

Disabilities at Camp: Going from Inclusion towards Universal Design *Specialty Track 1*

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TOPIC (S)	Inclusion-Disabilities
SUMMARY	Is camp accessible and universally designed? In this meaningful and thought provoking speciality track, we will intentionally push ourselves to think about camp from a universal design perspective, explore how our own identities factor into an inclusion mindset, learn how to appropriately support the many different needs that campers might come to camp with, and apply these learnings to your camp ecosystem. Together we will learn and use new language, tools, and pedagogy to engage and wrestle with disabilities in a camp setting.
GOALS:	Participants will feel comfortable talking about inclusion. Participants will be able to identify their personal biases that they are bringing into this space. Participants will be able to recognize that Judaism has a space for inclusion. Participants will know framing and expectations for this speciality track.
AUDIENCE:	This program is for all staff members. Ideal group size would be 15-25
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	Appendix A-List of Blessings https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MsMzjRGq9ErUPrMdet4nU2k1xsBSPS3KJrtY4CeZFk0/edit?usp=sharing Appendix B-Body Outline Worksheet https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JAXb-2N7VVjc55DGKHwfbZZ6sxDhuAmtBbuN5QEnV2o/edit?usp=sharing
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Appendix A, Appendix B, Simon Sinek's Golden Circle graphic , writing utensils, big Post Its, paper
SET-UP DETAILS:	Zoom/a room with space to meet as a big group and to have small group discussions [Detail the space set-up for anyone trying to replicate this program]

SESSION TIMELINE

00:00-00:10 Introduction Activity
00:10-00:20 Introduction, Framing and Mixer
00:20-00:30 Brit
00:30-00:40 Theory of Why-Camper Care style
00:40-1:00 Identity Activity
1:00-1:15 Reflection

SESSION OUTLINE:

00:00-00:10 Set Induction

Participants will receive a private chat that has a specific blessing ([Appendix 1](#)). Session leader will have group go around and introduce themselves (Name, Pronouns and Camp) and answer these questions-

Was this the first time you've heard this blessing? If not, when have you heard/used it before?

Is this a blessing you would like to use in your daily life more?

How does this connect to other blessings you've heard before? Do you notice similarities or differences between them and your blessing?

Session leader will introduce Maimonides' Blessing for people who are different-

"A person who sees...people with disfigured faces or limbs recites the blessing, '*Blessed are You, [...]God, [Ruler] of the universe, who makes people different.*'

A person who sees a person who is blind or lame, or who is covered with sores and white pustules (or similar ailment), recites the blessing,

'Blessed are You, [...] our God, Ruler of the universe, who is a righteous judge.'

But if they (the one with the disability) were born that way, a person says,

'Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who makes people different.' "

-Mishneh Torah, Hilchot B'rachot 10:12, based on B'rachot 58b

Discussion Questions-

Why do you think the rabbis created this blessing?

This blessing implies that God makes people differently—what do you think about that?

Does this blessing make you think any differently of God? Of Judaism?

What does calling people with disabilities “different” imply?

00:10-00:20 Introduction and Mixer

Session leader will introduce the track and will lead the group in a mixer, Where The Wind Blows Zoom style.

00:20-00:30 Jamboard Brit

Group creates a Jamboard Brit to uphold for all of their sessions together.

00:30-00:40 Theory of Why for Camper Care

Using a Menti, the session leader will ask participants to answer “What does camper care look like at your camp?”

Session leader will show a graphic with Simon Sinek’s Golden Circle graphic (<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DP2RlpYWAAIHhhj.jpg>) and invite participants to fill out a “Golden Circle” for themselves and their camps on a Jamboard.

00:40-1:00 Identity Activity

Session leader will instruct participants to use the “Body Outline” worksheet ([Appendix 2](#)). First ask participants to draw/write on the outline what they think people notice/see when they meet them for the first time.

If they need more prompting, offer that participants can write what their friends notice about them. Remind participants that they are writing noticeable/visible/obvious qualities that everyone can see.

Then, after a few minutes/when it seems like everyone is finished, then ask participants to write down qualities or aspects of their identities that people might **not** notice about them. Prompt participants to write characteristics about themselves that they choose to tell people (Reassure participants that they will not be sharing these out loud).

Once everyone is finished/close to finished, begin a general discussion.

Discussion Questions:

What did this activity make you think about?

Why do you think you have qualities that you don’t share?

As staff members, how can we think about our campers and all their qualities (seen and unseen)? (Especially before they come to camp, and then while they are at camp)

CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

How does your identity frame the way you treat others? What identity biases do you bring to the table?

1:00-1:15 Reflection

Participants will craft a 6 Word Memoir (can do one or more) on what this session brought up for them in terms of inclusion, disabilities and their identities. Participants will put their memoirs on a Zoom Whiteboard.

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

In order to best adapt this program for in camp use I would suggest:

- Individually writing out the blessings or printing them to then hand out to participants
- Printing a large photo of Simon Sinek's Golden Circle to look at or projecting it
- Bringing everyone into a circle for the discussion where everyone can see everyone else
- Having plenty of paper and writing utensils available