

Forts and Tents: Investigating our relationship with space & place *Afternoon Experience*

AUTHOR(S):	Jonah Canner and Daniel Abramson
TOPIC(S)	Storytelling, Jewish Values
SUMMARY	Remember when a blanket was an impermeable barrier between you and the outside world? All you needed to feel safe was a flashlight, a pillow and some toys. This year, we have all faced experiences that forced us to reconsider the important role of the real-world spaces that shelter us physically, emotionally and spiritually. In this session, we will take to our living rooms and rebuild the tents and forts of our childhood. Through this creative exploration of shelters and spaces, we will examine what it means to create a place that feels like home.
GOALS:	<p>Think: Think about relationship with people and with land. Think about places as sites of relationships over time. Think about permanence and impermanence. Think about what constitutes a feeling of safety/shelter. Think about what you feel protected from. Interrogate notions of safety and protection. Consider the exclusion of those outside of the fort</p> <p>Feel: Connected to and responsible for (or in reciprocity with) places, disturbed in our assumptions about right to place, ownership of place, claiming of place. Disrupt extractionist/colonial world view.</p> <p>Do: Build a fort. Reflect on the feeling connected with being inside the fort/tent.</p>
AUDIENCE:	Designed as a virtual space with adaptation for in-person experience
TIMING:	Afternoon Experience - 75 minutes
APPENDICES:	Bereshit Chapter 28: Jacob text - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-QtelbsJxZqPkNB-pDvB0snECoADH90R6590W9jaT6M/edit?usp=sharing
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Blankets and Pillows to make a pillow fort Images of spaces described in Jewish texts
SET-UP DETAILS:	This session is designed for virtual learning but could be replicated in person, in a bunk using beds and pillows, etc.

SESSION TIMELINE

75 minutes

- 00:00 - 00:10 - Fort Building
- 00:10 - 00:15 - Stating group norms and outcomes/goals
- 00:15 - 00:25 - Participants share back feelings of being in the fort
- 00:25 - 00:40 - Facilitators model self-location exercise
- 00:40 - 00:50 - Participants in breakout groups practice self-location exercise.
- 00:50 - 01:00 - Tents and Forts - considering different Jewish models of places
- 01:00 - 01:10 - Bringing it back to camp
- 01:10 - 01:15 - Closing

SESSION OUTLINE:

- 00:00 - 00:10 - Participants build forts (play music)
- 00:10 - 00:15 - Stating group norms and outcomes/goals
- 00:15 - 00:25 - Participants share back feelings of being in the fort (facilitator notes feelings to refer back to)
- 00:25 - 00:40 - Facilitators model self-location (focus on thoughts about colonization/impact, Land acknowledgments? etc)
- 00:40 - 00:50 - Participants in breakout groups practice self-location.
 - *Prompting Question (put in chat before starting breakouts):* Think about a place that is important to you. Talk about your relationship with that place. Include feelings you get in that place, the significance that place has in your life, and questions that place brings up for you.
- 00:50 - 01:00 - Tents and Forts - considering different Jewish models of places
 - Ask: What's the difference between a tent and a fort? (record responses)
 - Ask: What are some Jewish models of kinds of spaces that people make
 - Share with images: Sukkah, Tallit, Sanctuary, Temple, Tent, Chuppah, Bayit, Mishkan, Ark (boat)
 - Ask: What might different ideas of spaces we find in Judaism be asking us about the kinds of spaces we want to be a part of creating in our world today?
- 01:00 - 01:10 - What could be done this summer to make camp the best combination of tents and forts for us, for our campers, for our community, for the communities that we are in relationship with, and for the Land?
- 01:10 - 1:15 - Concluding ideas
 - In the text ([Bereshit Chapter 28](#)), Jacob places a rock as an acknowledgement of the sacredness of the space. It is notable that it isn't a flag or a marker of ownership to claim a space, rather Jacob marks the place and commits to donate a tenth of what he has as gratitude for his blessings.



CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

The prompt questions in this program could be re-imagined to start discussions on a number of different concepts:

Who are included in specific spaces and who is excluded?

What does it mean to create a safe and welcoming space?

How does our sense of home and security relate to the experience of others with whom we share space?

IMAGES



