#Tefillah Track - What’s Inside, on the Outside

*Specialty Track 2*

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| **AUTHOR(S):** | Sara Beth Berman |
| **SUMMARY:** | #InstaTefillah - Using the concept of Meme design, use a series of pictures to communicate feelings about Tefillah and learn the concepts of iyun tefillah, keva, and kavannah. Connect to existing prayers, and being to think about what this looks like at your camp. - *Submitted by* *Sara Beth Berman* |
| **TOPIC(S):** | Prayer-Tefillah, Prayer-Alternative |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** | **Essential Questions**   * Why does Tefillah matter to me? * Why does Tefillah matter at camp?   **Knowledge and Skills**   * Participants will be able to communicate their feelings about Tefillah with others. * Participants will be able to demonstrate moments in camp when they can truly share their love of Tefillah with others. * Participants will have a methodology for identifying what they like about a Tefillah experience so they can break it down to create new programming that will share that with others. |
| **AUDIENCE:** | * Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Staff * Large, medium, or small group - need at least a minyan of participants for maximum effectiveness in conversation |
| **TIMING:** | 90 Minutes |
| **APPENDICES:** | **Essential Texts**   * [Meme PPT (Can also print)](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nD7L_r60UK4mdAL7IikzMt82X6Ve_ltpZz6SaxStJko/edit?usp=sharing)   + [Me vs me Meme](https://thechive.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/evil-kermit-meme-dark-side-funny-memes-14.jpg?quality=85&strip=info&w=1282) (thechive.com)   + [Last Supper / Beit Din](https://i.imgur.com/M6KMvib.jpg) (imgur.com)   + [Lightsaber Night Cancelled](https://www.instagram.com/p/BO7eI4NFY4K/?taken-by=beigecardigan) (@beigecardigan on Instagram)   + [My Friends Tonight / Me Tonight](https://www.instagram.com/p/BOr8vtVlkdD/?taken-by=beigecardigan) (@beigecardigan on Instagram)   + [Your Order Has Shipped](https://www.instagram.com/p/BOVYIO5FRRX/?taken-by=beigecardigan) (@beigecardigan on Instagram)   + [Specialty Track Example Memes](https://goo.gl/photos/3qjYsnLRTfgn5gzJ9) (from Davis Academy Students and SBB) * What Do You Meme? Box game (from fjerry) * Yehuda Amichai – *Open Closed Open* |
| **MATERIALS NEEDED:** | **Supplies**   * 1 Flip Chart / Flip Chart Markers * [Meme PPT Projection (Can also print)](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nD7L_r60UK4mdAL7IikzMt82X6Ve_ltpZz6SaxStJko/edit?usp=sharing) - 3 front-only copies of PPT for use in program * If you have these resources great, but they’re not necessary:   + Cell Phones   + What Do You Meme? Box game (a fun extra - not necessary to use when running at your camp!)   + Meme generator apps     - Mematic     - Instaquote     - [App store search to see what’s the best / newest] * Construction paper (about 50 pieces - multicolored) * Printer paper (30 pieces) * Scotch tape - 1 roll * Markers for fellows * 1 box of small paperclips * 3 pairs of scissors |
| **SET-UP DETAILS:** | * There should be tables and chairs in order to group up, work, and create art. * There should be a projector IF you’re going to project the PowerPoint, otherwise copies of the PowerPoint will work. * You can also make your own memes to share instead of the PowerPoint! |

**Session Timeline & Outline:**

**Opening Activity // Time: 15 minutes** - Do You Have a Ticket to the Meme Show?

1. **Grabber (10 minutes):** Show and Tell - Basic Memes
   1. I’m going to show you a few memes, and you’re going to tell the group what you think about them. Which speak to you and which don’t? Why?
   2. Your turn! I showed you some memes that made me laugh a few months ago; what do you have to share? Pull one up on your phone / computer and share.
      1. Which memes make you laugh and why?
      2. Which ones did you screenshot / share with your friends? Why?
2. **Discussion questions (5 minutes):**
   1. Why do you think these memes are interesting to you?
   2. How do you think you can use memes to engage your community in Tefillah?
   3. What effect will the memes have on your camp population?
   4. How or why do you think memes are “sticky?”

**Step-by-Step Session Description // Time: 60 minutes**

1. **Keva & Kavannah (20 minutes):** 
   1. We’re going to place our memes to the side and discuss the component parts of any Tefillah experience, which will help us broaden what we’re trying to learn and teach with this track.
   2. There are two parts of prayer, the fixed stuff we’re supposed to sing, do, and say - Keva - and then there’s the intention and meaning behind it all - Kavannah.
   3. Break into a group of mixed-camp backgrounds, and divide a sheet of butcher paper in half, writing Keva on one side and Kavannah on the other, and make a list of tefillah stuff that belongs on either side.
      1. Keva: set prayers, order of prayers, location of prayers, siddurim, prayer cards, visual tefillah, machzor Vitry (the first siddur, more or less!), chumash, PowerPoints, etc.
      2. Kavannah: speeches, song choices, what you skip (if you skip), what you add in, poetry, location changes, timing changes, tunes, meditations, stories, etc.
   4. Put it together (like Scattergories - go team by team, and make sure you add in from each group until everything is up on one master piece of paper)
   5. Discussion Questions
      1. When you think about Keva and Kavannah, how do those distinctions come out at camp?
      2. How are you someone who cares about Tefillah? Keva? Kavannah? Why and how?
      3. WHY do you care about Tefillah and Tefillah programming?
      4. Why are you here in this session? How does that relate to what you see up on our master Scattergories list?
2. **A Little Amichai (20 minutes)** Using poems from *Open Closed Open*, I want to think a little bit more about Keva / Kavannah and how we engage with our learners:
   1. I declare with perfect faith / that prayer preceded God. / Prayer created God, / God created human beings, / human beings create prayers / that create the God that creates human beings. (“Gods Change, Prayers are Here to Stay,” #3 from *Open Closed Open*, 1998, p. 40)
      1. What is this poem about?
      2. How does it help you think about prayer?
      3. Which came first - the prayer or the people?
      4. How would prayer change if the opposite answer was true for you?
         1. Can you find someone in this group that things prayer came before people / people came before prayer? If yes, talk about your points of view.
         2. What did you learn from the other?
      5. How does your view of your camp community change when viewed through this lens?
      6. If you have a camper that refuses to participate in prayer-based activities, how can this poem be helpful learning for them?
   2. God is a staircase that ascends / to a place that is no longer there, or isn’t there yet. / The stairs are my faith, my downfall. / Our father Jacob knew it in his dream. / The angels were just adorning the steps of his ladder / like a fir tree decked out for Christmas, / and the Song of Ascents is a song of praise / to the God of the Stairs. (“Gods Change, Prayers are Here to Stay,” #4 from *Open Closed Open*, 1998, p. 40)
      1. What is this poem about?
      2. How do you feel about the imagery used?
         1. What were the staircases about?
         2. How do the Christmas trees change your thoughts about this poem, if at all?
      3. What’s going on with the stairs in this poem?
         1. How are the stairs related to the work we’re doing at camp?
3. **It’s Meme-tastic (20 minutes)** Now that you’ve had a chance to think about prayer, poetry, intention, and what’s fixed - a little fun. It’s time to make your own prayer memes. You saw some examples earlier, and now here are your parameters:
   * 1. You can use: What Do You Meme Cards (please don’t write/tape directly on them, as I want to reuse them), printouts, screenshots, your phone, paper and pen/marker/pencil. Pro tip: at camp, you’ll want to print out some meme shots on paper and have those available.
        1. Meme generator apps (keep in mind you’re better than \*just\* a Snapchat filter)
           1. Mematic
           2. Instaquote
           3. [Google / App store search to see what’s the best/newest]
     2. What sort of memes do you want to make? It’s up to you! Let’s brainstorm for a few minutes about what sort of memes you could make:
        1. For a specific prayer
        2. For a specific service
        3. To teach about Keva/Kavannah
        4. To bring in poetry that connects to prayer
        5. For blessings before or after meals
        6. For overall Tefillah promotion in camp
        7. As a conversation starter in a program
        8. As a way to get your campers / staff to make their own memes
        9. ...maybe you’ll write your own poetry instead of making a meme or you’ll combine the two!
     3. Show and Tell / Discussion (10 minutes)
        1. Share your meme
        2. Explain when / where you would use them.
        3. Q&A

**Bringing it Back to Camp (15 Minutes):**

* How would you use the resources we used today (or resources like them) with campers? With staff?
* How do you think the study of poetry relates to the study of Tefillah?
* What sort of memes do you think would be most successful in your camp community?
* What, if any of the pieces we studied in this session, would you like to share at camp?
  + How can you work that into your staff meeting or staff learning structure during the summer?
* What’s one thing you learned today that will help you be a better staff member - and how will you use that skill?

**Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:**

This is definitely a program that can be shaped to fit your very particular camp interests and programs, prayer-wise and otherwise. Make your own memes that are very you-specific to get the campers engaged!