

ACS 1 - The Makings of a Family
David Reinhart
July 10th, 2018 - Mercaz Tarboot
(Chevrah, Oolam, Teyatron)

Goals:

- Campers will explore the meaning of family.
- Campers will understand that family can also mean more than just their relatives and can include people with whom we share interests and identities in common.
- Campers will begin to understand that Jewish can be more than a religious identity and that we as Jews might be defined as a Family.

Materials:

- 320 half sheets of paper
- 20 big sheets of paper (w/ Kol Yisrael ...)
- 20 slips of paper (w/ We promise to ...)
- 18 pieces of butcher paper (approx. 6 ft. long)
- 1 GUCI Tree sign
- 320 pens/crayons
- 20 paper plates
- 6 bottles of tempera paint (blue, red, green, purple, yellow, orange) - will return leftover
- 320 baby wipes (pref.)/paper towels

Timetable (50min):

0-5 - "We Are Family" (Intro)

5-10 - Transition to Unit Locations

10-20 - Family Trees/Cabin Webs

20-35 - Cabin Brit

35-38 - GUCI Family Promise

38-45 - Transition and Thumbprints

45-50 - "One Voice"

Method:

0-5 - "We Are Family" (Intro)

As campers are entering the Mercaz Tarboot, "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge will be playing over the sound system (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oDG2ryKeo>). As it hits 11 (time to start), David will restart the music with the video/lyrics displaying on the screen. Counselors, encourage your campers to rock out/have a good time. Feel free to do this sitting or get up and dance. Either way, **engage your campers and sing along** (i.e. draw attention to the music) do not just sit and talk/disengage. (Especially during the last 40 seconds/the final we are family)

After the song (approx. 11:04), David will get up and intro the session's topic. He will mention that although this song is a secular, pop song, it is very Jewish. He'll reference the lyrics, "All the people around us say, can they be that close, just let me state for the record, we're giving love a family dose." That sounds like they're talking about the Jewish people. Even if we're not directly related, we are family. The ancient Rabbis taught us, *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* - All of Israel, every Jew, is responsible for one another. And today in Israel, you regularly hear people calling one another *achi*, my brother, even when they're not related. From ancient times until now, we, the Jewish people, have been a Family, maybe more so than anything else. Like our GUCI Family we care for one another, we are responsible for one another, and we love one another. This is what we are learning about this session. What does it mean to be a part of the Jewish Family.

5-10 - Transition to Unit Locations

Campers will walk to their unit locations for the main part of the activities. (Gezah wait for everyone to leave before beginning the next activities.)

Garin - Teyatron
Shoresh - Oolam
Gezah - Tarboot
Anaf - Chevrah

10-20 - Family Trees/Cabin Webs (See Sub-breakdowns)

Try to have these activities flow, the campers don't have to sit in a neat circle to have the sicha/discussion.

10-12 - Family Trees: Each camper will be given a half a sheet of paper and a pen/crayon. Instruct them to draw a basic family tree (parents/guardians, siblings, maybe grandparents/aunts/uncles /cousins). In actuality this should take about 30-45 seconds. **After a moment, encourage campers to add people to whom they might not be blood related** (e.g. best friend, pet, "aunt"/"uncle"), don't force this but make the suggestion.

12-14 - Sichá Questions:

- What does it mean to be part of a family?
- How are you connected to the other people on your tree?
- What is your responsibility to them/theirs to you?

14-18 - Cabin Web: Each Cabin will be given a sheet of butcher paper (approx. 6 ft. long). (1) Each person (**counselors please participate**) will find a spot on their sheet of the paper (leaving space in the middle) and, using their crayon, they will write their name and circle it. (2) Then they will write 3-4 things about themselves (i.e. sports, hobbies, favorite things) around their name, circle

those, and draw a line from their name to their things. (If people are having trouble with this step encourage them to write GUCI, they all go to GUCI.) Once they have done this, have them draw lines between their things/name to the activities of others that they share/are related (e.g. basketball → basketball, guitar → music, David → Rhino). Spend about four minutes doing this, then continue with the final sicha. (If this is confusing see an example in the Appendix.)

18-20 - Sicha Questions:

- What do you see on this piece of paper?
- How is it like our family trees?
- (If we brought all of camps pieces together, do you think we could connect all our cabins together?)
- What do these connections mean?
- **What type of responsibility might we have to one another as a result of these connections?**

20-35 - Cabin Brit

(The final question above transitions into this next activity.) During the previous activity, each cabin will have been brought a large sheet of paper with a box in the middle that says “*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* - All of Israel is responsible for one another.” Place this paper in the middle of the group, read the phrase, and ask how this relates to the previous activities.

Explain that this phrase will form the foundational/key/core text for your cabin’s brit. (A brit is a covenant/contract, this mirrors the covenant/contract that the Israelites made with God at Sinai.) Around the outside you will write responsibilities/promises/rules that you as a cabin can agree upon to follow for the session. Try to get to 10 good ones, you have 15 minutes to do this, but however many you get (more or less) is great. The important aspect of this activity (which makes it worthwhile) is to be thoughtful and intentional.

When complete/finished/out of time, **counselors please keep the paper and hang your Cabin Brit by the front door in your cabin.** (If you want to continue this discussion/activity during chaveroot, please do. And let me know if you want a new piece of paper for that time.)

35-38 - GUCI Family Promise

As you conclude the previous activity casually ask the question of whether this brit, these responsibilities end with our cabins, or do we have responsibilities to our entire GUCI Family.

To get the camper’s thinking along the right path **ask: “What is our responsibility to the GUCI Family?”** After a brief discussion, have the cabin come up with a **ONE sentence promise** of what they will do for our camp family. This should be in the form of “**We promise to ...**”.

This does not need to cover all camp activities. If your cabin is struggling try to limit it to one meaningful program and make a promise for that, e.g. song session, tefillah, free time. (For example these promises might be, “We promise to ... pick up trash; ... respect the shin; ... participate in programs; ... be respectful to one another; ... make new friends; ... try to have fun; ... create an inclusive and supportive atmosphere; ... support the ruach of camp by cheering, singing, and living every day to the fullest.)

Each cabin should also receive a slip of paper with the intro phrase “We promise to ...” on which to write their GUCI Family Promise. **Choose one camper to read this cabin promise.**

38-45 - Transition and Thumbprints

Each Unit will begin to head towards the Tarboot. **Before entering the Tarboot, campers must walk to the concrete slab between the Oolam and the Tarboot.** There they will dip their thumb (ONLY THEIR THUMB) in some tempera, and place a thumbprint as a leaf on the GUCI Tree (there will be a cabin sign, sized piece of butcher paper with a tree, seed included, painted on it). Hopefully we will have baby wipes/paper towels for the campers to wipe the extra paint off their thumbs. **DO NOT LET CAMPERS WASH THEIR HANDS**, they can wash their hands during free time if needed.

As camper are entering the Mercaz Tarboot, the lights will be off/dimmed and Dan/Orin/Ben will be playing Hinei Mah Tov in the middle of the room. Campers will clump in cabin groups around this trio (no need for circles). Please send your camper that is reading the Cabin Promise up to the front of the stage.

Once everyone is seated and the GUCI Tree has been brought to the stage, we will end the song and David will transition. (David will need a couple Top Deck members to help attach the sign to the bottom of the projector.) “We are Family. *Hinei mah tov u'mah nayim shevet achim gam yachad* - How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to sit together. *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* - All of Israel is responsible for one another.”

45-50 - “One Voice”

Dan/Ben/Orin will begin singing “One Voice” by The Wailin’ Jennys. There are 5 verses. In between each of the first 4 verses (the first 3 breaks) the campers will read their Cabin Promises. After they read their promise, they will tape it to the GUCI Tree sign. Before the final verse, David will wrap up and conclude (as David begins the projector screen will be raised to lift up and display the sign; and the spotlight will highlight it).

Counselors please encourage your campers to sing and pay attentions.

ACS 2 - Judaism of Tomorrow
David Reinhart
August 3rd, 2018 - Mercaz Tarboot
(Chevrah, Oolam, Teyatron, Agam)

Goals:

- Campers will explore the Jewish values/topic they have experienced at camp this summer and how these will be lived out in their own lives beyond camp and in the future of the Jewish family.

Materials:

- 300 half sheets of paper
- 300 slips of paper
- 300 pens/pencils
- 300 markers
- 3 trees
- >3 shovels
- 5 boxes of Seed Bomb mix
- 36 packets of seeds
- 300 plastic bags
- 18 pieces of butcher paper (approx. 5 ft long)

Timetable (50min):

00-05 - Enter Tarboot and Settle In
05-10 - "One Voice"/Story
10-15 - Transition to Unit Locations
15-25 - Jewish Tree/Cabin Web (Sicha)
25-32 - My Jewish Future
32-35 - GUCI Seeds
35-40 - Move to Agam Area
40-45 - Make Seed Bombs (Sicha)
45-50 - "For Trees" and Wrap Up (We Are Family?)

Method:

00-05 - Enter Tarboot and Settle In

Campers will gather outside the Tarboot. When we are prepared to begin, they will be instructed to enter silently and sit down in the middle of the room. (They do NOT need to be in cabin groups.) As they are entering, Ben/Orin will be playing the music for "One Voice".

The lights will be out/dim in the Tarboot and the sign from ACS1 will be attached to the projector screen with a spotlight on it.

05-10 - One Voice/Story

Orin/Ben/(third singer) will sing "One Voice". Interspersed throughout the verses will be a basic review of the themes and topics we studied this year (see appendix for order). This will culminate in a short story about Honi HaM'agel and the Carob Tree.

(This may take a little longer than 5 minutes; if so we will adjust.)

10-15 - Transition to Unit Locations

Before dispersing David will do a brief intro into the activities we will be doing at the Unit Locations (thought the Unit Heads will still need to explain them fully in their separate units). The Units will disperse to their locations

- Garin - Teyatron
- Shoresh - Oolam
- Gezah - Tarboot
- Anaf - Chevrah

Supplies should already be at the unit locations and Top Deck members should be present to assist as necessary.

15-25 - Jewish Tree/Cabin Web (See Sub-breakdown)

Try to have these activities flow, the campers don't have to sit in a neat circle to have the sicha/discussion.

15-17 - Jewish Trees: Each camper will be given a half a sheet of paper and a pen/crayon. Instruct them to draw an empty outline of a tree. In this tree they should write (at least) three aspects of their Judaism, one forming the roots, one forming the trunk, and one forming the branches/leaves. **These things can be topics we studied, things done at camp, or traditions from home/holidays (use the list in the appendix if necessary).**

17-19 - Sich'a Questions:

- What different aspects of your Judaism did you choose to make up your tree?
- How do they all relate?
- In what way do they help grow your Jewish identity?

19-23 - Cabin Web: Each Cabin will be given a sheet of butcher paper (approx. 6 ft. long). (1) Each person (**counselors please participate**) will find a spot on their sheet of the paper (leaving space in the middle) and, using their marker/crayon, they will write their name and circle it. (2) Then they will write the 3 things from above that form their Jewish Trees and draw lines from their name to these items. (3) Finally, have them draw lines between their things/name to the aspects of Judaism of others that they share/are related (e.g. Shabbat → candles, Social action → Tikkun Olam, Family → Peoplehood,

or even Family → other names). Spend about four minutes doing this, then continue with the final sicha. (This is the same activity from the first ACS just tweaked slightly.)

23-25 - Sicha Questions:

- What do you see on this piece of paper?
- How does it enhance our trees?
- (If we brought all of camps pieces together, do you think we could connect all our cabins together?)
- What do these connections mean?
- **How does this collective web connect, create, strengthen, and/or grow the future of Judaism?**

25-32 - My Jewish Future

Have the campers sit in one large circle facing out, make sure they hang onto their Jewish Trees. (The best way to make this happen efficiently is to break down the instructions: (1) shin, (2) while remaining silent everyone please pick up your individual Jewish Tree and stand up, (3) silently form one big circle, (4) now turn around and sit down.) This time block is 7 minutes to allow for some transition time.

Once seated, have the campers close their eyes. A list of prompts will be read out loud. The campers should react to each prompt by raising their hand if they feel it applies to them. Remember this is a silent activity, so please be respectful and keep your eyes closed. (In between each statement wait about 5 seconds then say hands down. The length of time may feel a bit awkward but is important for the phrase to sink in. Try to do all, but don't skip the bold.)

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| ● I am Jewish. | I go to GUCI. |
| ● I am in Anaf/Gezah/Shoresh/Garin. | I am part of a Jewish family |
| ● Judaism is a part of my identity. | At home, I go to services regularly. |
| ● At GUCI, I enjoy services. | I enjoy camp song session. |
| ● At home, I feel I am part of a Jewish community. | At GUCI, we are a kehillah kedosha. |
| ● At GUCI, I live Jewishly. | |
| ● I do tikkun olam. | I celebrate Shabbat. |
| ● I have had/will have a bar/bat mitzvah. | I am in/want to be in a Jewish youth group. |
| ● Next week, I will celebrate shabbat. | Next month, I will go to religious school. |
| ● In Tishrei/September, I will go to Temple for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. | |
| ● In Kislev/December, I will light a menorah and celebrate Hanukkah. | |
| ● This year, I will do g'milut chasadim/acts of loving kindness. | |
| ● I will do mitzvot. | Next spring, I will go to a passover seder. |
| ● I hope to come back to camp next summer. | I hope to still be at camp in 5 years. |
| ● I will visit Israel at some point in my life. | I want to learn to speak Hebrew. |
| ● When I go to college I will find a Jewish community. | When I get married, I will have a Jewish wedding. |
| ● When I have children I will raise them Jewishly. | I hope my children will come to GUCI. |
| ● I go to GUCI. | I am Jewish. |
| ● Judaism will always be a part of my identity. | |

If there is extra time after this activity, have the campers remain silent and think about the following prompt (no need to raise their hand): “In the future, I will be Jewish by” or “What is one aspect of Judaism you want to enhance/do more of when you go home?”

32-35 - GUCI Seeds

Once finished with the above activity, pass out the small slips of paper and pens/pencils. Have the campers look back at their Jewish Trees. Ask them to think about what seed they planted here at GUCI to help grow their tree? Or what seed have you planted/piece of advice you would give to a future camper to grow their Judaism? And have them write this on their small slip of paper.

Make sure they don't lose this piece of paper.

35-40 - Move to Agam Area

As the campers finish up and the pens/pencils/other materials are collected, instruct the campers to go to the Agam and sit in cabin groups. Make sure they take their slip of paper.

As they get to the Agam area, David/Top Deck will instruct them to take their slip of paper and put it in the hole for one of the trees. Then sit as a cabin group around the bowls with the materials for making the seed bombs.

40-45 - Make Seed Bombs (Sicha)

David will explain that by placing our GUCI seed statements in the hole of our tree we are metaphorically and literally planting for the future of GUCI. But, by doing so, we also plant for the future of Judaism, of the world outside of camp. So, we are going to create seed bombs for us to plant at home, to bring a little beauty from camp to the rest of our lives.

Counselors, instruct your campers to make the seed bombs. You take a little bit of the seed bomb mix (just a finger full, not even a full handful), and you take a few seeds (5 or so). You mix them together and roll them around into a ball about ½ of an inch in diameter (**we are short on the mix so just try to divide it evenly**). When they are done, have them put their seed bomb into a bag so they can pack it and take it home. At home, all they have to do to plant their seed bombs is drop it in a slightly shaded area and let nature do the rest. (If there are extra seeds divide these up as well.)

While they are doing this, have a very brief, informal, but important sicha.

- Like these seeds, what Jewish seeds/things do you think you're taking home with you?
- What are aspects of camp or Jewish life you would like to incorporate more into your everyday lives?
- How can you help strengthen your family and the larger Jewish people?

45-50 - “For Trees” and Wrap Up (“We Are Family”?)

As things are wrapping up, Ben/Orin will play “Everyone Stand Up For Trees.”

Counselors please help encourage campers to sing along. We won’t have the lyrics posted so it’s important to help everyone focus on the songleaders.

We will play through the song once (without the bridge) then David will wrap-up. Finally we will finish by playing the first verse and chorus one last time.

Appendix

- One Voice
 - Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh baZeh
 - Jewish Family
 - Who is a part of our Jewish Family and What does it mean to be a part of our family
- Voices Two
 - Peoplehood
 - Jews Around the World
 - Jewish Diversity
 - Jewish Movements
 - Interfaith
- Voices Three
 - Collective Memory
 - Covenant
 - Israel
 - Hebrew
- All Of Us
 - Our Personal Judaism
- One Voice
 - Family Trees and Trees for the Future
 - Story
- One Voice