

### Fixing A Broken World: Tikkun Olam/Social Justice (Part 3) *Specialty Track*

<b>AUTHOR(S):</b>	Chana Rothman
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	We will take this time to integrate the first two sessions and envision which pieces to bring back to camp, and how to do that most effectively. We will also explore Jewish traditions, organizations, and texts that can help us with the challenges of doing social justice work at camp. Specific focus is on having difficult conversations and being inclusive. - <i>Submitted by Chana Rothman</i>
<b>TOPIC(S):</b>	Inclusion, Social Justice
<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b>	<p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be able to articulate what social change, social justice, and activism could look like at their camp</li> <li>- Challenge themselves to think of multiple ways, large, medium, and small, to make change at camp (programming and beyond)</li> <li>- Model an engaging way to create camp programming</li> <li>- Using a Jewish lens, participants will:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss and hone skills for productive disagreement when addressing hard things</li> <li>2. Consider and plan ways for social justice work to feel inclusive and engaging to the maximum number of people at camp</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	Group of 15-20 young adults
<b>TIMING:</b>	90 minutes
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<a href="#">"Jewish Social Justice Roundtable"</a>
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowls - 1 per person (preferably reusable)</li> <li>• Strips of colored paper</li> <li>• Pencils or pens</li> <li>• Chart paper</li> <li>• Markers</li> </ul>
<b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>	<p>Ideally this room will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chairs and alternative seating (not necessary but ideal)</li> <li>• Some space for movement during stretch breaks</li> <li>• Ideally easy access to outdoors for stretch breaks</li> </ul>

There is a sheet of poster paper in the room outlining the main agenda for the day. Text will read:

**FIXING A BROKEN WORLD**  
**SESSION 3: Social Justice at My Jewish Camp**

Facilitator: Chana Rothman

Goals

Participants will:

- Be able to articulate what social change, social justice, and activism could look like at their camp
- Challenge themselves to think of multiple ways, large, medium, and small, to make change at camp (programming and beyond)
- Model an engaging way to create camp programming
- Using a Jewish lens, participants will:
  3. Discuss and hone skills for productive disagreement when addressing hard things
  4. Consider and plan ways for social justice work to feel inclusive and engaging to the maximum number of people at camp

Agenda

1. Opening Activity
2. Review Toolbox
3. Activity: Build-A-Camp Activist Bowl
4. Having Difficult Conversations - a Jewish framework
5. Integrate/Celebrate/Process/Reflect

### **SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:**

0:00 - 0:10 Opening activity

0:10 - 0:40 Review Toolbox and Build-A-Camp Activist Bowl

1. 0:10 - 0:20 Brainstorm each element:
  - Camp Environment (dining hall, waterfront, all camp activity, Shabbat, etc)
  - Social Justice Issue (gun violence, consent, climate change, etc)
  - Jewish lens/framework/text (Shema/listening, Building the Mishkan, Nachshon parting the sea, Miriam, etc)
  - Activist tool (5 A's of Social Action - choose one or use all 5, The Story of Change - what kind of change-maker am I? Social justice songs, etc)
  - Allies/Alliances/Change partners (supervisor, co-counselors, campers, neighbors, organizations, etc)

Here is a partial list to get the brainstorming going...

Camp Environment/Setting	Activist Tools	Social Justice Issues	Alliance/Change Partners	Jewish Framework
Bunk/Cabin All camp programming Waterfront Mealtime Food Kitchen Night time Song session Arts & Crafts Transition times All-Unit activities Free Time/Mandatory-Optional Shabbat (includes Havdallah)	Listening pairs Dance Art Children's books Relationship Building NFTY 5 A's: - Awareness - Assessment - Action - Alliance - Advocacy Aleinu prayer - venn diagram - find your unique gift What kind of change-maker am I? Social justice songs	Gender Gun violence Race, Racism, Racial Justice Immigrant Rights Climate Change /	Supervisors Co-counselors Friends Campers Organizations Visiting faculty	Shema/listening Nachshon Miriam Building the Mishkan Gates of Justice Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof

2. (0:20 - 0:25) Share list of Jewish social justice organizations from website: "Jewish Social Justice Roundtable" <https://circle.org/jsource/jewish-social-justice-roundtable-2/> - this is so they can see what kind of work organizations are already doing, possibly link in and connect, and also to build the "Allies/Alliances/Change partners" piece of their "Camp Activist Bowl."
3. (0:25 - 0:40) Activity: Build-A-Camp Activist Bowl
  - Each participant gets a bowl and some "menu strips" labelled:  
 ACTIVIST TOOL  
 SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE  
 JEWISH FRAMEWORK  
 ALLIANCES/CHANGE PARTNERS  
 CAMP ENVIRONMENT
  - Give participants the following instructions and have them write their response onto their blank "menu strip":

**Pick your Camp Environment**  
**+ Choose Your Activist Tool**  
**+ Grab your Social Justice Issue**  
**+ Name your Jewish framework**  
**+ Add your People/Change Partners/Allies**  
**= ACTION / CHANGE AT CAMP!**

- Activity wrap-up: invite participants to share their Bowls

0:40 - 0:60 Having difficult conversations and facing hard things at camp

(0:40 - 0:50) Agree/Disagree spectrum activity.

One side of the room is “Agree” and the other is “Disagree.” Participants will walk to the side that most closely matches their reaction to the prompt. Remind participants to be thoughtful and sensitive to others, to be kind and honest.

- I have done social justice programming at camp.
- I am nervous to do social justice programming at camp.
- My camp is very thoughtful about how we do most things.
- My camp director and supervisors welcome difficult conversations.
- I don't bring up any difficult things at camp. People consider it their “safe and happy place” and I don't want to get targeted.
- People assume that everyone feels a certain way about hot button issues at camp, and that shuts down the conversation.
- I really love talking about hard and deep things at camp. That's one of the things I like best about camp!
- I am looking to bridge the gap between people who can talk about this stuff and people who can't.
- My camp would be more open to these conversations if they had an underlying Jewish context or value.

(0:50 - 0:60) Jewish text/tradition on disagreeing

Joke: Two Jews, three opinions

Joke: Desert island -> there's the synagogue I never go to!

Challenges:

How do we have difficult conversations when people might disagree, even strongly disagree? How do we create space for that disagreement? What about times when we need to come together to make decisions or plan actions?

What can Jewish tradition offer us here?

Having difficult conversations is a big part of activism.

What are some tools we've already explored? (Listening, Relationship Building, Alliances, Awareness, Nurturing)

What are some Jewish tools/traditions we haven't explored?

- Arguing and debate is part of our Jewish tradition (Talmud, Hillel/Shammai debates)
- In a *Machloket*, a rabbinic conversation where differing sides of a legal issue are being decided, the conversation is recorded in the text with BOTH the prevailing side and the minority opinion. Why is this important? Because the dialogue is actually more important than the ruling itself (basically: Jews love to argue!) AND later generations can refer back to the minority opinions to make new legal rulings (L'Dor va Dor)
- A modern day example of this is Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's "I Dissent!" - Justice Ginsburg wears a special collar on the day she will be delivering a dissenting opinion - this is very Jewish of her! (in fact, in the Supreme Court the dissenting opinion gets published for official record)
- Are there other models of discussion and decision-making in the Jewish tradition? Brainstorm.
- Name that these are mostly male/patriarchal models
- A page of Talmud is a conversation/debate throughout generations
- Listening skills - remember the Shema piece we read in Session 1 (it's in the Appendix)

0:60 - 0:90 Integrate/process/celebrate/reflect

- Reflection - conversation questions - any lingering questions, challenges, feedback for facilitator
- Song - Lo Alecha
- Bandaid - paint it gold
- Say where you're taking that bandaid
- Closing meditation
- Long time to process - write on sticky notes "my life take-aways" and "my camp take-aways" and stick them on flip chart paper with those prompts
- End with going around in a circle and saying one word

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:**

- What was the goal of this program?
- Is this a goal that could be useful for a program at your camp?
- Which activities/parts of the program did you like the best?
- Can you see using any of these activities in your camp? Where? With whom?
- When would you do the activity?
- Which programs would you not use in your camp? Why?
- What could you do in place of this/those activities?



## CORNERSTONE 2019 RESOURCE