



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Sacred / Mundane (The Schwarma Activity), *FJC* Knowledge Center Resource

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| AUTHOR: | Sara Beth Berman |
| SUMMARY: | Using an improv method, debate topics that are heavy. In this case, the topic is Tefillah. - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i> |
| TOPICS: | Communication Skills, Community Building, Dance and Movement, Group Dynamics, Identity, Performance, Sports & Games, Storytelling, Theater |
| LEARNING OBJECTIVE: | Using an improv method, debate topics that are heavy. In this case, the topic is Tefillah. |
| AUDIENCE: | Medium-sized group. Best for a unit-sized group, so there's an audience. |
| LENGTH: | 20-30 Minutes |
| MATERIALS: | Have a copy of the write up! |

Session Description:

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?

Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:



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This could be adapted for all sorts of uses, groups, and topics, such as politics, civil rights, or the theme for a color war. It's SUPER fun!