interview and discussion questions should take 6-8 minutes. If finish early, discuss more about the history and the particular issue that upstander faced (e.g., Leonard Fein, hunger).
 - After that time, the heroes should rotate clockwise to the next group.
 - Closing discussion: Ideally 7-8 minutes, actually whatever time is left
- Locations:
 - Group 1: Outside 26, with Rebecca, Hersh, Leanne
 - Group 2: Outside 21, with Amanda, Dudi
 - Group 3: Outside 32, with Ben, Gayle
 - Group 4: Outside 5, with Evan, Ela
 - Group 5: Outside Beit Am Aleph, Ariana, Ariel
- Opening discussion (About 5 minutes)
 - Begin with reminder of Bar Kamtza story we did on Shabbat: The Temple was destroyed because the rabbis were bystanders to Bar Kamtza's awful humiliation when they, as leaders of the community, should have been the first to stand up for him.
 - Have kids define bystander, then define upstander: one who sees something bad happening and acts rather than doing nothing
 - Theme of the summer is Amidah, not just the prayer but also the action: standing up for what you believe in, not standing idly by while others are hurting
 - Here are some examples of leaders of the Jewish community who did stand up and do something when they saw injustice:
- Herzl (Zionism, against anti-Semitism)
 - **Played by: Ofer?**
 - Introduction: Theodore Herzl did not intend to be a Jewish hero. He didn't plan to change history. He was just a journalist, reporting on different news stories. But when he saw and heard the horrible anti-Semitism at the trial of Richard Dreyfus, he knew something had to change. Here's Herzl himself, to tell us more!

- Herzl: Discuss rising anti-Semitism in Europe and conviction that Jews could not survive as a minority. Solution: make them the majority somewhere, found a Jewish state in our ancestral homeland.
- Discussion questions: What injustice did Herzl see? How did he stand up against it? How did he succeed?
- **Hana Senesh (Zionist, against Nazis)**
 - **Played by: Sarah Gans?**
 - Intro: Hana Senesh left her home in Hungary to go work on a kibbutz in Israel. She volunteered for an extremely dangerous mission to go help Hungarian Jews escape the Nazis. She also wrote some beautiful poetry.
 - Senesh: Talk about inability to stay relatively safe in then-Palestine when Nazis were in Hungary. Can discuss famous poem:

*My God, My God, I pray that these things never end,
The sand and the sea,
The rustle of the waters,
Lightning of the Heavens,
The prayer of Man.*

אלי, אלי, שלא יגמר לעולם
החול והים
רשרוש של המים
ברק השמים
תפילת האדם

- Discussion questions: What injustice did Hana Senesh see? What did she do about it? What things do you pray never end?
- **Abraham Joshua Heschel (Civil Rights)**
 - **Played by: Micah**
 - Intro: Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most important Jewish philosophers and theologians of the 20th century. He wrote a lot of books about important topics in Judaism from a relationship to God to Shabbat to the Prophets. One of the things he is most famous for is his work in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s alongside MLK.
 - Have kids say what they know about MLK.
 - Heschel: Talk about marching in Selma with MLK, against racism and for civil rights. "Racism is man's gravest threat to man—the maximum hatred for a minimum reason." "My feet were praying."
 - Discussion questions: What does it mean to pray with your feet? What injustice did Heschel see? What did he do about it? What was particularly Jewish about his actions?
- **Elie Wiesel (Genocide, Human Rights)**
 - **Played by: Tito?**
 - Intro: Meet Elie Wiesel, a man who emerged from the ashes of the Holocaust to become a champion for human rights worldwide. He won the Noble Peace Prize for his work.

- “Never Again” Rwanda, Darfur: speaks out against any kind of racial cleansing worldwide “Thou shalt not stand idly by”
- What injustice did Elie Wiesel see and experience? What did he do about it?
- **Leonard Fein (Hunger Relief)**
 - **Played by: Eyal**
 - Intro: Leonard Fein is a teacher and writer. He founded MAZON, a Jewish hunger relief organization.
 - Fein: In 1985, there was a horrible famine in Ethiopia. The suffering there and around the world inspired me to do something. According to Jewish tradition, rabbis did not allow celebrations to begin until the community’s poor and hungry people were seated and fed. My idea was to incorporate this ancient tradition into modern day celebrations such as bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, anniversaries and more, to help feed those who are less fortunate. One way for people to symbolically follow this tradition is to donate a portion of the cost of these events to MAZON, either directly or through MAZON's many partner synagogues across the nation. MAZON, which means “food” or “sustenance” in Hebrew, believes ending hunger requires a holistic approach -- acting to ensure that hungry people have access to the nutritious food they need today and working to develop and advance long-term solutions so that no one goes hungry tomorrow.
 - Discussion: What injustice did Leonard Fein see? How did he respond to it? What Jewish values did he exemplify?
- **Ending:**
 - Have the kids summarize what each role model stood up for/against and how they did it. Then ask: What are some ways you can be an upstander?
 - Examples: See someone bullied or excluded → say something, include them.
Peer pressure is tough.
 - What injustices do you see? How can you stand up against them?