Home Room Labels

The Mezuzah serves multiple purposes when hung up in one’s home. It is there to serve as a reminder, a symbol, and for many a piece of artwork. What do you think about when see a mezuzah? What does it represent to you? Take a look at the text of Shma and ask yourself: Why is this text in the Mezuzah? If I could add 1 meaningful text either inside or besides my mezuzah what would it be? What does it mean to “impress these ideas upon your children”? How can a camp mezuzah teach the campers the core message of Shma?  If you choose, write your own Klaf (text inside the mezuzah).

Birkat Habayit (blessing of the home) - Read the words of this blessing and think of it not only as a blessing but as practical rules to strive to follow in one’s home. How would you facilitate your bunk culture in order to fulfill as many of these blessings as possible?

Why is it important to have a Jewish bookshelf? What 5 books would you put on your shelf? As a bunk counselor, what books will be on your cubby for both you and your campers to access? What books were on your shelf growing up? Thought question: What do peoples bookshelf teach us? Will technology change bookshelves in anyway? if so, is that a good thing or not?

Birkat Banim U’banot (blessing of children)

Why do parents bless their children on Friday night? What is the core message of the blessing? Did your parents bless you? If so, what was that experience like? Did you bless your parents? Did you/ they add an extra blessing? What would it mean for you to bless your campers every friday night in camp? Maybe campers can bless each other/ you? How would that ritual effect the culture of your bunk/ camp?

One thing that exists in almost every home are pictures of ancestors. Why is that important? What message does it send children? Do you bring a family photo to camp? What would it mean for each camper to do this or especially you as the counselor (madrich)? Did you ever ask your campers about their grandparents? Where are they from? What story defines them? Who are they named for?

Do not paint a corner of one’s house to remember the destruction of the Temple and injustice in the world: In Jewish life there are different moments when we are asked to reduce our joy or minimize what we have or desire to remember and recall something. One of those examples is that we do not paint a small corner of our home to remember the brokenness of the world and especially the unfulfilled redemption in Israel.

Why do we do this? What message does this teach children?  What ritual/ physical marking can you establish in your camp bunk that can teach this message? What’s broken? How can we as a bunk/ individuals help fix what is broken? Perhaps the most important fixing starts at “home” - in your bunk.