

Family

Ideas for activities

1. How do different families work?

A personal look at how participants' families operate in various situations, what rules govern them, what rituals do they have, what axioms are there, how do they respond to problems, etc.

Comparisons between participants and between groups. What do we have in common and what separates us? How do we feel about the ways other families work? What would it be like to be dropped in to another family and have to operate? Could we manage it? What does that tell us about how much (or little) we have in common with each other?

Methodology:

Drama-role plays
Telling personal stories
Dilemmas and responses

2. Kol Israel Arevim Ze ba-Ze

Concentric circles: me, my family, my friends, my community, the Jewish people, the world.

How do I connect to each circle in terms of: identity? Identification?
Responsibility?

How do I prioritise between them? On what basis do I decide my loyalties and obligations?

To what extent is the Jewish people like a family? How do I relate to other Jews (as opposed to non-Jews) that I meet?

Methodology:

Dilemmas and values clarification
Personal stories – sharing

3. Life lines and family trees



Educational Web Kit – Israel's 70th Year of Independence

Personal stories and family stories – plotting my life story on a time line, and then extending that line backwards to my parents-grandparents-ancestors

Art-based activity

Sharing in small groups

Discussion – what are the common features of Jewish stories? How did we all end up where we are? The aliyah vs. immigration as the roots of Israeli and Diaspora Jewry – are they the same phenomenon or is there a fundamental difference between them?

4. “Family values”

How do families transmit values and teach their children to act and think in a certain way?

Models of authority and autonomy in families: how much freedom of thought and action do children have? Democratic and authoritarian attitudes.

5. The conversion issue

Can people join a family? Is the Jewish people a family? A look at the different opinions on the conversion controversy:

- There must be one agreed method, arrived at through compromise
- Anyone who wants to convert people through a religious ceremony can
- Jewish identity should be based on self-definition
- The process should not be by definition religious, but rather defined by the State of Israel/an umbrella organisation in hul (the religious elements should be personal choice)
- Conversion according to halacha

Personal stories from the press/TV. Reactions

Values clarification and debate

