

**Goal:** To thematically transition from “new beginnings” to “unity” with activities that help kids meet and work together with others from the edah, outside of their bunk. Campers will learn that unity is not just within their individual tzrifim, but also within group of individuals from the entire edah.

**Location:** Meet in Moadon, then move to the lower migrash. (Rain location: Ask roshes about Beit Am Aleph or Bet.

**Materials:**

8 Hula Hoops

~8 Sticks (for closing demonstration)

56 Paper Sheets or Paper/styrofoam plates(Stepping Stone Activity)-- 8 sets of 7 sheets

**Procedure:**

**1) Introduction (5 min) by \*\*\***

Imagine that you are all now the Israelites, right after they left Egypt. Do you know how long they were wandering in the desert? (40 years) That's a very long time. There were many obstacles that the Jewish people had to overcome along the way, and there will be many challenges for you tonight before you can get safely to Eretz Israel. Throughout it all, God led the Israelites with a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud, allowing them to travel by day and by night, which was everpresent even in times of hardship. But don't worry, Ilanot! We're here to help you. And we know that if you work together as an edah, you can get there. First we are going to divide into groups and quickly get used to working together with new people, then we will finally make the long ma'asa to Eretz Yisrael!!!!

**2) \*\*\*\*** will split them into groups, assigning 2-3 counselors to each group. 8 groups of ~10 people, then the groups will move down to the lower migrash. (3 min)

**3) Game 1--** Hula Hoop Game/Introductions (10, but 7 minutes after the last group is called. Will be kept track of by YAARA and she will call out when to move to the Stepping Stone portion)

\* Have each camper say his/her name

\* Tell them they're in a new group because, just like the Israelites had to work in groups outside of their families in the desert, so too will they have to learn to work with each member the whole edah. Stress that this is about trusting each other.

\* Game: Children hold hands, standing in a circle. They must pass a hula hoop from the person originally holding it, through each member of the circle back to the first person. Talking only minimally, within the shortest amount of time possible.

**4) Game 2- Stepping Stones/Masa (20 minutes)**

MAYA: (When time for the previous game has elapsed) It is now time to travel to Eretz Yisrael!! Ilanot, prepare yourselves for the journey ahead.

Game: Now the Ilanot-raelites are ready to travel through the desert. The entire lower migrash, starting from one soccer goal to the last soccer goal, is the path from Mitzrayim to Eretz Yisrael, with the stepping stone plates as their beacon. However, campers must get from Egypt, the first soccer goal on the lower migrash, to Israel, the second soccer goal on the lower migrash, using only the sheets of paper as “stepping stones”, which represent the pillar of fire and cloud. Stones must be stepped on (or held) by campers at all times to be used; if they are left alone, they are sacrificed to the elements and taken away.

The kids must work to get across from Egypt to Israel. They will have the first ~5 minutes to get their act together at the beginning. Once all groups have started moving, announce one of the catastrophes listed below. \*who is reading the catastrophes\* Depending on the progress, announce 3-5 conflicts. Every 3 or so minutes, one of the following conditions may be announced -

- 1) Sandstorm- Kids must close their eyes to shield themselves and must continue for 2 minutes (counselor will have to keep track).
  - 2) Disease- A terrible plague has stricken the Israelites and they can no longer talk until this is lifted (counselor will also keep track).
  - 3) Members kidnapped by other tribes- One of your members (and a stone) will be taken away and put further down the road, and the group must retrieve them before going onward.
- \*3 madrichim\* will call out when the activity is finished and all of Ilanot will gather at Eretz Yisrael for the conclusion and Rod Hayom.

### **5) Closing Activity (10 minutes)**

- 1) Ask the following questions, pick 1-2 campers to answer each:

How did they feel about the activity?

What was easy and what was hard?

What was something you learned?

How important was it to be unified within your own group and how does this relate to being in our edah?

Say: The Israelites encountered similar challenges to that of ours, but unlike us, they had to travel for 40 years. Here at Ramah, we are here only for a month, maybe 2 months, but our journey at Ramah is just as important as that of the Israelites. We have just started a great ma'sa, one where we will all encounter obstacles, but we can get through them if we work together. (This can be cut out time permitting) Demonstration: (snap 1 stick), We may not succeed individually, but we are strong as an mishpacha gdola echat chazak (show difficulty of snapping 7 sticks in a bundle).

Rad hayom, Layla Tov!