

CORNERSTONE 2021 RESOURCE

THE HOPE, THE HYPE, THE HOME: CLIMATE CHANGE AND JEWISH CAMP

Elective

AUTHOR(S):	Chana Rothman
TOPIC (S)	Leadership Skills, Nature, Social Justice
SUMMARY	This session uses <i>Lo Alecha</i> (from Pirke Avot 2:21, 20) as a touchstone text to guide participants towards a clear picture of what it can look like to fight climate change at Jewish camp. Through acts both large and small, short term and long term, you have the power to make change, bring others on board, and meet this great challenge of our lifetime.
GOALS:	Participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect fighting climate change to Judaism and Jewish values - Understand their own power to combat climate change - Visualize how environmental justice and sustainability can be incorporated into the missions and operations of their camps
AUDIENCE:	Fellows, can also be liaisons; no limit to group size
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	<p>Music, Text, Poetry: Second paragraph of Shema plus poetry/interpretations: https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/105090.4?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en</p> <p>Noam Katz's "Lo Alecha" on Spotify. Youtube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obmb9PW7Mo</p> <p>LYJ Netzer singing Noam Katz's "Lo Alecha" - Soundcloud link: https://soundcloud.com/ljy-netzer/lo-alecha-even-if-you-cant-finish-what-you-begin</p>

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Websites, Organizations, & Social Media:

Organization	Website links	Social Media
Jewish Youth Climate Movement (affiliated with Hazon)	https://www.jewishyouthclimatemovement.org/ Video: https://www.jewishyouthclimatemovement.org/post/jycm-climate-stories-change-is-possible-by-yonah-sadeh	@jewishyouthclimatemovement on Instagram & Twitter Facebook page: www.facebook.com/jewishyouthclimatemovement/
Dayenu - A Jewish Call to Climate Action	dayenu.org	Instagram: @joindayenu www.instagram.com/joindayenu/
Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability	www.hazon.org	Instagram @hazonvision Twitter @hazon
Sustaining All Life	www.sustainingalllife.org	Instagram @sustaining_all_life Twitter @SustainAllLife

MATERIALS NEEDED:

This is a flexible session in terms of materials. Since it is being facilitated online, the session leader will be asking people to use what they have around their home.

SET-UP DETAILS:

This program was initially run online. Ideally this program would be run outdoors, in person, at camp. Here are two possible setups:

Online:

- participants should find a place where they can see something from nature - whether next to a window or looking at a plant in their home/indoor space.

Outdoors:

- Ideally a setting in nature where participants can move around and also can hear each other for an in-depth conversation

SESSION TIMELINE

0:00 - 0:20 - Introduction - setting the stage
0:20 - 0:30 - Processing - texts and reflection
0:30 - 0:40 - Spiritual Resilience Tools
0:40 - 0:55 - Deep Dive into Climate Justice at Camp
0:55 - 0:75 - Next steps and wrap up

SESSION OUTLINE:

1. Introduction - Setting the Stage (20 min)

0:00-0:05 - Participants enter, fill out menti survey - *interactive survey*
Noam Katz's "Lo Alecha" is playing as participants enter the Zoom room.
Session facilitator has a question written on the white board along with a menti number.
Participants can answer the question in the menti survey. The question is: "What feelings come up for you when you think about climate change?"
Participants' responses roll in on the screen.

0:05 -0:15 - Introduction, set Brit/group covenant - *facilitated dialogue*
Session facilitator reflects on the range of responses shared by participants and acknowledges that this is a big and challenging topic to look at. Session facilitator asks participants to look at the survey results and notice the other people in the Zoom room. If there's time (small group), each person can say their name and make a sound/face they feel when they think about climate change.

Session facilitator shares a few kavanot for this session:

- There is room for you and your feelings about climate change!
- We are in this together (both this session, and this process of change-making, and this earth)
- Lo Alecha will be our "touchstone text": Each of us, on our own, is not obligated to finish this work. Yet we cannot run away from it. We will look at it together and lean on our shared love of camp, of the earth, and of our Jewish heritage/culture/wisdom to envision change together.

0:15 - 0:20 - Slideshow - *frontal presentation using music and art*
The slideshow begins with basic facts about climate change and then shifts to Jewish texts

that session facilitator will be using to frame the conversation.

2. Processing - Texts and Reflection (10 min)

0:20 - 0:22 - Brief review of touchstone text - *frontal presentation*

Session facilitator outlines the texts from the slide show: second paragraph of the Shema plus poem by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, and “Lo Alecha” from Pirke Avot.

Session facilitator possible dialogue:

When looking at the Shema text, there is a possibility to get overwhelmed. The amount of damage and destruction we have made as humans is overwhelming. That is why we lean on our Jewish tradition. Pirke Avot, the wisdom of our ancestors, gives us a teaching from Rabbi Tarfon (Pirke Avot 2:21) that is very applicable when looking at climate change:

Lo Alecha Hamlacha Ligmor - You don't have to finish the whole thing

V'lo Atah Ben Chorin L'hibateil Minena - And you're also not free to walk away from it.

That's a balancing act! You CAN dig in, knowing you don't have to do it all, and you don't have to finish it by yourself. And you MUST dig in, because this is a huge project and it's going to take every single one of us doing as much as can and helping each other out!

0:22 - 0:30 - Breakout rooms for reflection - Where am I now? Where can I go? What is my reach (dream big)? - *small group, self-guided discussion*

3. Spiritual Resilience Tools (10 min)

0:30 - 0:35 - Movement, Venting, Big Feelings activity - Lo Alecha - *guided movement activity*

This work can bring up big feelings. We are going to try a few different tools to create resilience as we embark (or continue) together on this long journey.

Session facilitator refers to slide that has a list of “Spiritual Resilience Tools.”

0:35 - 0:40 - Focusing in on camp as home - creativity - *guided creative/listening activity*

Facilitator shows slide about listening in turns. Session facilitator frames this as a tool, a social justice approach (each person gets equal time), a way to connect, and a crucial skill for doing big work in community.

Session facilitator gives directions to divide into pairs and take turns listening to each other.

Session facilitator gives guidelines:

- Use a timer
- Show the person that you care about what they are saying
- This is a skill that will serve you life long: You can listen deeply when you know you will get a turn, and you can share honestly when you know someone is listening deeply

4. Camp & Climate Justice - Deep Dive (15 min)

0:40 - 0:50 - Brainstorm on teachings/Jewish values - Lo Alecha & Bal Tashchit at camp

(breakout rooms) - Where is my camp now? Where can we go? What is my reach for us (dream big)? - *small group, self-guided discussion*

0:50 - 0:55 - Group info-gathering - Use Answergarten - *interactive, self-directed information sourcing* - Organizations working on climate change - *frontal presentation*

5. Next Steps & Wrap Up (20 min)

0:55 - 0:65

Session facilitator reads web description, and tells participants this is an opportunity to check in. Have they gotten what they want out of this session? What is missing? What do they need to talk about, plan, ask, or grieve in order to get started (or continue) with this

work to reverse climate change? Here is the web description:

“Love Greta Thunberg? Wonder how to do her work at camp? Jewish tradition offers us wisdom, tools, and spiritual resilience to take on this existential challenge of our time. We will take a look at the reality of the climate crisis and build skills and ideas to take back to our work at camp and in the world. No matter where you are with climate change - whether you don't want to face it or you're already on board to fight it - this session is for you. We need every person to make - and be - this change, together.”

Facilitator offers breakout rooms to develop short and long term goals at camp. These break out rooms can be self-selected according to topic, or they can be random. Group can decide based on their needs.

0:65 - 0:75 - Wrap up

Participants have chance to:

- reflect
- make a plan
- connect with each other
- identify spiritual resilience tools
- find ways to stay in touch
- dream big
- plan next steps
- ask any lingering questions

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Session facilitator asks the group to read this final slide out loud together:

WE CAN DO THIS!

We have the tools.

We have the resources.

We have the *chutzpah*.

We have the Jewish camp community.

We have the knowledge.

We have the teamwork.

WE ARE THE ONES

TO DO THIS WORK!

Stay connected and hopeful.

Lo Alecha!

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

This session is preferable in person, so some possible modifications would be:

- Instead of slides, participants can read posters and printouts out loud to each other
- Instead of recorded music, facilitator can sing or bring a songleader in to sing the “Lo Alecha” song
- When participants connect with the outdoors, they can be close to each other but each in their own spot outdoors
- There can be stations around the room modeling the spiritual resilience tools: a music-making area, an art area, a reading nook, a building area, a writing area, etc.
- This could also be a nice Shabbat activity (minus any activities people don’t do on Shabbat) - a great opportunity to think about stopping the active routine and pausing to reflect on the way we have been living, to envision a different way we could live. Shabbat can be a guide here.