

CORNERSTONE 2017 RESOURCE

Torah - Stick With It *Spin It!*

AUTHOR(S):	Caroline Rothstein and Jon Adam Ross
SUMMARY:	Using poetry, we will examine a story from the Torah in a way that makes the narrative accessible and the narration original. –Submitted by Caroline Rothstein & Jon Adam Ross
TOPIC(S):	Jewish Text, Writing
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will be able to explore a different perspective of narration in the Torah
AUDIENCE:	Any audience
TIMING:	20 minutes
APPENDICES:	Torah Spin It Appendix
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Paper & pens
SET-UP DETAILS:	

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- Text Study - We will introduce the story of Zelofchad’s daughters (Numbers 27: 1-8) and discuss how varied the cases brought before Moses must have been. We will also generate a list of all the moments Moses’ staff was used in the story (snake, splitting the sea, hitting the rock, etc.) - **5 minutes**
- Poetry Writing (**10 minutes**) -
 - Explain what a persona poem is:
 - “a dramatic character, distinguished from the poet, who is the speaker of a poem” (Poetry Foundation)
 - An opportunity to put on a mask and see an experience through another person / thing’s perspective and point of view
 - Ask participants to make answer and list:
 - What does the staff taste, touch, see, hear, and smell in this story? (30 seconds)
 - What is the staff’s greatest fear in this story? (30 seconds)
 - What is the staff’s greatest joy in this story? (30 seconds)
 - Ask participants to write a persona poem from the perspective of the staff answering the question: What do you (the staff) see and how does it make you feel? (7 minutes)

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- Sharing (4 minutes)
 - Ask for volunteers to share what they wrote.
- Closing (1 minute)
 - Thank participants for coming.

- **ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:**

You can make this activity last 30, or even 60, minutes. This exercise is not limited to just this story. You could use ANY other story/portion. If you had more time you could add elements to the program that allow people to share each other's poems aloud, or turn poems into monologues.