

CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE

Power of Language and LGBTQ Youth *Fellows Elective 1*

AUTHOR(S):	Dubbs Weinblatt
SUMMARY:	In this session we will begin to identify different ways of supporting LGBTQ youth by learning affirming language and approaches to conversations all through a Jewish values lens.
ABC GOALS:	<p>Affective: Participants will feel...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of excitement around Jewish values • Confident to support LGBTQ folks in various ways <p>Behavior: Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Jewish values as a way to support LGBTQ folks • Make connections between Jewish values and building safer camp spaces <p>Cognitive: Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2-3 Jewish values they can deploy when needed • Affirming language and ways to respond in various scenarios • They can support LGBTQ folks with the tools they already have
AUDIENCE:	Age 10 and up; 15-25 people if for campers and if for staff, any size group
TIMING:	60 minutes
APPENDICES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish Values Handout, 1 pp including facilitator (same for scenarios, it won't let me indicate that) • Jewish Values Scenarios handout
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flipchart paper (or butcher paper sections of the same size) -- one piece per value (10 values plus spares for values folks add) • Sharpie Markers – 1 pp • Pens/pencils -- 1 pp • Tape to hold up easel/butcher paper • 2-3 clipboards participants can use to write on if needed

SET-UP DETAILS:

A space that can hold up to 25 people and has walls to hang paper on (aka not in an open field but an outdoor space with smooth walls will work; rock walls will not work). Make sure there are enough chairs for participants. Tables aren't necessary and there will be some clipboards folks can use to write on if they need a flat surface

Room setup:

At the top of each piece of flipchart/butcher paper, write out one of the Jewish values so each value has its own piece of paper. Please include both the English and Hebrew transliteration. Have these values taped up on the walls spread throughout the room. Make sure 2-3 blank pages are hung as well for folks to write-in their own.

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:07 - Introductions, setting group norms, agenda run-through
- 00:07-00:12 - Jewish Values ice breaker
- 00:12-00:32 - Jewish Values exploration and debrief
- 00:32-00:50 - Scenarios using the Jewish Values
- 00:50-01:00 - Debrief, questions, and closing

SESSION OUTLINE:

00:00-00:07 – Introductions

Session leader welcomes participants, introduces self with name and pronouns if comfortable doing so, run through the session goal and agenda, and will set group intentions/kavanot. Goal, Agenda and Intentions are below.

Goal: Begin to identify different ways of supporting LGBTQ youth by learning affirming language and approaches to conversations all through a Jewish values lens.

Agenda

Intentions

Jewish Values ice breaker

Jewish Values exploration and debrief

Scenarios using the Jewish Values

Debrief, questions, and closing

Intentions/Kavanot

Growth and Learning Mindset

Take Space/Make Space

Take Lessons, Leave Stories

Trust Intent, Tend Impact

Prepare for Non-closure

Stay present/Self-regulate

Have Fun!

What else? Participants can add their own intentions here

00:07-00:12 - Jewish Values ice breaker

Session leader shares the following prompt with participants:

Think of and visualize your all-time favorite Jewish value – this will be the value that gets you the most hyped! The value you could decorate your house with, wear tracksuits with its emblem on it, and have tchotchkes (trinkets) that represent it. If you need inspiration, look at the values on the pages hanging around the room.

Give folks about 30 seconds to think and then prompt: *What is your value and tchotchke? Why'd you choose this tchotchke to represent this value?* Have 2-3 folks share.

00:12-00:32 - Jewish Values exploration and debrief

Session leader shares a version of this with the group: *You're a counselor because you have what it takes to be leaders for your campers but no one expects you to know everything – no one does! Some of the biggest barriers for folks who want to show up for LGBTQ+ people are fearing they don't have all of the answers and/or that they're going to say the wrong thing. Instead of avoiding necessary interventions or freezing/ignoring/deflecting when asked a question; what if you could pull from your already strong (and growing) toolbox?*

Session leader will hand out the Jewish Values worksheet with the 10 Jewish Values listed. The session leader will share the following prompt with participants: *Take five minutes and pick 4-5 Jewish Values in the handout here and define them in your own words. There's space to add your own at the bottom. What feelings do these values evoke? How do you practice these values? Take about one minute per value. Not every value will resonate with you and so it's important to find the values that vibrate within to help guide you.*

After five minutes, the session leader will prompt the group with these questions for a 5-7-minute discussion:

What do these values mean to you?

How do you live these values?

What feelings do these values evoke?

Did anyone have similar feelings about a different value?

Then the session leader will prompt participants to take five minutes and pick one or two of their defined values and find the corresponding value on the wall. Using the markers, have them write in their definitions/key words. Encourage participants to make sure each value on the wall has at least one definition. There will be blank pieces of paper hung for folks to add their own values.

00:32-00:50 - Scenarios using the Jewish Values

Session leader: *We might not always have the answers but we can always show up in our values. How can you apply your Jewish values when supporting the LGBTQ folks in your life? How can you still use affirming language even if you don't know every term or identity or perfect way to intervene? (Spoiler: there is no "perfect" intervention) In this exercise, we will practice scenarios that may come up at camp surrounding LGBTQ+ topics. You may have the answer and you may not; the goal is to figure out which value(s) you can use and practice using those. Even if you have the answer (wonderful!), I encourage you to practice using a Jewish value instead. You never know when a situation may arise where you'll need to call upon this skill!*

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Session leader will pass out the scenario handout; one per person. Randomly place participants into groups of three.

Each of you will pick one scenario to work through. Role play and practice what you would say in these moments, grounding your answers in Jewish values. Lean on each other and troubleshoot what your answers could look like. You'll each have about 5 minutes to work through your individual scenarios. If you have extra time, you can build your own scenario to work through.

Give folks a 5-minute warning and then come back together with 10 minutes left of the session.

00:50-01:00 - Debrief, questions, and closing

Session leader prompts discussion:

How did that go? How did it feel?

How was it pulling from Jewish values for interventions?

Where could you see yourself applying this skill in other areas of camp?

Did any of you create scenarios? What were they?

What else came up? What questions do you have?

You all have the skills and knowledge to show up for your campers when they need you.

Session leader prompts closing go around in the last few minutes: *Let's close out by going around and each of you will share a new Jewish value you're excited about.*

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP:

- Session leader may feel free to create different scenarios and/or add/remove Jewish values to match those of their camp