

LIVEJEWISH: It's as easy as 1-2-3
Friday Night Mixer 7:30 – 8:30

Supplies: Rotation cards, Strips of paper with torah stories, paper bags,

I. Skit:

Ben: Hey guys, crazy to believe that it is already time for Family Retreat. I wonder how our buddy Isaiah is doing? Luckily my cases of gaga arm is all healed up. I'm ready to go!

Suzan: Seriously, o how time flies! After countless sessions of Religious School and Noar nights, awesome youth group events, fantastic Got Shabbats, and believe it or not... Camp Kefli registration is already open!

(Someone runs across the stage with a sign saying, "Sign up for Camp Kefli!")

Suzan: But nothing is like the family retreat! Last year was so much fun! I loved learning all about Isaiah and his fellow prophets. I wonder what we're going to be doing this year?

Ben: You mean besides how to beat Ira in gaga?

(In walks Ira, cutting Ben off)

Ira: Hey guys, I've been having this problem and I'm hoping you can help me... I saw this billboard the other day, and it was of Moses holding up a tablet that reads, "LIVEJEWISH" (**hold up picture**). And it got me thinking, what does it mean to LIVEJEWISH? I mean, occasionally I go to services, I'll have Shabbat dinners, I try to live a moral life, but is that enough?! What does Living Jewish mean to you guys?

Ben: that's a great question! For me, to LIVEJEWISH means that I get to be a part of this awesome community and spend time with all of my Temple Isaiah friends!

Suzan: Yeah, I do love this wonderful community, but to LIVEJEWISH is more than that for me. I really like to study and learn about our rich tradition and stories!

Julie: hmmm its crazy how we each have our own way of Living Jewish. I wonder if the Jewish people had this same debate back in the day?!

(Hold up a sign that reads "America 1776")

Benjamin Franklenstein (played by Deb): Man, it is so good to be in America, where we can practice religious freedom! Now I can pray, celebrate Shabbat, be a part of a Jewish community, and play gaga! No questions asked. But I must say, it is certainly hard to balance American life and Jewish life in this free land. I wonder if they had these problems in years past.

(Hold up a sign that reads Israel, way way way back in the day!)

Cut to Rabbi Hillel and Rabbi Shammai (played by Rabbi Forrest and Rabbi Graetz)

RH: Hey Rabbi Shammai, what's up buddy? Looks like you have a bad case of gaga knuckles.

RS: Hey Rabbi Hillel, yeah, we really need to find a ball that isn't made of stone! It is paaainnnful. The things we do for this glorious game! So what's going on?

RH: Wellll, we've been living in some crazy times and it got me thinking, what does it mean to LIVEJEWISH? Is it praying everyday? Is it celebrating Shabbat? How do we know if it is enough?!

RS: Man that is a great question! No wonder why you are the one who is always remembered! I heard from a great teacher that the secret to Living Jewish is this... The world stands on three things: On Torah, avodah, (prayer) and on gemilut hasadim (kindness to others). If we can live and practice each of these three things, I would say we are doing fairly good as a Jewish people. I wonder what they'll be saying in the year 2012!

(Back to modern times)

Ben: Woah! I just had this crazy dream! But guys, it all makes sense! Torah, Avodah, and Gemilut Hasadim!

Suzan: Yeah! Torah, prayer, and showing kindness to other! What a great concept! I think this is definitely something that we can incorporate in our lives.

(Rachel comes running out on stage)

Rachel: I knew there was a reason I came back from traveling around the world to attend the family retreat. You might not believe it, but there is actually a song that we sing that tells us this exact thing.

(Teach them the Rick Recht Ashlosa Dvarim and get them to sing along)

Ira: For sure guys, it's not going to be easy, but with the right mindset, we can definitely make this happen!

II. Mixers

Explain: As we just heard this weekend we are going to be learning how to LIVEJEWISH. It might seem daunting at times, but it can be as easy as 1-2-3. Our rabbis teach us that to LIVEJEWISH means that we must delve ourselves in Torah, *Avodah*, and *Gemilut Hasadim*. Tonight, we are going to start!

Each family will receive a card with three categories. For each rotation they will divide into groups based on their topic in these categories:

1. Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Prophets, Writings
2. Avodah: Barchu, Shema, V'ahavtah, Avot V'Imahot, G'vurot, Aleinu, Mi Chamocho
3. Gimelut Hasadim: Love your neighbor, treat animals kindly, be a good listener, take care of the sick, welcoming new friends, give to those in need, seek peace in the world.

Leaders:

Deb & Ari Mann

Suzan & Ari Gold

Rachel M & Emily

Ben & Petra

Julie & Zack

Danielle & Rachel B

Ira

Rotation 1: Torah

A. Go around and say names.

B. Explain: The great Rabbi's say that we must continue our study of the Torah. With each story, there is a new lesson to learn. Now, we are going to remember some of these stories and have some fun!

C. Activity: One at a time, a family will pick a specific Torah story out of a bag. That family will have a minute to plan a skit charades style and act it out to their group. No talking. The rest of the group needs to try and guess what Torah story they are acting out. Each group will have a chance to act out a story.

Torah Stories:

- 7 days of creation
- Adam and Eve eating fruit from the forbidden tree.
- Noah building the ark and loading the animals on it
- The Jew's running from Pharaoh's army and crossing the Red Sea
- Moses receiving the 10 commandments on Mt. Sinai and giving it to the Israelites

Rotation 2: Avodah

A. Go around and say names

B. Explain/Activity: *Avodah*, or prayer, is another way to live a Jewish life. In Judaism, there are three forms of prayer: thanksgiving, praise, and petition. Tonight we are going to focus on gratitude. Many families have a Shabbat ritual where they say what they are thankful for from the past week and so tonight as we are getting to know each other better we are going to go around and say one thing from this past week that you are grateful for.

Rotation 3: Gemilut Hasadim

A. Go around and say names

B. Explain: Finally to live a Jewish life, we have to demonstrate *Gemilut Hasamid*, or act of loving kindness. There are many ways we can show kindness to others, and right now we're going to act some out! We are going to become statues of Gemilut Hasadim.

C. Activity: Stand up as a group and stand still at least an arms length apart from your neighbor. The group leader will call out the different acts of kindness one at a time. Each person has to make a statue that represents the act of kindness. Once they are done, they stand straight again. Repeat with next act.

Gemilut Hasadim Statues:

- Love your neighbor
- Treat animals kindly
- Be a good listener
- Take care of the sick
- Welcoming new friends
- Give to those in need
- Seek Peace in the world

Conclusion: All of the families will come back together and form a circle for Siyyum. They will then be given instructions for the remainder of the night.