

CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

REJOICE! A Pool Party Experience!

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SUMMARY:	A station-based activity to explore all of the amazing ways you can make a pool party a pool EXPERIENCE.
TOPICS:	Camp-wide/Large Group Programs, Dance and Movement, Food and Cooking, Group Dynamics, Israel Programming, Jewish Culture, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Music and Rhythm, Nature, Outdoor Adventure, Sports & Games, Storytelling
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Demonstrate ways to integrate Jewish learning into a pool party experience. Go deep with big questions or splash in the shallow end with good snacks and game-creating activities.
AUDIENCE:	Cornerstone Participants
LENGTH:	75-90 Minutes
MATERIALS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rice Paper (1 notecard-sized sheet per participant) ● Bucket for water ● One large piece of cardboard ● Two cans of red spray paint, or red butcher paper (For “Chai-Guard” tubes) ● Chai-Guard Gear (printed on shirts, or papers to pin to shirts) ● 8 sheets Post it/easel pad or larger sized paper (For deep questions) ● 20 Sharpies or markers in assorted colors ● 1 Set Dive Eggs ● A bedsheet for each staff member/liaison in the role of a Levite (to make into a robe) ● A kiddie pool full of water (or a number of large tubs) ● A Solo-style cup for each participant ● At least 10 lulavs or other kinds of noise-making branches ● Small musical instruments that can be played with one hand, such as finger cymbals, tambourines, kazoos, whistles etc. ideally 1 per person ● Dry ice (about 15 lbs) ● A large tub (Temple cistern) ● Costume for the High Priest (bedsheet, turban, choshen, breastplate, white wig, beard) ● Decorations for the Temple ● Sign for the mikveh
SETTING:	POOL (plus location on the way to the pool, set up with buckets of water and pitchers)

Session Description:

8:00 – 8:10: Changing in the Dining Hall building

8:10: Meet at basketball courts, to joyously walk up from the source of the water (Pool of Siloam) to the “Temple.”

8:10 – 8:30: Moving of the water/Introduction to Simchat Beit Ha’Shoeiva and the program

Participants arrive at the basketball courts, where there are large tubs (or, even better, inflatable kiddie pool(s)) full of water at the front of the area where the participants gather. This is the Pool of Siloam.

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There are many "jugs" (which are actually plastic solo-style cups), one for each participant, in front of the pool of water.

Standing at the Pool of Siloam are the Levites -- educators, advisors, and liaisons dressed in Biblical-looking robes (sheets). The chief Levite welcomes everyone, telling them they are about to participate in the annual celebration of Simchat Beit Hashoevah, the Jewish water libations festival, which is held during Sukkot at the Temple in Jerusalem. After explaining the festival briefly, the chief Levite makes sure to say that, according to the Talmud, **"anyone who has not seen the rejoicing of Simchat Beit Hashoevah has not experienced true rejoicing."**

The chief Levite instructs every participant to come forward and take a cup and fill it with water from the Pool of Siloam, as well as to take a lulav/branch or another musical instrument. He/she tells them that when everyone has their water and instrument, we will proceed to the Temple, where everyone will pour their water into the Temple cistern. Participants come and get water and an instrument.

Led by singing Levites, the group sings, dances, and makes music as they walk from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple. Ideally a song is sung that has something to do with water. Options: Down to the River to Pray? (from Christian tradition) or Mayim B'sasson (will also be used later in the program). When they arrive at the Temple (outside the gates of the pool area), the Levites instruct the participants to pour their water libations into the Temple cistern, which is a large tub with a piece of dry ice at the bottom. As participants pour their water into the cistern, more and more smoke comes up (from the dry ice).

Once all the libations have been poured, the High Priest appears from out of the smoke and welcomes everyone to the Temple. The High Priest explains what will happen in the festival, emphasizing that in Judaism water is used for both celebration and transformation, and that this festival will feature both. The High Priest also explains that participants will have the option of "going deep" if they want, and using their time at the celebration to explore their inner souls, or they can just have fun!

The High Priest explains that participants will now dance into the Temple, and after the dance is over, they will divide into groups of 10 (minyanim), and a Levite will explain their options to them, at which point they are free to explore on their own. The High Priest adds that, whereas pools always have lifeguards, we are concerned about you inner life as well, and our Levites will serve as your "Chai-Guards"; at this point, the Levites whip off their robes, and under them they are wearing bathing suits and red tank tops with "n GUARD" printed (two lines) in white.

Someone starts singing (or puts on the music for) "Mayim B'sasson" and the gates of the pool area open. The Chai-Guards help participants form into lines, and they dance into the pool area and get into a circle for the "Mayim" dance.

When the dance is over, the Chai-Guards join groups of 10 people and briefly explain what the

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different stations are and what they represent, and tell people they are also free to just play in the pool, eat, and talk for some of the time, but that we hope they will also explore many of the stations, and that there are "dry" stations as well as "wet" stations, depending on whether they want to go into the pool or not.

Ends with dancing them into the pool area

8:30 – 9:00: **Exploration of the Temple:**

Great Food

Moshe BaTeva (In English, Moses in his Basket, but also in English, PIGS IN A BLANKET!)

Banana dolphins (Bananas cut in half with the peels still on, with a grape in the split end)

Candy in beach pails

Veggies (Sea Cucumber Slices and Carrot "Guard Tubes")

Fruity Watermelon Shark

Fish and Chips - potato chips and Goldfish crackers

The jello pools (small cups of jello with swedish fish in them)

Signage/Instructions for "The Deep End": Only people in the deep end who are doing the Mikveh and/or diving for questions. To dive for deep questions you need a partner who will stay on shore and spot you.

Mikveh (Slide)

Faculty member at the bottom of the slide who only allows one person at a time into the "mikveh"

Sign that says: Mikveh or mikvah mikva'ot or (Yiddish) mikves, lit. "a collection") is a bath used for the purpose of ritual immersion in Judaism. In the Hebrew Bible, the word is employed in its broader sense but generally means a collection of water. Several biblical regulations specify that full immersion in water is required to regain ritual purity after ritually impure incidents have occurred.

Faculty member gives these instructions to the participants (either one at a time or whole group):

"Welcome to the Mikveh, where we have the opportunity to enter into purity, so that we can celebrate Simchat Beit Hashoeva to its fullest.

As you're walking up the steps to the top of the mikveh, I want you to think about what you want to become. That could mean a goal you wish to achieve, a character trait you wish to embody more, or a positive change you'd like to make in your life.

Think of a word or phrase that sums up this change for you.

As you fully immerse yourself into the confines of the slide mikveh, I invite you to shout, whisper, or think about that word, until you exit the slide, and fully immerse yourself in the water.

Role of the staff member is to ensure this is a safe, individual, and reflective time (more poignant than just "woohoo slide").

Tashlich Activity

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(Make a Sign: "You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:19)

Aaron, the High Priest: Surely you have something for which you require forgiveness? I think we all do. My name is Aaron, I'm the High Priest. Back in my day, we used to cast everyone's sins onto two goats - and one would be sent into the wilderness. Come here, and write a sin you'd like to cast away into the water. Don't forget, you should be working to make amends, too: apologize to a wronged friend, volunteer at a recycling center to up your world-greening game, or supply rice paper for writing sins out, and then place them into a small bucket of water, and watch as the sins vanish!

Texts:

"He will take us back in love; He will cover up our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:19

Source Sheet for anybody who wants to read more: My Jewish Learning on Tashlikh

Deep Questions (with buddies)

2-3 Copies of each question card will be sunk to the bottom of the pool for participants to dive down and grab. Along the side of the pool each question (along with title and text) will be displayed (1/sheet) with sharpies or markers available for participants to write their answers on the board. Sign in the deep end connecting deep questions to curiosity.

Front: Chai-Guard: Would love help finding the right text for this concept! There are lifeguards... and there are life-guards. What are your favorite life-guarding texts, songs, books, quotes, words, movie lines, lyrics?

מלא כל המציל נפש אחת כאילו הציל עולם מלא **S/he who saves one person is comparable to saving the whole world Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5** The sages use this phrase to highlight the significance of the origin of the human race was ONE person.

Back: Who has been watching out for you through calm and rough waters? Who is your Chai-Guard?

(NOTE for this card: Make sure to head to the photo booth for a selfie ... and to add their name to the Cornerstone Chai-Guard tube)

Front: In the Talmud, Kiddushin 29a, we learn that parents are obligated to teach their children Torah, how to make a living, and how to swim.

(translation / interpretation from <http://shma.com/2012/01/learning-to-swim/>)

Back: Who has taught you Torah? To work? To swim? How are these people related? Who at camp has taught you more than one of these three things at once? Why does learning how to "sink or swim" matter to Jewish children and parents?

Front: Moses Strikes the Rock: Moses raised his hand and struck the rock. B'midbar / Numbers 20:11

Back: Reflect on a time that anger got the better of you. What are your best techniques for overcoming anger?

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Front: Noah & the Flood: And I, behold I am bringing the flood, water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which there is the spirit of life, from beneath the heavens; all that is upon the earth will perish. B'reisheit / Gen 6:17

Back: What does it take to wipe the slate clean, to get a fresh start?

Front: Miriam's Well: Tradition tells of a magical source of water, Miriam's well, that followed the Israelites nourishing and sustaining them for 40 years. "From this we learn that all forty years, they had a well because of the merit of Miriam" Rashi

Back: What sustains and nourishes you? How can you be a source of sustenance and nourishment for those around you?

Shark Tank

The goal of this program is to actively engage the counselors in a similar process to planning the program: taking the "pool party" idea and raising it to a more creative level.

Similar in concept to the Shark Tank TV show, the counselors will have creatively utilize pool materials to make a product (or short presentation). All of the materials will be out for the counselors to use, and they will draw a scenario from a hat which they need to solve/act out with the materials at hand. (This could also be used to help counselors generate Divrei Tefillah/Torah)

Materials:

- pool noodles
- goggles
- towels
- flip flops
- kickboards
- lifeguard tube
- flippers
- buoys
- Scenarios for a pool party (written on laminated paper) - age groups, restrictions, concepts

Photobooth - Join us at the Cornerstone photobooth, where you can write the name of your "Chai-Guard" - who is the person who helped you become the person you are? The one who you turn to when you want to improve and grow? Write their name on this giant cardboard guard tube to pay tribute to your Chai-Guard, and then let's take some pictures! Post it on social media at #jewishcamp #ChaiGuard and share with your Chai-Guard!

Lulav and Etrog (Pool Noodle and Water Polo Ball)

9:00 – 9:15: Changing into dry clothes

9:15 – 9:30: Debrief

From Biblical times till today our hopes and prayers were directed to the heavens for rain. Water is



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life and as you have experienced for yourselves, hope / Tikvah is fundamentally related to Mikvah / immersion. Water brings life and together we ponder qualities and values that sustain and enrich life. Through your experiences at camp and today at Cornerstone you all have become matzilim / life-guards, Chai-Guards; caring educators who provide moments of meaning that enrich the lives of those fortunate enough to be with you. We invite you to continue considering how, when and where you truly fulfill your roles as Chai-Guards. There is an intriguing conversation that occurs amongst our sages, recorded in the Tractate of Sanhedrin where the rabbis explain the reason why the origins of all humankind was one person is to teach us that if one human life is lost it is as if we have lost the entire world and conversely he who saves one human life is as if s/he has saved and created a world. This wisdom should inform our diligent work with every single person that we encounter, one at a time creating communities that celebrate who they are.

Close your eyes, think of the person that has given you life.

Think of your campers this summer, now focus on an individuals that you will give these compelling experiences.

We wanted to show you how the pool is not just the pool. Camp is a landscape of infinite educational moments and opportunities; it is a canvas waiting for your impressions and paintings. B'hatzlacha, Matzilim!

Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:

Any of these pieces can be modified for use with different ages!