



CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

Insta-Choir: Empowering Campers through Song *Shabboption*

AUTHOR(S):	Eliana Light
TOPIC (S)	Music, Prayer
SUMMARY	How, and why, to have an insta-choir: a group of campers that learn songs that will be used in prayer, song session, or otherwise. Not a performance, and not formal- just fun, quick, and empowering. No songleader or instrument experience needed- passion for singing a plus!
GOALS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To explore how campers can be empowered to lead through an insta-choir model• To experience some of the language and tools that have proven successful• To discuss how such a model could be adapted for camps this summer
AUDIENCE:	This session is meant as professional development for fellows at cornerstone. An insta-choir is appropriate for any campers who are excited about singing!
TIMING:	30 minutes
APPENDICES:	N/A
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Lyrics of any songs you are going to teach, either as handouts or projections
SET-UP DETAILS:	Any location where singing can happen



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SESSION TIMELINE

00:00-00:10 Demonstrating/learning a song together

00:10-00:20 Debrief and explore

00:20-00:30 Taking it back to camp

SESSION OUTLINE:

00:00-00:10 Demonstrating/learning a song together

- *Welcome to insta-choir! I'm so so grateful that you're here to sing with me today. Let's go around and introduce ourselves. Sing your name in whatever way you'd like!*
- *I'll say it again, I'm so grateful that you are here! Why? Because I need YOU! That's right. This isn't a regular choir that performs in the front. No, you are a special choir with an important mission. You are going to learn the song that I'll be leading tonight/whenever, and your job is to infiltrate the rest of camp. You'll sing from your seat, but you'll have the insider knowledge. The other campers won't even know they are learning, but you'll help them learn. You'll be bringing up the energy and making the service/program so much better! Are you up for the challenge?*
- *Great! Let's do it.*
- *Learn the song in a fun, upbeat, high-energy way.*
- *At the end, say,*
 - *I'm so so grateful for you all! Thank you so much for taking on this mission. I couldn't do it without you! Tonight, make sure to plant yourself amongst the unsuspecting crowd. Look at me if you need a signal. You rock!*
- *Hands in! (or up) Gooooo insta-choir!*

00:10-00:20 Debrief and explore

- *Take a deep breath after that. What did you notice about the choices made? What was the goal? Have a discussion. Talk about the framing choices, about empowerment, about behavior pre-management.*
- *Eliana tells the story about the first insta-choir at RSA.*
 - *Given as a shabbat option for half an hour on Friday afternoon*
 - *Wasn't sure who would come- around 6 6th graders did*
 - *They were super hyper and we kept the energy up*
 - *It was parshat Shlach Lecha so I used the language of "choir spies" in explaining their role*
 - *We sang through a few of the songs we'd use at kabbalat shabbat*
 - *During the service, I would look at them and smile or make gestures, and they were really focused. These were the kids often chastised for not paying attention.*
 - *Interestingly, at ma'ariv, they were unfocused again.*
 - *After the service, they asked if we could sing everyday. So we did!*

Commented [1]: Eliana, are you able to add the song you're going to use in this session as an appendix?

Commented [2]: Hi Liora! I can definitely do that once I know what the song is. I'd love to teach a song that we'll be using later that day as part of the pre-shabbat moment, but I'm not sure what that will be yet as that program has not been solidified. As soon as I know, I can add it in. Thank you!



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00:20-00:30 Taking it back to camp

- How can we take this back to camp this summer? What are our challenges? How can we keep the core goal of empowerment if we need to discourage singing aloud?
- End by singing the song we've learned one more time

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

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

- Think about what your song needs are- t'fillah, shira, etc, and where the insta-choir could be most effective
- Think about how much time you have- is it one shabbat option, or an elective?
- Think about how the campers will know the song- lyrics, projections, something else?
- How could this be modified to a different group activity, like dance?