



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Here It Is, Your Moment of Meaning, *Specialty Track 3*

AUTHOR:	Sara Beth Berman
SUMMARY:	Here It Is, Your Moment of Meaning - Identify times/places/opportunities in camp that are ripe for enhanced meaning making. How/Why? Craft, plan, share examples- After labbing the examination of these moments, begin writing up what your own moment of meaning opportunity is going to be at camp this summer. - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Community Building, Global Jewish Community, Group Dynamics, Identity, Israel Programming, Jewish Culture, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Leadership Development, Performance, Prayer- Tefillah, Prayer-Alternative, Sports & Games, Storytelling, Team Building
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 awesome 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



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

	happening this coming summer.
AUDIENCE:	Older campers, CITs, staff of any kind.
LENGTH:	75-90 Minutes
APPENDIXES:	Essential Texts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/109/notes-on-camp (Specifically, 52:52 - 56:00) http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/109/transcript
MATERIALS:	Supplies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Flip Chart / Flip Chart Markers iPhone speakers
SETTING:	Circle of chairs!

Opening Activity // Time: 20 minutes This American Summer Camp

- Grabber (15 minutes): So you may have noticed that I'm really into podcasts. This time, we're going to listen to a clip from This American Life, which was released in 1998, from an episode called "Notes on Camp." In this clip, we're going to hear some people's feelings about how they feel at camp vs. how they are at home, and thoughts about the summer ending.

[This American Life Notes on Camp](#) & [Transcript](#)

Jamie

Also I think it's hard, maybe not for you, but for me, since this is my last year, these are my last three days of ever being a camper. And it's so weird, it's like this is my last Tuesday at camp. This is my last dinner with my cabin. This is my last time ever being in a cabin with my friends. And it's like, that's what's so weird about it, because you're just thinking about the last this, last that.

Like, I'm kind of scared to go home in a way, because my friends at home are so different from my friends here. And it's going to be scary.

Lexie

They're so dull. I don't mean that as in like-- I mean, I love my friends to death, but when you think of the things that we go through here, we're not really living at home. We go to school, and we go out, and it's not their fault, but the environment is so different that it's dull living at home.

- Grab a pencil and your notebook, and scrawl some free-written answers to the following prompts:
 - How would you compare these kids' reflections to the way you / your campers / your directors / your alumni would talk about Tefillah...
 - ...at your camp?
 - ...in Israel?
 - ...at Hillel or Chabad at school?
 - ...at their home synagogue?
- Discussion questions (5 minutes):
 - What stuck out to you in this clip?
 - What's sticky about your own camp experience?
 - How does this clip remind you of your story? Another story shared in this track so far?
 - If you were successful in implementing some of the stuff we've done at Cornerstone so far, how would the reflections from campers / alumni etc., change after this summer?
 - This entire episode is amazing - there's stuff about dating, tradition, cultural



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

appropriation, in addition to very real stuff about camp life vs. home life. Even if you aren't a podcast person, I would highly recommend listening to this particular episode.

Step-by-Step Session Description // Time: 55 minutes

1. Sacred / Mundane (25 minutes):
 - a. We've done some work on different ways to tell our stories, different ways of focusing on prayer, different values, and different places in camp where we can see our values in action. Here's the thing: Prayer at camp sucks sometimes. Yes. I said it. Sometimes Tefillah is boring. Sometimes it's repetitive. Sometimes, it's too early, too late, too long, or it interrupts something else/fun. Yes, tefillah is sacred. But also, it can be mundane.
 - b. We're going to play an Improv game that I learned from an improv expert in Israel, called the Schwarma. We'll pair up on a "spit" and rotate around an axis. One half of the pair will be telling their story in a positive light, when they're facing the rest of the group, and another will be telling it in a negative light, when they're facing the rest of the group.
 - i. Let's call out some situations that we may want to examine on the positive/negative axis.
 - ii. Example: Cilantro - love it or hate it?
 - iii. Maccabiah
 - iv. Shabbat at camp
 - v. Morning services
 - vi. Body image and dress codes
 - vii. [Insert more examples here collected from participants!]
 - c. Discussion:
 - i. What did it feel like to rotate through the positives and negatives of a topic that is oft-debated at camp?
 - ii. What did it feel like to rotate through the positives and negatives of a topic that is a non-discussible (considered off-limits for discussion) by some at camp?
 - iii. What perspective did you get from this presentation style?
2. Iyun Values Corps (Closing Prayer) (30 minutes):
 - a. Locations & Prayers:
 - i. So we've talked about tefillah, meaningful moments, values, traditional text, and feeling all the feels. We have the periodic table, picture cards, our own values, and our own stories. Using all of this material, how does your storytelling relate to the values? Let's think about all of the areas / situations in camp where we see our values at play (record on flip chart - below are some examples):
 1. Bunk, Dining Hall, Small-group Tefillah (bunk-sized group), Larger-group Tefillah (unit-sized, or half-camp sized), All-camp Tefillah, Sports Field, Pool / Lake, Trips, Art Room, Music Room, Maccabiah, Campfire, Chill-out area (swings, benches, rain shelter, etc.), Camp office (year round or on camp)
 - ii. Now, let's list some prayers that you do on a regular basis at camp. Let's put some up on a flip chart, and don't forget to think outside of services (there's also bedtime, mealtime, etc.)! I hope that you've found an assortment of tools to put in your arsenal to use at camp this summer.
 1. Shema, Barchu, Torah Service, Motzi, Birkat Hamazon, Mezonot, Aleinu, Rad HaYom (I'm being liberal with the word "prayer" here), Kaddish, Kiddush, Havdallah, Mah Tov, Rainbow / natural beauty blessing (oseh maaseh breisheet), etc.
 - b. Now, we have a list of places and a list of prayers. Let's talk about our values and how



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

they appear there. When and how do you add in / enhance / rejoice / include prayerful moments in those places? AKA what's your Iyun Value? Using your values sheets, your cards, and the vision of your camp in my minds - how will you "bring it" to one of those locations in the future. You'll have a chance to work with a partner and work through how being more mindful about your values can enhance a particular place / situation at camp.

- c. Like we did in our first session, we're going to think-pair-share these.
 - i. First, you'll work on your own value enhancement 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!
 - ii. Then you pair - in this case, as a group, we'll help each other partner with someone from another camp to talk about your idea, show them what you have, and help each other edit - this will be for about 5 minutes.
 - iii. Finally, we'll share. Not everybody will have a chance to go, but some of us will. Share your ideas with the group!

3. You're so great! You did it!

Bringing it Back to Camp (15 Minutes):

- How would you use the Schwarma activity to address something that is polarizing at camp?
- What do you think will happen at your camp when you do the iyun / activity that you just created?
- Can you think of a time when you'd like to try to run your iyun values concept? What will be a challenge to getting that done?
- What about the experience in this track most surprised you?
- What from this track will you attempt to integrate into your work at camp?
- Which parts of this track will be easier to translate to your home camp / camp friends? What will be harder for you to explain?
- 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:

Don't be afraid to ask hard questions and take risks! It's this sort of innovation that will make your camp grow and become better every day of the camp season and from year to year!



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Here It Is, Your Moment of Meaning, *Specialty Track 3*

Handout 1

[This American Life Notes on Camp](#) & [Transcript](#)

Jamie

Also I think it's hard, maybe not for you, but for me, since this is my last year, these are my last three days of ever being a camper. And it's so weird, it's like this is my last Tuesday at camp. This is my last dinner with my cabin. This is my last time ever being in a cabin with my friends. And it's like, that's what's so weird about it, because you're just thinking about the last this, last that.

Like, I'm kind of scared to go home in a way, because my friends at home are so different from my friends here. And it's going to be scary.

Lexie

They're so dull. I don't mean that as in like-- I mean, I love my friends to death, but when you think of the things that we go through here, we're not really living at home. We go to school, and we go out, and it's not their fault, but the environment is so different that it's dull living at home.