



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Iyun Tefillah (An Examination of Prayer),

FJC Knowledge Center Resource

AUTHOR:	Sara Beth Berman
SUMMARY:	Write and perform your own examination of some prayer. - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Jewish Culture, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Performance, Prayer- Tefillah, Prayer- Alternative, Storytelling, Writing
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	A more in-depth understanding of a particular prayer or prayers.
AUDIENCE:	Best with a unit.
LENGTH:	30-60 Minutes
MATERIALS:	Copy the write up, yo!
SETTING:	Whatever space it is, you can make it work, except maybe in the pool or on a climbing tower.

Session Description:

1. Iyun Tefillah (35 minutes):
 - a. An Iyun Tefillah is an examination of prayer - a straightforward way of sharing your kavannah with others. It can be a poem, a song, an essay, or a reading. It can be a wordless niggun (hummed or ya-da singing) or drumming. It can be anything that adds meaning and depth to a prayer. Here at Cornerstone, we want you to share your deep meaning of camp and prayers with the masses. Those indefinable moments, during the regular camp day, during Tefillah, and during prayerful activities...if you don't catch those Fireflies in a Jar for everyone to see, even for a brief moment, then did they really happen?
 - b. This Iyun Tefillah is going to be super-personal (but shouldn't make you uncomfortable): choose a prayer, and write an Iyun that connects your love of that prayer to your love of camp. For the next 35 minutes, you're going to have a chance to write an Iyun Tefillah. It can relate to your Story from earlier, but it doesn't have to! When I'm done with instructions, you can grab a siddur, go to a website to pull the text of a blessing that you love, or scrawl from memory your camp's own prayer for something. But first, some rules:
 - i. Your Iyun should be no longer than 5 minutes.
 - ii. You can read, drum, sing, or lead an activity that shows or teaches what you want to share.
 - iii. We're going to think-pair-share these.
 1. First, you'll work on your own Iyun silently, by scribbling or typing or by lying on the floor and staring at the ceiling - whatever works. Usually, we do this for a minute during a discussion, but for this, you'll have a good 10 minutes!
 2. Then you pair - partner with someone from another camp to talk about your Iyun, show them what you have, and help each other edit - this will be for about 15 minutes.



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

3. Finally, we'll share. Not everybody will have a chance to go, but some of us will. Share your iyun Tefillah with the group!

c. Discussion:

- i. What was the hardest part of putting together your iyun?
- ii. What was the best part?
- iii. What does a conversation about your feelings about camp and your Iyun Tefillah have in common?

Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:

This is a good exercise for people of all ages.