



The Samueli Center for Progressive Judaism

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Community Leader Training for Small Groups at Temple Beth El

Introduction to Small Groups at Temple Beth El

- A. Overall goal for people to build relationships with one another around meaningful topics. This can happen with short term or long term groups
- B. 4 session Campaign – goal is to support groups in having positive short term experience.
 1. Opportunities to share and hear life stories
 2. Reflect on the challenges and opportunities in relationships for growth through our Jewish heritage.
 3. Process feels easy
- C. How Do Groups Get Formed
 1. Online registration as host or participant
 - a. Host: contact info (address) who is in your group, space for more participants (how many total), theme (entrepreneurs, social action, families w/ young kids), temple member?
 - b. Participants: contact info, who is your Host if you have a group? If not, tell us more about yourself and what you are looking for.
 2. HOST picks up kit at Yom Kippur (kits available at Temple afterwards)
 - a. Tips for Hosts
 - b. YouTube video for each session/DVD's will be available for hosts who want them.
 - c. Copy of "The Wisdom of Not Knowing" by Estelle Frankel
 - d. Discussion booklet for each session
 3. HOST makes sure they have recruited who they want and sets meeting times for 4 sessions sensitive to their group's schedules.
- D. What happens during the six week campaign?
HOST
Engage discussion questions following video

E. Follow up survey for hosts

F. Shabbat Dinner Friday, January 26, 2018 for groups to attend and share experiences.

G. What happens next?

1. Bringing Shabbat Home on May 25, 2018
2. Suggestions for books to read as a group and study guides
3. Invitation to attend Temple activities as a small group

H. Tasks for Community Leaders

1. Connect with their small group HOSTS before the campaign begins
 - a. Introduce
 - b. Find out date and meeting times
 - c. Emphasize ease of HOST responsibilities (have them choose a facilitator)
 - d. Answer any questions
2. Connect during the two month period
 - a. How is it going?
 - b. What is going well with your small group? Is there something I can help you troubleshoot?

I. Tips for Community Leaders

1. Emphasize the short term nature of the program to the HOST – not everyone has to bond – there is room for people to want different things out of the group
2. Let the HOSTs know that they are not alone
3. In supporting HOSTS in the forming of the group stress the following:
 - a. 2 people connecting together make a group
 - b. They can invite friends (even non-Temple members) to be a part of it.
 - c. They can be encouraged to leave a couple of spaces open for people without a group. (Know who you are talking to)
 - d. Encourage HOSTS to use Think/Pair/Share method for facilitation

Small Group Experience

Exodus 18:13-18

יג וַיְהִי מִמְחֹרֶת וַיֵּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה לְשֻׁפֶט אֶת־הָעָם וַיַּעֲמֹד הָעָם עַל־מֹשֶׁה מִן־הַבָּקָר עַד־הָעָרֶב: **יד** וַיַּרְא חֶתְנוֹ מֹשֶׁה אֲתָּה כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עָשָׂה לְעַם וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עָשָׂה לְעַם מִדּוֹעַ אַתָּה עָשָׂה יַוְשֵׁב לְבַדָּךְ וְכָל־הָעָם נִצְבֵּעַ עַלְיךָ מִן־בָּקָר עַד־עָרֶב: **טו** וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה לְחֶתְנוֹ כִּי־יָבָא אֵלֵינוּ הָעָם לְדַרְשֵׁנִי אֱלֹהִים: **טז** כִּי־יְהִי לְהֶם ذְּבָרָבָא אֵלֵי וְשִׁפְטָתִי בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֹעֵהוּ וְהַזְׁדַּעַתִּי אֶת־חֲקִיקֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֶת־תּוֹרַתִּי: **יז** וַיֹּאמֶר חֶתְנוֹ מֹשֶׁה אֲלֵיכֶם לְאַתָּתוֹב הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עָשָׂה: **יח** נִבְלֵת בְּפֶל גַּם־אַתָּה גַּם־הָעָם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׂר עָמַךְ כִּי־כָּבֵד מִמֶּךָּ הַדָּבָר לְאַתָּתוֹכֶל עָשָׂהוּ לְבַדָּךְ:

And it came to pass on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood by Moses from the morning to the evening. 14. And when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that you do to the people? Why do you sit by yourself alone, and all the people stand by you from morning to evening? And Moses said to his father-in-law, Because the people come to me to inquire of God; When they have a matter, they come to me; and I judge between one and another, and I make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father-in-law said to him, The thing that you do is not good. You will certainly wear away, both you, and this people who are with you; for this thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it yourself alone.

Find someone you don't know as well and share with each other someone who inspires you with their leadership. Who do you think they get support from?

Think/Pair/Share

1. Is there any situations where it is wiser to do it alone and not ask for help? Explain.
2. What gets in the way of you asking for help and sharing responsibilities?
3. Challenge question: How do you share responsibilities with another in a way that both lifts them up and also gets the job done?

To do by the end of August: Recruit 5 HOSTS

Suggested Reading

Artson, Rabbi Bradley Shavit. Gift of Soul, Gift of Wisdom: A Spiritual Resource for Mentoring and Leadership. Behrman House

Pesner, Rabbi Jonah. What Kind of Leader Do You Want to Be? Text Messages, ed. By R. Jeffery K. Salkin, Jewish Lights