

Nature Specialty Track 2

Filling Holy Space with Nature

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SUMMARY:	Nature helps us dye our fabric as we prepare bread over the campfire that fuels our learning and fun. Fun, skill-based activities further us in our appreciation of nature and what can happen outdoors. - <i>Submitted by Josh Lake</i>
TOPIC(S):	Nature, Appreciation, and Creation of Art and Food in Nature.
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Learn fun skills and activities to do in nature. Specifically, we will learn to bake bread over a campfire, make natural art, do wool felting, make incense and appreciate how Judaism values the natural environment specifically related to making the holy space of the <i>mishkan</i> .
AUDIENCE:	This program is great for group sizes from 5-20 people. The age range is from 5-99+.
TIMING:	90 minutes for the whole program, but each individual activity is from 10-25 minutes.
APPENDICES:	N/A
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Matches, wool felting materials (various colors wool), needles for wool felting, felt cloth, foam pads, flour, water, salt, honey, oil, frankincense, 2-3 essential oils, rosemary powder (lavender powder or similar), mini jars with lids, 2-3 charcoal briquettes. Camp stove.
SET-UP DETAILS:	Outside, preferably in the woods with a safe place for fire/stoves.

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

00-05: Introduction. Chi Gong, Tapping. Tap on your energy points to wake up dead energy. Shaking. Shake off the negative energy. Tapping on your friends. Be respectful. Tapping on head, shoulders, neck, back and legs.

06-20: Making fires:
Show how to make fires on a durable surface.

Hevruta style fire lighting. Example (*doogma*) of how to light a one-match fire. Learn to start fire. Collecting wood. Structure. Lighting the match. Light candle from fire, light main fire with candles. Start boiling water for beet dyeing and Turmeric dyeing. (Set up baths in advance for actual dye water. This is just to show how you would do it.)

21-40: Creating Natural Art. Look for spider webs (or other artistic creation from nature) to show participants natural art makers. Now we will get our chance! G-d is The Creator and we can be co-creators!

Creating Natural Art in Judaism

1. Exodus 20:22

Here is G-d talking about alters and pillars erected for prayer/sacrifice.

22 When you eventually build a stone alter to Me, do not build it out of cut stone. Your sword will have been lifted against it, you will have profaned it.

כא ואם-מזבח אבנים תעשה-לי, לא-תבנה אתהן גזית: כי חרבך הנפת עליה, ותחללה.

2. Here is G-D speaking to someone, something...

Genesis 1:26, "Come let us create humans in our image and likeness."

;;נעשה אדם בצלמנו כדמותנו, כו ויאמר אלהים

Questions to consider"

- To whom is G-d speaking? This is immediately before people were created, but after the rest of creation.
- Could G-d be speaking to nature? To all the things that were already created?
- What would this mean for the creation of humans? That we were created in the image and likeness of ...Trees? Birds? Water? Luminaries (sun, moon, stars)? etc.

3. Betzalel (in the shadow of G-d): The Jewish artisan par excellent!

Exodus 31:3:

2 'See, I have called by name Betzalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

3 and I have filled him with the spirit of G-d, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship'

למטה יהודה, חור-אורי בן-בצלאל בן, קראתי בשם, ראה

מלאכה-ובכל, בחכמה ובתבונה ובדעת, רוח אלהים, ג ואמלא אתו

Each individual will go to create a piece of art in nature. Use *Rivers and Tides* by Andy Goldsworthy, to show examples of works of art in nature.

Then we will take a tour of 2-4 to see creations.

37-60: Wool felting

Exodus 36:8 Crimson wool, part of what the Mishkan was made of.

Every person will get wool. Some of it will be pre-colored. Others will be plain white.

Show examples of patterns and what you can do.

Get felt, needles and wool. Create something based on work we've done together. Themes of community, how individuals form community, how nature fits into our community

61-75: Baking bread over the campfire, continuing felting project, making incense sticks

Read Leviticus 24:5-8, baking bread and burning incense (Frankincense) in the Mishkan.

Combine flour, salt, oil make into dough. Make round balls about size of golf ball (slightly larger), put oil on saj or cast iron skillet, bake pita bread. Spread honey over pita. Say Hamotzi. Eat!

Incense making; Take jar. Put in handful of Frankincense, 1 teaspoon of rosemary powder, 5-10 drops of essential oil. Put on lid, label, then either use by your bed or burn on campfire coals.

Build 3-4.

Making pita dough (water, flour, salt) and then making flat cakes, but them on the saj, then bake them. Put honey on them; eat!



CORNERSTONE 2018 RESOURCE

78-90: Debrief in Hevruta.

Break into Hevruta, find a solo location and discuss what programs worked, what programs you liked and could replicate, what activities you can do at camp. Where and when?

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

Consider using any of these activities as stand alone activities for a shorter time frame.