

Why Not Create a New Jewish Holiday (or Ritual)?

Evening Program

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SUMMARY:	Mix one-part Jewish Why with one-part Human Need and create a New Jewish Holiday that is meaningful for you. Why not?
TOPIC(S):	Have fun creating a new meaningful holiday or Jewish practice that meets a need you have as a human, and combine it with a Jewish value.
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will learn a system for designing a new holiday/ritual. Participants could leave with a new holiday/ritual for themselves/their camp.
AUDIENCE:	8 th grade and up
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	N/A
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Pipe cleaners. Push Pins. Construction Paper (color and white) Markers. Sculpey. Play-Doh Glue sticks & Stickers Tape & Scissors
SET-UP DETAILS:	Room with tables for groups of 4 to work at.

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

MINUTE	Program
0-5	Welcome, Intro to program
5-15	Icebreaker: Share with a partner your favorite holiday or ritual and why?
15-20	Jews have created new rituals based on a variety of needs (historic, communal, location, time) We can do the same.
20-25	Brief history by Dan about the Arc of a holiday. Combining the Why, How, What and Need.

CORNERSTONE 2019 RESOURCE

Example:

Why: Take Care of God's Creation
How: Eating, re-enact stories, colors, etc.
Need: Climate change
What: Earth Activist Day

25-32 Brainstorm in small groups your favorite Jewish Why's (ie. B'tselem Elohim – we are created in the image of God, Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, Remember you were a stranger in a strange land etc.)
PICK ONE TO WORK WITH

32-39 Brainstorm in small groups some need you have as people (ie. Self-Care Connection, Giving Thanks, Climate Change, Fun Control, Adulthood Transition)
PICK ONE TO WORK WITH

39-45 Directions: Take your group's WHY and combine it with your group's NEED and create a new holiday or ritual that would represent both the Jewish Why and meet the Human Need. Play and do a storyboard or some model of what this new Holiday/ritual is, be ready to share your group's idea.

45-60 Work time in small groups to create this new Holiday/Ritual. Have a visual and a description to go with it.

60-70 Visual/Story Gallery Walk. Let each group describe what they've done.

70-75 Wrap up Debrief
- Surprise, you can also use these for a holiday that already exists!

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

If you have a little more time, after Gallery Walk, go back to your original group and consider if you want to incorporate anything else into your Holiday/Ritual.