

Middot:
Is that a Value or are You Just Excited to See Me?
Elective 1

AUTHOR(S):	Becca Sykes
SUMMARY:	Every camp has values. Every fellow can use them to develop great programs, as well as to become better counselors.
TOPIC(S):	Jewish values and programming
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will build a personal connection to their camp's values, and leave with concrete ideas for programming around Jewish values.
AUDIENCE:	Fellows, staff members involved in programming, any group size
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	Making Mensches: a periodic table
MATERIALS NEEDED:	MM: periodic table PaRDeS values worksheet blank paper and pens set up: 4 posters hang in the room with one sentence on it: (two layers, 8 pieces of poster post it) on top: I can name things with clarity. Underneath: P'SHAT on top: I can see what's beneath the surface Underneath: REMEZ on top: I know a good story about that. Underneath: DRASH on top: I have questions about that. Underneath: SOD
SET-UP DETAILS:	Any space with walls for hanging poster post its Slips of paper with locations in camp, in 4s

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

OPEN: (3 minutes)

As participants enter the room, they receive a slip of paper with a location in camp on it. They pretend an activity found at that location to find their group of 4.

Ex: “campfire” a participant might: build a fire, sing a campfire song, make a s’more, sit quietly and gaze.

ENGAGE: (8 minutes)

Once in the group of 4(ish, depending on total number of participants): use the posters to

- Identify each group by location (pshat)
- Explain what’s beneath the surface (remez)
- Tell a story about it (drash)
- Ask the bigger questions about the program (sod)

Which one is your comfort zone? Your area of expertise?

- Redivide the room according to strengths (PRDS)
 - P’SHAT: gives a simple, clear explanation
 - REMEZ: offers an idea about what’s symbolic here
 - DRASH: a story that might correlate
 - SOD: asks a question about it

- Explain PARDES: if camp is paradise, then it’s the perfect place to develop our best selves. Our camp’s values state it, hint at it, give us endless stories, and give us the intangible essence of those who “get it.”
- Pick one area in camp from the opening, and ways to use the space
 - Ex: campfire
 - P’shat: roast marshmallows, sing songs, light a fire
 - Remez: make sure everyone is sitting next to someone they feel comfortable with, staff sits among the campers to facilitate and engage
 - Drash: storytelling that highlights the moment
 - Sod: How does sitting around a campfire nourish us? How do we connect a whole unit with this activity, and why would we want to?

ALIGN: (25 minutes)

- We do this with values, too! Using the periodic table, find one of your camp’s values.
- Go through an example as a group: chesed/kindness
 - Pshat: Helping campers unpack, infirmary, making thank you cards for the kitchen staff
 - Remez: How a counselor supports a homesick kid, how a counselor knows which camper needs help to make a friend, the director who knows a counselor needs a pat on the back
 - Drash: That time I threw up in the dining hall and my counselor cleaned it up for me and made me laugh, that time when we all cheered Louis on while he told jokes at the talent show, the night during the 6th week of camp when I needed to complain and my supervisor listened
 - Sod: How can our staff training show AND teach this value? How are we teaching campers about bullying? How do the specialty areas teach kindness?

- Using poster post its, each group will come up with ways this value shows up
 - P’SHAT: Where in camp can you easily point to this value? (location, activity)
 - REMEZ: Where in camp does it show up beneath the surface? (people)
 - DRASH: What classic camp stories express this value?
 - SOD: What questions do you have about this value in camp?

IMAGINARY MIDDAH TOUR OF CAMP: (45 min)

"Take time, be exact, unclutter the mind." **Rabbi Simcha Zissel Ziv**, Alter of Kelm

Imagine your day at camp, you see the day unfold, you pay close enough attention that you see what is beneath the surface, you gather stories to share that will support the campers, and you keep in mind the unanswerable questions you are working with on a daily basis.

Find a new group of (about) four: at least one of each. Working with a value, choose a time/place and fill out the worksheet together, experts acting as recorder for their section.

1. Dining hall
2. Ropes course
3. Transition time
4. Cabin
5. Flag pole
6. Basketball court

EXPAND: BACK IN THE ROOM and BACK AT CAMP: (10 min)

Name 6 values that your camp owns and works on. Pick one, write it down in the middle of a piece of paper, and work through them with these 4 steps, writing in four corners of a piece of paper.

P'SHAT: name the areas in camp that can easily express our values

REMEZ: how can our camp experience (training and implementation) show this value?

DRASH: what is the story we want to be able to tell about this value in camp?

SOD: who can I take these questions to? Who will help me implement programs that reflect these values? How can I use this for programming at camp?

"One's heart is drawn after one's outer actions."

These values help us get to the heart of what camp is about. Creating time and space for Jewish values to take hold in our community and ourselves. The actions you take in and around these values has direct and concrete effects on our kehillah, and give us infinite room to explore deeper and deeper possibility.