

C'mon Baby, Light Our Fire *Evening Experience*

AUTHOR(S):	Natalie Goldfien, Meir Balofsky, Jake Wasserman, Josh Lake, Sidney Usem
SUMMARY:	This session will teach you how to enrich your bonfire repertoire with powerful content and experiences. Together you will learn how to build your bonfire, both physically and spiritually as we celebrate a bonfire experience through Jewish story, song, and meditation. You will be able to share your bonfire culture with the group and take back new embers to your camp. - <i>Submitted by Josh Lake et al.</i>
TOPIC(S):	Outdoor experience, spirituality, stories
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will learn that the summer camp Campfire can be a communal, spiritual, learning and environmental experience while not sacrificing the fun!
AUDIENCE:	Any size, any age.
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	Bal Shem Tov's fire Story, Rabbi Chananya's fire story
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Matches, Bow Drill set, 50 candles, dry tinder and kindling, 1 gallon cans with holes in bottom.
SET-UP DETAILS:	This should take place outdoors, around a campfire ring. This can be adapted for an indoor fireplace in the event of rain.

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Timing

0:00-0:05 Opening Niggun is taught and sung

0:06-0:14 Facilitators explain fire the power of fire in the Jewish tradition and explain how to physically build a fire.

An example of how fire related to Judaism is the concept that: "Fire Creates and Destroys." Fire is the release of sunlight stored in the darkness of wood. It is *eitz haim hei released* (reference story of R. Chananya's story, you will share an example of this in a few minutes). Can participants release the light of Torah stored in them over summer? What is light of Torah? It is kindness and love.

0:15-0:18 Start bow drill fire. What is the intention with starting this/your fire?

0:18-0:20 Start singing the niggun again

0:20-0:30 Share with the group 1 or 2 Jewish stories about fire (Baal Shem Tov, R. Chananya's story)

0:30-0:50 Lead participants in a song about fire (*chom ha eish*) and teach them how to light the fire

Tell participants that they will be learning how to make that fire that the BSHT (Bal Shem Tov) knew how to create.

- (3 minutes) *Kavannah*/intention
 - What is your *Kavannah*/Intention during this activity?
 - Purity of thought. Purity of action.
 - *Korbanote* (offerings)
- (10 minutes) Questions about fire to ask the participants:
 - How do we use fire in Judaism?
 - Shabbat
 - *Havdallah*
 - Yom Tov (candles)
 - *Nir Tamid*
 - *Yorzeit* candle
 - Holidays into *Galut* (Lord of the Rings example)
 - What is power of fire? Why do we like it so much?
 - Energy
 - Transformation of energy we can control
 - Old gathering place (the hearth)
 - Safety
 - Food around campfire (always tastes better than food indoors. Why?)
 - What do you know about fire?
 - Heat rises
 - Fire burns
 - Other?
 - What do you need to make a fire?
 - Oxygen
 - Heat source
 - Fuel
 - What do we know about oxygen?
 - If you're not breathing, don't worry about making a fire! Space, under water, in rain? Shelter!

CORNERSTONE 2017 RESOURCE

- What are possible heat sources?
 - Magnifying glass
 - Matches
 - Flint/steel
 - Lighter
 - Char cloth
- What are types of fuel?
 - Tinder (Fuzz sticks, pencil sharpener!)
 - Kindling
 - Fuel
- Why not leaves and pine needles?
 - Leaves/pine needles smoke a lot
 - Smoke is incomplete combustion
 - Smoke drives out oxygen
 - Leaves and pine needles do not burn hot.
 - Yes, if it's VERY dry, you can use them.
 - Leaves/pine needles can't hold a match to birch bark or dry tinder.
 - In the end, use what works!
- (5 minutes) Wood types:
 - Conifers (cone bearing: Leaves stay on in winter, usually!) Soft wood. Burns hot and fast. Examples: Pine, cedar, spruce, fir
 - Deciduous (leaves fall off in winter, usually!) Hard wood. Burns warm, but long. Great for longer coals. Examples: Oak, Maple, avocado, poplar, sycamore,
- (1 minutes) Fire safety: **Purpose of this activity is to learn and have fun: No one is learning or having fun if they get hurt.**
 - How to set up safe fire circles:
 - Durable surface:
 - Gravel/cement
 - Fire ring
 - Making a fire circle in grass: dig out grass area. Keep sod away and able to be replaced. Keep sod moist.
 - Perimeter: Sticks/rope on ground that kids don't come across.
 - Sticks, once in fire, remain in fire. No tracers!
- (1 minute) Types of fire: Build them in advance and show examples of them:
 - Lean to
 - Tipi
 - Box/log cabin



CORNERSTONE 2017 RESOURCE

- Dakota fire hole
- (5 minutes) Lean to building and lighting
 - We will concentrate on a lean to: Why? Most basic, easiest to get a fire from. The basics of all the other fires.
 - Durable surface
 - Fire ring
 - Lean to log
 - Tinder on bottom
 - Oxygen path (where is wind coming from?)
 - Lighting path (where are you going to light the fire?)
 - Lighting a match. (Start down low. Shield it from wind. Get wood caught

When all fires are lit bring a little fire via candle to add to the main fire.

0:55-1:00 Lead participants in song around the fire

1:00-1:10 Ask participants to reflect on five uses of fire in Judaism and invite them to share

1:10-1:15 Conclude with the niggun led earlier

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

This program can be adapted to a rainy day by doing this indoors. Make sure the surface is durable (fireproof), there is plenty of ventilation, and that you coordinate this with your director/supervisor.

You can tell other stories, not only Jewish stories around the fire!