



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Post It Party, *FJC Knowledge Center Resource*

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SUMMARY:	<i>Post-It Party Tefillah: Thoughtful Teamwork and Conversation</i> Using an experiential Tefillah program and a ton of Post-It Notes, some text, and a lot of personal opinions, participants will learn about what matters to them in Tefillah and what matters to their camp community. Using this thoughtful activity, participants will come up with a way to engage campers, as well as staff, to figure out what matters most, and how to use that to work and learn together! - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Community Building, Group Dynamics, Identity, Jewish Culture, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Prayer- Tefillah, Prayer-Alternative, Spirituality, Storytelling, Team Building, Writing
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will work in groups to identify similarities and differences in the group. Text study will help participants understand why it's good to learn from others.
AUDIENCE:	Small group - 25-30 people, or up to a unit size. Can be done with a full staff cohort.
LENGTH:	30-60 Minutes
MATERIALS:	This write up, post its, and large surfaces for the Venn diagrams (flip chart paper or large wall space).
SETTING:	Need ample wall or table space on which to organize post its in a Venn diagram.

Session Description:

1. Post-It-Party (10 minutes): In order to figure out who we are and how we're all going to work together. Each participant get a stack of Post-It notes (pass out post-its of different colors, so Venn diagrams are easier to sort out visually). You will have a chance to write your answer to the following prompts on as many, or as few, Post-Its, as it takes you paint a picture of your religious life at home and at camp.
2. Guidelines:
 - a. When you answer for home vs. camp vs. somewhere else, please just make a note on your Post-It (write home for home, camp for camp, school for school, etc.)
 - b. Write concise things on each Post-It, the more you make, the more complete our discussion will be.
 - c. Each Post-It should have one answer.
 - d. Some prompts will have multiple answers, and that's ok.
 - e. Write a note on the Post-It so you know which prompt it's answering. For example, for "Who do you pray with?" you should write "Who" on the Post-It.
 - f. You don't have to write your name on your Post-It.
 - g. Prompts:
 - i. Who do you pray with? (Examples: Family, friends, Conservative Minyan, all camp, my cabin, etc...)
 - ii. What do I need to pray? (Examples: Guitar, prayer books, prayer cards, Tallit,

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- Tefillin, kippah, community, silence, noise, nature AKA STUFF)
- iii. Where do you pray? (Examples: Dining hall, auditorium, amphitheater, chapel, synagogue, open field)
 - iv. When do you pray? (Examples: Early morning, afternoon, evening, Shabbat, havdallah, before/after meals)
 - v. How do you pray? (Examples: Quietly, singing, with my community, on my own, in experiential activities, sitting in pews, running around, loudly while making noise, silently and meditatively)
 - vi. Why do you pray? (Examples: I'm required, I want to, it's what we do, I want to help, I want to change the world, God is listening, God isn't listening, it's for my kids, it's for my community)
 - vii. What do you like about Tefillah?
 - viii. What do you dislike about Tefillah?
 - h. Once you've written all of your Post-Its, you should self-prune, pulling out any answers you're not comfortable sharing with the group
3. Venn-ing (20 minutes): Take your Post-Its, and stick them up on the wall, or on a piece of flip-chart paper, in the form of a Venn-ish Diagram. If you have three people, you can have three overlapping circles, if you have 4, you can divide your paper into quadrants, and make a box in the middle that is the center of your diagram. Just make sure you have a place where you can overlap.
- a. Analysis: Take a look at your partners' Post-Its, and take note:
 - i. What is interesting to you?
 - ii. What seems "weird" to you?
 - iii. What reminds you of YOUR experience (at camp or school or home)?
 - iv. What do you have in common?
 - v. What's different between you two?
 - vi. Put those Post-Its in the middle of your Venn-ish diagram.
 - b. Venn-ish Questions:
 - i. When they're in Tefillah at camp, they...
 - ii. When they think about their campers and Tefillah, they...
 - iii. How are you gaining understanding from your peers about how their prayer lives work?
 - iv. How did it feel to find commonalities with your peers from other camps?
 - v. What did it feel like to read something you agreed with?
 - vi. How did you come to terms with something your partner/s said that made you uncomfortable?
 - vii. How can these questions help us to be better Tefillah programmers at camp?

Bringing it Back to Camp (15 Minutes):

- How would the Vennish Diagrams activity help you in staff training? In working with CITs? In working with campers?
- How would you use the text we studied today with campers? With staff?
- What from the stuff written on the flip charts above most surprised you?
- What's one thing you learned today that will help you be a better staff member - and how will you use that skill?



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Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:

Better for kids middle school aged and older. Can be modified for elementary use, too.