

Identity Café

Developed by:
Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett
Sue Schwartzman
K'vod Wieder

Objectives:

Teens will have an opportunity to sit and discuss values, tzedakah and identity in an informal café setting.

Teens will have an opportunity to evaluate and think about where they stand on some tough issues.

Teens will be able to hear differing views and learn who has similar views and who does not.

Teens will collect badges that label their feelings on various issues.

Students will find others who identify the same priority of values that they do.

Supplies:

Based on 115 teens. The exercise will be completed in separate rooms according to foundation.

4-5 tables

Five chairs around each table.

Nametags with codifying stickers and symbols on them (given out at registration)

4-5 tall table number holders.

5 large index cards printed with the table's identity question

20-23 sets of the values stickers for each round of questions

5 envelopes for each round of questions. Each envelope contains directions for the leader, a question card for the table and a set of stickers for each participant at the table

5 tablecloths

5 baskets of goodies

25 napkins

25 wine or plastic cups

10 bottles of sparkling cider, or mineral water or juices or blenders of virgin margaritas

Food

10 table candles

One set of matches

Each answer duplicated five times and put into an "answer" envelope.

This must be done four different times, so there should be a new set of answer cards to choose from for each of four rounds.

Instructions:

The room is decorated in café style complete with small tables and chairs, tablecloths, candle on each table, etc

Teens are assigned to go to their first table assignment based on the color sequence on their name badge. For example if you have yellow, green, red, blue, you will first go to the yellow table, then green, etc.

At each table everyone should go around and introduce him or herself. The table leader will take the corresponding envelope from the holder and read the question card aloud and then place it on the table. Another teen should open the response envelope and read the six different badges inside and then lay them on the table. Teens should then choose a badge that best reflects their ideas and place it upside down in front of them.

Next, going around the circle. Teens should respond to the question and explain which badge they selected and why. Teens should then peel and place their badge on their self or their binder.

At the end of the round, the group leader gathers the question card and all remaining stickers and puts them back into the larger envelope.

When the formal rounds are over, teens are instructed to mill about and find a group of 4-6 people that have at least four badges in common. As soon as a group is formed, they should head to a corner with a leadership council member.

Groups should get to know each other and share their collection of badges and what it says about them, Is there a common group identity emerging? Group needs to identify a group identity including a tribal chant and a slogan representative of the group name

Question #1A

Which text if any, motivates your giving or your decision to be here this weekend?

We are all created in G-d's image

Justice, justice shalt thou pursue

If you save a life it is as if you have saved the world

What does the lord require of me? To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy G-d/ (vi8)

Love thy neighbor as thy self.

Whoever practices charity and justice is as though he filled the whole world with loving kindness. (suk 49b)

Question #1B

My set of values that I use to guide my decision- making comes mainly from:
(Select the one that reflects your main source.)

Music
Parents
Friends
Judaism
Books
Teachers,

Question #2

What type of leader are you?

Leader by voice
Leader by actions
Leader by example
Leader by peer choice
Leader by values
Leader by nature
Leader by choice
Not really a leader

Question #2B

Would you more likely give \$100.00 to a food bank or, instead, give to an organization that fights to raise the minimum wage?

There should be five of each answer ready for each round.

Question #3

What does it take to be a good philanthropist?

Heart
Money
Morals
Courage
Strong Jewish values
Time

Question #3B

Do you think it is more important that we help Jews or non-Jews?

Question #4

I am here this weekend because

Social
Values
Jewish
Peers
Parents
Leadership
College application enhancement

Question #4B

True or False? I believe I can change the world? Any first hand examples?

Question #5

Which statement fits most with your thoughts or your reality?

Giving is something my parents do
Kids cannot make a real difference
I have very limited time and want my B'nai Tzedek contribution to mean the most
I did not choose B'nai Tzedek, but I am glad I am here

Question #5B

What is the most important quality of a Tzadik (A righteous person)? Do you have models of tzadikim in your own life? Explain. Why do you consider them a tzadikim? Does your tzadik have a connection to tzadakah?

A tzadik is someone who goes to synagogue every week
A tzadik is someone who studies torah
A tzadik is someone who donates money to charity on a regular basis
A tzadik is someone who donates time to charity on a regular basis
A tzadik is someone who helps everyone he/she can
A tzadik is someone only helps Jewish people
A tzadik is someone who know whom to help and whom not to
A tzadik is Jewish
A tzadik never says "no" to someone who asks him/her for help