

CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

FJC Story Corps, *Specialty Track 1*

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SUMMARY:	Using NPR's Story Corps Interviewing Format, work with a partner to create your own storytelling piece about your camp experience. Afterwards, will relate this to Tefillah and Iyun Tefillah, with an opportunity to share in services throughout Cornerstone. - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Community Building, Group Dynamics, Holidays and Celebrations, Jewish Culture, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Leadership Development, Prayer- Tefillah, Prayer- Alternative, Storytelling
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	<p>Here it is, the moment of meaning. Participants will identify favorite moments at camp, the lightning bugs they catch but can't take home. These are the moments that are hard to explain to "home" friends: "I don't know how to describe it, but it was the most important [] of my life." Participants will compare and contrast those awe-some moments to those during Tefillah at camp, and craft ways to bring moments of awe to campers and co-staff this summer!</p> <p><u>Broad Subject and Skill(s)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moments of meaning appear and surface throughout the summer at camp, in Tefillah and other settings. 2. Moments of meaning can be planned for, but not always scheduled 3. Moments of meaning can be in tefillah and in other times / programs at camp. <p><u>Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can craft moments of meaning for my campers and co-staff. ● Small moments of meaning can sometimes lead to the strongest memories from camp. ● I can create moments of meaning in Tefillah and in other settings at camp. ● Tefillah can be as moving and meaningful as other life-changing experiences at camp. <p><u>Essential Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What makes camp a "sticky" experience? ● How do we create moments of meaning for our campers and costaff? ● How can my own values and / or passions inspire my own campers? ● What should I be looking for when hoping to facilitating meaningful moments of Tefillah at camp? <p><u>Knowledge and Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants will be able to describe and share their own moments of meaning with others ● Participants will be able to identify tefillah and other programming moments from camp when they could enhance moments of meaning. ● Participants will have a toolbox of activities and concepts with which to educate their campers and co-staff this summer. ● Participants will be able to plan for a moment of meaning they anticipate happening this coming summer.
AUDIENCE:	Small group to work in pairs, triads. Older age groups, staff and CITs specifically.
LENGTH:	75-90 Minutes

APPENDIXE S:	Essential Texts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> From the session: Sheila and May Other resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This one time at band camp meme Idaho Love at 2nd Sight Camp No Counselors https://storycorps.me/
MATERIALS:	Supplies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Flip Chart / Flip Chart Markers Speakers for iPhone
SETTING:	Space to spread out and wall space for flip charts.

Opening Activity // Time: 25 minutes

- Grabber (20 minutes): FJC StoryCorps!
 - NPR StoryCorps is an app and program that allows people to interview others, and these stories get archived in the Library of Congress. While some may seem mundane, these are people's stories - the woven fabric that holds the history of these humans, and therefore, defines not just their lives but most essentially, the world around them. We're going to listen today to an NPR StoryCorps interview, [Sheila and May](#) (from PRX).
 - What did you learn from the relationship of Sheila and May?
 - How did they remind you of YOU and your camp friends?
 - What sort of #squadgoals come from listening to their story?
 - What's different from their story to yours?
 - How would you update their story if they were campers together at your camp this summer? When you were a camper?
 - With a partner, create a list of questions that would get THEIR campers or co-staff at their camp to tell their camp story. Identify questions that could work for any camp.
 - Interview each other. Use the StoryCorps app, make a regular video / audio file telling your story, or just scribble some notes and talk to each other.
 - SHARE (One or two interviews from the group.)
- Discussion questions (5 minutes):
 - What was the hardest part of coming up with your questions? The easiest?
 - How would this activity be different if you were having this conversation with a friend who didn't have any (overnight) camp experience?
 - What was the most moving part of the StoryCorps experience today for you?

Step-by-Step Session Description // Time: 50 minutes

- Keva & Kavannah (15 minutes):
 - OK, so now that we've totally spent some time loving on our camp traditions and stories, I'm going to ask you to put a pin in those stories, and we're going to talk about...PRAYER.
 - There are two parts of prayer, the fixed stuff we're supposed to sing, do, and say - Keva - and then there's the intention and meaning behind it all - Kavannah. Break into a group of mixed-camp backgrounds, and divide a sheet of butcher paper in half, writing Keva on one side and Kavannah on the other, and make a list of tefillah stuff that belongs on either side
 - Keva - set prayers, order of prayers, location of prayers, siddurim, prayer cards, visual tefillah, machzor Vitry (the first siddur, more or less!)

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- ii. Kavannah - speeches, song choices, what you skip (if you skip), what you add in, poetry, location changes, timing changes
 - c. Put it together (like Scattergories - go team by team, and make sure you add in from each group until everything is up on one master piece of paper)
 - d. Discussion Questions
 - i. When you think about Keva and Kavannah, how do those distinctions come out at camp?
 - ii. What from your camp story - whether you spoke about it in your interview before or not - makes you someone who cares about Tefillah? Keva? Kavannah? Why and how?
 - iii. Why do you CARE about Tefillah and Tefillah programming?
 - iv. What is it about Tefillah?
 - v. Why are you here in this session - and how does that relate to what you see up on our master list?
- 2. 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.
 - 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 do your StoryCorps interview and your Iyunei Tefillah have in common?
 - d. Invitation - you're cordially invited to share your Iyun Tefillah with Cornerstone! We have



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services 2x a day here at the conference. Let's sign up to share - and invite our camp friends to join us as we share a piece of our souls. This is good role modeling for what you'll be doing this summer as a senior staff member!

Bringing it Back to Camp (15 Minutes):

- How would you use the stuff we've done today with campers? With staff?
 - StoryCorps
 - Keva / Kavannah
 - Iyun Tefillah
- Did you find a connection between your story and your iyun? How did that feel?
- What about your story telling most surprised you? The storytelling of your partner?
- What about your iyun tefillah changed your awareness about something you do at camp on a regular basis? How?
- What's one thing you learned today that will help you be a better staff member - and how will you use that skill?

Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:

Talk with other staff members about podcasts they'd want to use for programming in your camp!