Yom Mitzvot (planned but not actually run for Magshimim 2011)

Goal: To educate our campers about important Jewish mitzvot through fun, interactive activities focused around the mitzvot

Schedule:

8:30 T’filot

9:15 Breakfast

10-10:50 Nikayon

11-12:50 Round Robin Stations: (each 30min)

Bikur Holim Cards – MoBog

Judgement/Human Interaction Game – MoMac

Mitzvah Two Truths and a Lie/Jeopardy – Ohel

1-2:30 Lunch + Shaat Menucha

2:45-3:45 Jewish Mock Trial

3:55-5:00 Mitzvah Scavenger Hunt

5:30-6:30 Hebrew Fashion Week

6:45-7:30 Peulat Tzrif

7:30 Dinner

8:30 Peulat Erev – Blind obstacle course

**Bikur Holim Letters**

One very important mitzvah in Judaism is Bikur Holim, or visiting the sick. In one biblical story, God visited Avraham when he was sick. While we are not able to visit any sick people, we will be helping to make them feel better by writing them letters!

Goal: To actively educate the kids on Bikur Holim   
Location: Ohel  
Supplies:

Construction paper

Markers

Staff:

Procedure:

* Read the blurb at the beginning of the write up
* Ask each camper to write two letters
  + To a sick child in the hospital
  + To a solider in the Israeli army
* Read the example letters

Dear Adam,  
My name is Mike and I am 19 years old. I love sports and listening to music. Right now I am at a Jewish summer camp called Camp Ramah in Palmer Massachusetts. I hope you Get well fast!  
Sincerely, mike  
  
Dear Tal,  
My name is mike and I am 19 years old. I am at a Jewish summer camp called Camp Ramah in Massachusetts. I love talkin to the Israelis here and learning about Israel. I hope that you get better soon and I thank you for protecting the state of Israel!  
Sincerely, Mike

**Judgement/Human Interaction Game**

In Judaism, the way we interact with others is very important. In fact, there is a mitzvah to not speak derogatorily of others and to never embarrass others. Think about these two mitzvoth while we start our activity

Goal:

Location: Moadon Machon

Staff: See Groups

Supplies:

Slips of paper

Tape

Procedure:

Each Staff member is running a group of 7-8 chanichim

Start with reading the paragraph at the beginning of this write up

Game-

* Tape a slip of paper to the forehead of each chanich
  + Someone who gets angry easily/could become violent
  + Someone who is very hard of hearing
  + Someone who only responds to questions
  + Someone who needs to be asked if they need to go to the bathroom ever 5 min
  + Someone who is depressed/ about to cry
  + Someone who is blind
  + Someone who can’t focus easily
  + Someone who smells really bad
  + Someone who has food in their teeth
* Each chanich has to talk to everyone in their group for at least a minute –a round robin for talks
* Each chanich must talk to as knowing the others impairment – but not telling them what it is

Discussion-

* How did it feel having an impairment that you didn’t know about?
* How about when everyone else knew about it?
* Were you treated any differently?
* Did you treat anyone else differently?
* Did you act any differently because of how others were treating you differently?
* Has a situation like this ever happened to you outside of camp?
* How did you respond?

**Mitzvah Jeopardy**

Lets test your knowledge of the 613 big ones!

Goal: To learn about mitzvot and their sources interactively

Location: MoBog

Staff:

Supplies:

Jeopardy board

Procedure:

* Split the campers into two groups
* Play jeopardy using the jeopardy board!
* Each group chooses one square and answers the question. If they get it right, they get the points, if they get it wrong the other group chooses.

**Two Truths and a Lie**

* Every male must write a torah scroll, Every male must put up a mezuza, Every male must not shave their beards (2)
* May not eat a limb torn off a live animal, May eat kosher locusts, may eat blood if cooked properly (3)
* A high priest may not drink wine, a high priest may not marry a widow, a high priest may not be in contact with the dead (1)
* Judges may not inflict punishment on Shabbat, parents may not punish children on shabbat, you may not walk outside the city boundaries on shabbat (2)
* Not to bargain for items, Not to overcharge or undercharge on items, not to own unfair weights or scales (1)

**Fill in the Blank**

* To build a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (temple)
* Wipe out the decendants of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Amalek)
* To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a city that has turned to idolotry (burn)
* The king must not have too many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wives, horses, silver and gold)
* Each man must give a half \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ annually (shekel)

**Name the Source**

* Respect your father and mother (Shemot)
* Not to cook/eat milk and meat together (Shemot)
* Say the shema twice daily (Dvarim)
* Not to think there are other gods besides God (Shemot)
* To rest on the 7th day (Vayikra)

**What Holiday?**

* Not to eat or drink (Yom Kippur)
* To light the Menorah every day (Chanukkah)
* To eat matzah on the first night (Pesach)
* To be seen at the Temple (Shalosh Regalim - Pesach, Sukkot, Shavuot)
* To blow the shofar to free the slaves (Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur)

**Blindfold Obstable Course**  
In Pirkei Avot, there is an important mitzvah about our interaction with others. As Jews, we should never “place a stumbling block in front of the blind.” Although this is meant in a more figurative sense of helping the people around us and not hurting them, we will be following this mitzvah literally.. and doing a blindfolded obstacle course!

Goal: To help understand the mitzvah of not putting a stumbling block in front of the blind and also to learn how to make the world comfortable for people who have certain trouble.

Location: Beit Am Bet  
Supplies:

Chairs

Benches

Tape

Cones

Staff:

Procedure:

* Staff members will set up two obstacle courses in the Beit Am Bet, lengthwise
* Chanichim must get into pairs, with one partner blindfolded
* 15 pairs of chanichim will go to each obstacle course
* Staff will read the blurb at the beginning of this write up
* The blindfolded chanich will do the obstacle course and his/her partner will walk ahead or behind him/her guiding him/her where to go – without touching -> only verbal directions

**Mitzvah Photo Scavenger Hunt**

Now that you have learned so much about mitzvoth, we will test your knowledge with a mitzvah photo scavenger hunt.

Location: Everywhere!!

Supplies:

Scavenger hunt

Camera

Staff: One staff member will travel around with each group of 6-7 chanichim

Procedure:

Follow the Mitzvah Scavenger Hunt, taking pictures of all the tasks required.

Specific requirements are given for specific mitzvoth.

All tasks/pictures will be judged by Va’ad Yom Meyuchad.

More points will be given for creative photos and in many locations around camp.

Points will be given for use of non-Magshimim people, especially higher up in camp.

Most tasks are worth up to 10 points unless otherwise stated.

* Honor those who teach and know torah
* Not to pass your children through fire
* Not to bow down before a smooth stone
* Not to perform acts of magic
* Not to go into a trance to foresee events
* To rest on the 7th day – whole group
* To send away a mother bird before taking away her children
* The king must have a separate sifrei torah for himself.
* To bind teffilin on ones arm
* To put a mezuzah on each door post
* The Kohanim must bless the Jewish nation daily
* To destroy idols and their accessories
* Not to try and contact the dead
* To emulate God – whole group
* To eat only kosher animals
* Not to steal money stealthily or to rob openly – extra points because this confuses Tali
* To return a lost object
* Make a guard rail along flat roofs
* To help load a beast
* Judges must not accept bribes
* Not to be a rebellious son/daughter
* Prepare latrines outside of camp
* **Jewish Mock Trial**
* In the year 69 CE, Jerusalem was under siege by the Romans. Within the city, there was a dispute on how to act. Many of the Rabbi’s and the higher class people wanted to make peace with the romans and leave the city. However, the revolutionaries wanted to continue to fight. In order to keep everyone in the city, the revolutionaries burned all the food in Jerusalem so the the only way to eat was to go out and fight for the food. One Rabbi named Yochanan ben Zakkai realized that the romans would surely crush the revolution. Ben Zakkai organized a secret escape where he hid inside a coffin and pretened to be dead so that he would be let out of the city. After escaping, Ben Zakkai went and found the roman general at the time, Vespaisian. He went to Vespasian and bowed down to him and said hail ceaser. Vespasian was confused and demanded that ben Zakkai explain why he was bowing down to a general. Zakkai replied saying that very soon Vespasian would become emporer of all of rome and also that the siege of jeruslaem would be successful and that the temple would be destroyed. Right about then, a servant came up to Vespasian with a messege from rome saying that the old emperor of rome had died and he was now the new ruler. Vespasian was amazed by Ben Zakkai and in thanks to him, granted Yochanan ben Zakkai three wishes. Ben Zakkai did not wish for the saving of Jerusalem or for the temple. He instead wished for his school in yavneh to be saved. Ben Zakkai then converted this school into the new center of Judaism. Up until then, all of judaisim was centered around Jerusalem and the temple. After ben Zakkai, the center of judaisim became all about learning and Rabbis interpreting laws from the torah. Sacrafices were also gotten rid of and prayer became part of everyday lives. This is called Rabbinic judaisim and is the type of judaisim we practice today.
* Part one: Yochanan ben Zakkai: You are a Rabbi, and one of the students of the famous Rabbi hillel. You are being put on trial for moving judaisim from Jerusalem and ceasing to follow many customs and practices that have been in place for years. You have trasnfered the power of judaisim over to the Rabbis. You have done this because you feel that judaisim centered around Jerusalem would have died with the destruction of the beit hamikdash and by moving it to an area with many jewish scholars, you feel as if you have saved Judaism.
* Judge and Jury: You are presiding over the trial of Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai. He is being put on trial for moving judaisim from being centered in Jerusalem and at the temple, to being Rabbinic and with the Rabbi’s controlling the laws of Judaism and the temple no longer being relevant. You are determining whether or not ben Zakkai commited a crime by doing this and if so you are determining his punishment. You will be hearing from witnesses both in support of ben Zakkai and against. Each witness will be called up and examined and then cross examined. For Judge: Please prepare a short statement to open the hearing.
* Defense attonerny: You are defending Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai in the case that he committed a crime by changing the center of to Rabbinic judaisim and prayer instead of Jerusalem the temple, and sacrifices. To do this you will first have time to prepare an opening statement. You will also have time to meet with your defendant and your witnesses. During the trial, you will be examining your witnesses and cross examining the prosecutions witnesses. You will also have to prepare a closing statement. Your goal is to prove that what ben Zakkai did was not a negative thing for the jewish people.
* Prosecution: You are trying to prove that Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai did a negative and unallowed thing for judaisim when he moved the center of judaisim from jersulem and from the temple and moved the center to Rabbis who make the laws and prayer beign the leading aspect instead of sacrafices and the temple. You will have time to meet with your witnesses and prepare an opening statement. You will during the trial both examine your witnesses and cross examine the oppositions witnesses. Afterwards, you must also give a closing statement.
* Defense Witnesses:  
  Student:You are a university student in Yavneh that finds Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai's transfer of Judaism’s center from the temple and Jerusalem, to the Rabbis and to prayer, to be one of the best things that could have ever happened to Judaism. You are a student who finds the idea of Rabbis making Judaism superb, and you enjoy prayer over sacrifices.
* Teacher: You are a university teacher in Yavneh that finds Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai's transfer of Judaism’s center from the temple and Jerusalem, to the Rabbis and to prayer, to be one of the best things that could have ever happened to Judaism. You are a teacher who finds the idea of Rabbis making Judaism superb, and you enjoy prayer over sacrifices. You have been teaching students this new way of Judaism and find it refreshing.
* Rabbi: You are a current Rabbi who loves the new ways that Judaism works especially in connection to prayer. You find the sacrifices to be out dated and feel that clearly Judaism has shown that it can exist without the temple and that ben Zakkai did the right thing.
* Prosecution witnesses:
* Student: You are a university student in Yavneh that finds Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai's transfer of Judaism’s center from the temple and Jerusalem, to the Rabbis and to prayer, to be one of the worst things that could have ever happened to Judaism. You find the new turn Judaism has taken to be frustrating and you miss the days of the temple.
* Teacher: You are a university teacher in Yavneh that finds Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai's transfer of Judaism’s center from the temple and Jerusalem, to the Rabbis and to prayer, to be one of the Worst things that could have ever happened to Judaism. You are a teacher who finds the idea of Rabbis making Judaism and its laws is not a good idea and you feel that too much tradition is being taken away from the temple. You want Yochanan ben Zakkai in big trouble after what he did.
* Priest: You are a high priest who just got his job taken away by Yochanan ben Zakkai and the Romans. You feel that the Temple and Jerusalem should remain the center of Judaism and anyone who tries to change that is a blasphemer.
* Balif: You must keep the court in order, be security, and announce the judge.. You must always be by the judges side.