

Loop Loop Loop Your Collective Creativity

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SUMMARY: In this session, you'll create Psalm-inspired writings (in small groups) and then use a loop machine--which records and repeats audio of what we say or sing into it--to enrich your writings by adding layer after layer, be it sound or music or commentary or other creative inputs.

GOALS:

- 1) Feel a sense of contribution and accomplishment
- 2) Improvise the way(s) that you are contributing
- 3) Identify new ways to engage individuals in a group setting

AUDIENCE: Recommended to use with those 14 years old and above (campers or staff)

TIMING: 45 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Pens/pencils & paper
- Electronic loop machine
- Amp/speaker
- Microphone & stand

SET-UP: For this program, try to find an open room, with some tables and chairs around the perimeter that can be used for the creative writing.

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00 - 00:05 – Intro to loop + examples
- 00:05 - 00:10 – Share prayer text related to awe and wonder (mah rabu)
- 00:10 - 00:20 – Writing using interpretation and inspiration from the text
- 00:20 - 00:30 – Recording writings and layering on top of the recording
- 00:30 - 00:40 – Jam session / time to experiment
- 00:40 - 00:45 – Wrap-up

SESSION OUTLINE

00:00 - 00:05 – Intro to loop + examples

- Explain how the loop machine works: a soundbite/phrase of audio is recorded and then that soundbite/phrase continuously plays while additional sounds, or tracks, are added on top of it, and then the combined audio continuously plays.
- Share any previously recorded examples of looped tracks.

00:05 - 00:10 – Share prayer text related to awe and wonder (mah rabu)

- a verse from Psalms 104:24: “Mah Rabu Maasecha Hashem Kulam Bechachmah Asita Malah Haaretz Kinyanecha” – “How great/many are Your deeds G-d, All of them You have made with wisdom –the earth is full of Your creations.”

00:10 - 00:20 – Writing using interpretation and inspiration from the text

- Allow participants, individually and/or in small groups, write creatively about what comes up for them from the Mah Rabu prayer
- Examples of what they might create:
 - A poem about awe and wonder
 - A list about things that instill awe and wonder in them
 - A song verse about awe and wonder

00:20 - 00:30 – Recording writings and layering on top of the recording

- One individual, or one representative from a group, will come up to the loop machine and recite/perform what they wrote into the mic
 - This can be the entire loop or have other individuals/representatives ready to record consecutively, allowing the single loop to consist of multiple readings
- Invite other individuals and groups to come up, as they feel inspired, and add their sounds/music/words to the loop
- One or multiple loops can be made during this time, using your discretion

00:30 - 00:40 – Jam session / time to experiment

00:40 - 00:45 – Wrap-up (using any or multiple of the following questions)

- *What came up for you as you examined the prayer and wrote?*
- *What did you feel and experience as you listened to the loop?*
 - *By what was added to the initial writing that was shared?*
 - *By continuously hearing what was initially shared?*
 - *By noticing what was added to the initial share?*
- *What does it mean to layer on top of other’s thoughts and how is this practice reflected in Jewish traditions?*

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

If you don't have a loop machine at camp, the goals of this activity can still be achieved through a "live" method--where one participating shares their writing and continuously reading it while others join in one, at a time, adding layers of music/sounds alongside the focal reader and also continuously doing so until the end of that "loop."