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

*Specialty Track 3*

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| **AUTHOR(S):** | Sara Beth Berman |
| **SUMMARY:** | Tefillah Hackathon! - While creating a meme, or a small speech about a prayer, can seem brief and effortless, it actually takes a tremendous amount of learning and preparation to create new ideas at a Hackathon. Identify a Tefillah area in camp where you can innovate / inspire / rework / spice up a program, while bringing your people into the joy that you feel. Discuss and prepare to scale for summer 2017. - *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 text from last session * Amichai poetry * Other poetry as identified by participants / fellows / campers * Pirkei Avot 5:20/ SPIN IT! text |
| **MATERIALS NEEDED:** | * 1 Flip Chart / Flip Chart Markers * Cell Phones * Paper / Pens |

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| **SET-UP DETAILS:** | * There should be tables and chairs in order to group up and work. |

**Session Timeline & Outline:**

**Opening Activity // Time: 5 minutes** Tefillah-focused - SPIN IT!

1. Now that we’ve spent some time talking about why we like Tefillah, and fun ways to share the love, and learning from each other, I’m going to (re)introduce one important text:

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| Ben Bag Bag says: Search in it and search in it, since everything is in it. And in it should you look, and grow old and be worn in it; and from it do not move, since there is no characteristic greater than it. *(Pirkei Avot 5:20 - Sefaria.org)* | בֶּן בַּג בַּג אוֹמֵר, הֲפֹךְ בָּהּ וַהֲפֹךְ בָּהּ, דְּכֹלָּא בָהּ. וּבָהּ תֶּחֱזֵי, וְסִיב וּבְלֵה בָהּ, וּמִנַּהּ לֹא תָזוּעַ, שֶׁאֵין לְךָ מִדָּה טוֹבָה הֵימֶנָּה: |

* 1. Discussion questions:
     1. Why this text?
     2. What does this text have to do with Tefillah at camp?
  2. Generally, the work we do in the Tefillah Track allows us to find our community - the camp people that love Tefillah. Often we want to be rabbis, cantors, educators, and / or teachers. We want people to songlead the way we songlead. We want people to LOVE Torah reading and silent prayer. But it doesn’t always translate. Using Ben Bag Bag as a guide - we have to turn it (or as we say at Cornerstone, SPIN IT!) so that it’s appealing to the masses. Now that you’ve met your groups, and discussed this text, think about how you’re going to spin what you’ve designed into something to use at camp.

**Step-by-Step Session Description // Time: 70 minutes**

1. **Tefillah Hackathon - Intro! (15 minutes):** 
   1. Thank you for joining me in our Hackathon Headquarters today. Today’s hackathon design challenge is a big one - we’re going to innovate Tefillah, and we’re going to figure out the best way to make it pop for our camp populations!
   2. The first step is to think about the ways you want to innovate Tefillah, and why. Grab a pen and a piece of paper, and start writing:
      1. Step One (3 minutes): Tefillah-related innovations that your camp needs (new format, experiential Thursdays, interactive d’var Torah skits, hype campaigns)
      2. Step Two (3 minutes): Tefillah-related innovations that you’d like to lead at your camp (may be listed in step one, but maybe not).
      3. Step Three (3 minutes): Circle one or two things from Step One and Step Two that speak to you the most.
      4. Step Four (3 minutes): Scattergories the ideas up on a piece of flip chart paper.
      5. Step Five (3 minutes): Volunteer for different ideas, in groups of 3 or 4.
2. **Tefillah Hackathon - Brass Tacks! (30 minutes):** 
   1. Now that you’ve grouped into your teams, it’s time to will those dreams into reality (Herzl shout-out!). Make some advertising memes, or plan out what changing the format of Thursday PM Tefillah will look like at your camp, or craft an exercise to help campers lead short, prayer-related activities in the context of your already existing, and fixed, prayer structures at your camp. You will have the next half hour or so to develop your plan, and you’ll present it.
   2. Much like in any other Hackathon, you may present your concept, but be creative. If you want to make some memes, if you want to add supplements into your siddurim, if you want to act it out, or if you want everyone to demo your program, that’s fine, but you will not have more than 5 minutes to present what you’ve developed.
   3. Before we start, what kind of questions do we want to ask the development teams? Let’s list them on a flip chart as guidelines for our work.
3. **Tefillah Hackathon - Present! (25 minutes)!**
   1. Possible questions to add to the agreed-upon ones from a half an hour ago:
      1. What obstacles will you face at YOUR camp?
      2. What will be the most inspiring outcome you could see from this taking off at your camp?
      3. How does this address why do we do Tefillah at camp?
      4. How will this change the answer to the question: how do we Tefillah at camp?
      5. How does this improve our Tefillah experience?
      6. How will my community take it?
4. **You’re so great! You did it! Take it home with you and make a difference!**

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

1. What do you think will happen at your camp when you try to pilot this idea that you just created?
2. How can you use a hackathon / design thinking model to get staff / campers involved in innovation at camp?
3. What about the experience in this track most surprised you?
4. Which parts of this track will be easier to translate to your home camp / camp friends? What will be harder for you to explain?
5. 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:**

The Hackathon / design thinking model is a great way to inspire your populations to think hard about something they want to disrupt and change for the better. Today, we used Tefillah. What will you use tomorrow?