

## CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

### Israel Ice Breaker

*Elevate Israel*

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<b>TOPIC (S)</b>	Story telling, Israel
<b>SUMMARY</b>	A long-form ice breaker to help people share their personal relationships to Israel and open the door for a more dynamic set of emotions, experiences, and opinions about the contemporary Jewish State.
<b>GOALS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivate bravery in sharing personal stories and opinions around an increasingly polarized topic</li> <li>• Invite multiple narratives and experiences into the room around Israel</li> <li>• Draw out the connections between place and emotion</li> </ul>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	8th grade +, group size <25
<b>TIMING:</b>	Ice Breaker 15+ min
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	NA
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	Map of Israel (printed large), sticky notes and markers if in person, list of emotions (set up as a “wheel” or pulled out of a hat).
<b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>	Indoors with a room or wall to put the large map of Israel.

## SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00 - 00:05 - Introductions and welcome
- 00:05 - 00:10 - Rounds 1-3 of emotion on the map
- 00:10 - 00:15 - Pair-Share one emotion and place
- 00:15 - 00:20 - Debrief (and repeat as many times as desired)

## SESSION OUTLINE:

### **Spark Question** (in ice breakouts or full group):

Create an agree/disagree spectrum using Zoom's annotate feature about which of the two people prefer:

- Falafel or shawarma
- Army day or Eilat Pool Party
- Shabbat in Tel Aviv or Shabbat in Jerusalem

For the last one, give people 3 min to find a partner in a different place on the spectrum and discuss.

**Transition:** We all come from different places, bring different stories with us, and actually the good conversations happen when we find ourselves on different places on a spectrum.

- Sometimes when it comes to Israel, being in "different places" can raise the heat in the room
- But actually disagreement gives us just as much to bond over as the things we have in common

**Transition:** We're going to explore what some of the emotional relationships are that we have to Israel and try to "map them out" literally and figuratively. If online, use "Wheel Decide" with a variety of different emotions ranging across the spectrum (see emotions below)

- Ask a volunteer to "wheel" around to pick the first emotion. Then all participants will and then choose a place in Israel where they have felt that emotion before. [Note: you can either have everyone share one large map, or you can print out individual maps for each participant to mark their own. IF using a large map, have sticky notes on hand, where participants write down the name of the emotion and then stick it to a place in Israel.]
  - Tell everyone that if they aren't sure where to find a place on the map of Israel, they can ask and you will help them find it!

- Go through 3 rounds of this activity, or until there is a diversity of emotions in various places. Ideally, you'll have different emotions in the same location.

Emotions:

- Proud
- Frustrated
- Connected
- Disconnected
- Excited
- Scared
- Safe
- Angry
- Confused
- Conflicted
- Inspired
- Overwhelmed
- Surprised

Break the group into groups of 2-3 and ask them to pick one emotion and share a personal story that highlights why they chose to put that emotion there.

- For example, *I put proud in the Negev because when I was in college, I went on a hike in the desert with my study abroad cohort and even though I never thought of myself as fit or athletic, I was at the front of the group the whole time, and I remember getting to the top and feeling like "In Israel I can decide what type of person I want to be".*

**Share out:** ask for 3-4 volunteers to share their stories, make sure to have a variety of places and emotions -- positive/negative, but also different emotions in the same place.

**Notice moment:** Diversity of emotions here - both across the land of Israel and also within specific places. That's an incredible place for a discussion to begin.

Sharing stories can be hard, and personal. Close out with a round robin go around of gratitude where everyone shares a gratitude for someone else in the room. This will help encourage a community of sharing and reflecting together.

### Closing:

- Remember that our feelings are tied to experiences which come from our stories
- Approach complexity through the lens of feelings, experience, values, we are making room for more people in our community to feel supported and at home, regardless of where they stand.
- And we want other people to feel comfortable being here, so when we hear opinions that are different from ours, I encourage you to get curious about the life stories that inform those opinions so that we can be in conversation with each other rather than in argument about each others' ideas.

### BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

Use this space to recommend possible adaptations, modifications, creative twists, or other suggestions.

- If in person, write down each emotion and put it in a hat. Campers can then pull emotions out of the hat instead of the “wheel decide”.
- You can choose to either use one BIG shared map, taped/pinned to the wall/floor, or you can print individual copies of each map to make it a more reflective or personal activity. For more charged Israel environments, individual maps may make participants feel more comfortable being honest with their maps.
- Regardless of which approach you take to “mapping”, think carefully about which map you want to use. Do you plan to use a map that marks the Green Line? Do you include the Arabic names for Arab cities within Israel? Do you use a map that uses Hebrew names for cities in the West Bank? These decisions have subtle implications and assumptions about the Israeli landscape, so think carefully about what messaging you will send based on the map that you choose.
- If campers/staff are invested in continuing the conversation, you could then reflect on the map that you chose to use and open a conversation on what emotions that specific map raises for people (this is particularly helpful for staff communities who may have opinions about the presence or absence of the Green Line on maps used at camp).