

CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Theater: A Mask Performance Workshop, *Specialty Track 2*

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SUMMARY:	This will be a deeper dive into theology using masks to deflect identity so that conversations are less self-conscious. - <i>Submitted by Jon Adam Ross</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Community Building, Dance and Movement, Group Dynamics, Identity, Jewish Text, Performance, Spirituality, Teen Programs
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	I am seeking to give fellows the tools to grow more attached to and comfortable with their masks, conferring ownership through decoration. This will lubricate the consciousness for the deep theological conversations to come.
AUDIENCE:	anyone
LENGTH:	60-75 Minutes
APPENDICES:	text for jar mask track session 2
MATERIALS:	markers and stickers and the masks from the first session
SETTING:	wide open room with no furniture

Session Description:

Warmup - we will again begin with a warmup.

Physical: one up, two down in groups of three (we will build to entire group)

Vocal: doorbells - they get to be inside the circle

After the warmup, I will ask each person to write down in their notebooks their own answers to the following 3 questions:

- what do you believe?
- what do you know?
- what don't you know?

Then I will ask everyone to come back to the circle and we will redistribute the masks (we will have put tape and initials on them the day before) and we will have markers and stickers for decorating the masks - making them your own.



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Once everyone finishes decorating their masks, we will gather back together for our masking ceremony. Same as the day before. The blessing, the individual masking. We are now in character again, not as ourselves, but as the character we've created. And that character gets a name. I will ask them to go for a walk around camp exploring their body and voice again and find their character's name.

We will come back to the room and we will play the name game from Session 1 but now in our new characters.

We will then do an interview game in pairs (chevruta). Asking each other the following questions about god (And I will introduce this as a conversation about god):

- what do you believe?
- what do you know?
- what don't you know?

We will then come back to the circle, ceremonially take off our masks, and have a conversation about how that felt, and I will ask everyone to raise their hands if their answers were different each time. And we'll talk about that.

I will introduce the concept of Pagliacchi and Robin Williams and then connect it to Rashi's interpretation of Deuteronomy 31:18.

And we will have a conversation about theology.