

Name of Session:	“Let Me Tell You A Story” Red Auerbach, Role Modeling, and Group Sharing
Name of Instructor:	Efraim Yudewitz
Session Type: (Pillar, L’shma, Subcommittee)	Building and Maintaining Healthy Relationships within the Camp Community
Website Description— Skills, Knowledge and Experience to be acquired: (Who, What, Why?)	The most important lessons and morals can be learned from our own lives. Stories and personal memories can be profound examples of educational resources. This seminar will help identify how stories can be so powerful, as well as different modes and techniques used to facilitate story sharing.
Program Type: Is this a Staff Training or Jewish Program?	Jewish Program / Staff Training
Staff Training Outcomes: What counseling moments can Fellows utilize to highlight their leadership skills?	The most important lessons and morals can be learned from our own lives. Stories and personal memories can be profound examples of educational resources. In this session, we will identify how stories can be very powerful as well as learn different modes and techniques used to facilitate story sharing in order to create a more deeply connected and informed community. As Jewish educators we often tend to go to a text or think we have to use a text; let’s use our own stories and narrative to help us relate to Judaism.
Staff Training Outcomes: What counseling moments can Fellows utilize to highlight their leadership skills	Facilitation skills, Engaging campers in Jewish conversations
Age Group: What age group was this originally designed for?	All Ages

Jewish Texts and/or Contexts:	<p>Quotation: “A Rabbi has only one sermon; his or her life”- Rabbi Jacob Herber</p> <p>“I try to walk the road of Judaism. Embedded in that road there are many jewels, one is marked “Shabbat” and one is marked “Civil Rights” and one “Kasruth” and one “Honor your parents” and one “Study Torah” and one “You Shall be Holy.” There are at least 613 of them, and they are different shapes and sizes and weights. Some are light and easy for me to pick up, and I pick them up. Some are too deeply embedded for me, so far at least, though I get a little stronger by trying to extricate the jewels as I walk the street. Some, perhaps, I shall never be able to pick up. I believe that God expects me to keep on walking Judaism Street and to carry away whatever I can of its commandments. I do not believe that he expects me to lift what I cannot, not may I condemn my fellow Jew who many not be able to pick up even as much as I can”</p> <p>- Rabbi Arnod Jacob Wolf “The Condition of Jewish Belief”</p>
Materials Needed:	<p>Copies of quotations, large packet of fake plastic jewels- one for every participant</p>
Space Needs:	<p>Quiet space away from any noise or distractions- last year I was near the waterfall that was really nice.</p>

Opening Activity

Start by framing topics of the seminar and by explaining the power of Red Auerbach’s (Red Aurebach was the famed coach for the Boston Celtics basketball team. He has won more NBA championships than any other coach in history) weekly Chinese food lunches. This tradition started as purely social, but developed into a powerful reflective experience that helped train and educate new minds in the world of Basketball. Red loved to eat Chinese food his rational was that “in almost any NBA city, there was always a Chinese restaurant that had late night carryout. He could call ahead, pick the food up on his way back from the arena, and eat in his room.” (Let Me Tell You A Story pg. 7) As he got older, Red started eating at the same restaurant every Sunday and brought his two best friends with him. Slowly he started inviting other friends, coaches and retired players. The tradition grew and as John Feinstein writes in his book, some of the most important conversations of basketball strategy, and life lessons took place in that restaurant. The power of this story is that sitting around with friends and colleagues to “just talk” has a profound ability to enlighten and educate, as well as empower individuals to become more self aware of their own journeys and stories.

Step-by-step session description

Group Discussion:

Quotation #2. In small groups participants will read and discuss the Wolf quotation. Next discuss how this is relevant to camp life, but more specifically how this is relevant to their own Jewish identity / journey. Ultimately as a group come to the understanding that every Jew is on his or her own Jewish journey and that along they way there are many opportunities to “pick up a Jewel.”

Then open up the conversation for people to share a story “When they remember picking up a “jewel” for the first time” In other words, we will share stories about a time in our life when we tried a Jewish practice or custom for the first time. Stories can be serious, funny, dramatic, recent or from a long time ago. The main purpose is to get participants to think critically regarding their own Jewish identity, while at the same time modeling approaches to story telling as an important and effective learning tool.

Next, allow for participants to write down in their journals potential questions that might be appropriate

in discussions with their campers, or fellow counselors.

Finally, conclude with the Herber quotation emphasizing two interpretations to this saying. The first being that our life stories are the best sermon's in that they have the ability to teach others. In other words, it is valuable and important to share one's personal stories and learn them as if they were texts because of their educational value. Additionally, the text can be read to show that the only way to really educate is by action, the sermon or content that a Rabbi wishes to teach is learned by modeling behavior. Obviously this concept is extremely relevant to camp counseling and being a positive Jewish role model/ educator.

Planning for camp

Time

As mentioned above, participants will be given an opportunity to write down in their journals potential questions that might be appropriate in discussions with their campers, or fellow counselors.

Closing activity

Time

Leave a handful of plastic jewels on the floor and allow for every member of the group to take a jewel as a representation of their involvement in this activity and to help remember their continuing journey.

Recommended Follow-Up: post session

Fellows and Liaisons can hang up copies of the quotations for campers and fellow counselors to reflect on.

"Let Me Tell You A Story"

Red Auerbach, Role Modeling, and Group Sharing

Text Handout 1

Quotation: "A Rabbi has only one sermon; his or her life" - Rabbi Jacob Herber

"I try to walk the road of Judaism. Embedded in that road there are many jewels, one is marked "Shabbat" and one is marked "Civil Rights" and one "Kasruth" and one "Honor your parents" and one "Study Torah" and one "You Shall be Holy." There are at least 613 of them, and they are different shapes and sizes and weights. Some are light and easy for me to pick up, and I pick them up. Some are too deeply embedded for me, so far at least, though I get a little stronger by trying to extricate the jewels as I walk the street. Some, perhaps, I shall never be able to pick up. I believe that God expects me to keep on walking Judaism Street and to carry away whatever I can of its commandments. I do not believe that he expects me to lift what I cannot, not may I condemn my fellow Jew who many not be able to pick up even as much as I can"

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