

Falling in Love with Trees *Spin It: Trees*

AUTHOR(S):	Chana Rothman
SUMMARY:	We explore trees, specifically tree trunks, and how they help us in our Jewish identity and formation. - Submitted by Chana Rothman
TOPIC(S):	Tree identification Personal relationship with trees Comfort in nature Jewish connection to trees
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	To gain an appreciation of trees and the systems that support them/us. To learn about trunks, bark, the uniqueness of each tree, and its connection to our Jewish tradition. To develop a personal relationship with trees and nature.
AUDIENCE:	10 - 20 participants, ages 5 - 99+
TIMING:	20 minutes
APPENDICES:	
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Blindfolds or bandanas (1 per pair of participants) Paper (1 pp) Pencil (1 pp)
SET-UP DETAILS:	Outdoors where there are at least 10 trees in one concentrated area (preferably a forest)

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

0:00 - 0:05

Brief conversation about tree trunks. What is the trunk? What purpose does it serve? What are the different ways we can get to know a tree by its trunk? Have you ever put your arms around a tree trunk - hugged it? (Yes, the tree-hugger joke is true!) We are going to get to do that.

0:05 - 0:15

Play Meet-A-Tree as outlined in Appendix Aleph.

Say Shehecheyanu if this is the first time you have played this game.

0:15 - 0:20

What does your trunk look like? What are the unique features of your physical and spiritual self? Draw your tree trunk on your piece of paper (you will be using this paper in your other two Spin It sessions to complete a tree). Further extend the thinking: What is Judaism's tree trunk? What purpose does it serve? What are ways we can "hug" and identify and love our tree trunk? Judaism's tree trunk?

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

What factors would you need to consider in doing this activity at your camp (ie, poison ivy, guiding the partners on how to create trust when your partner is blindfolded). What ages would do really well with this? What ages might need more help?