

## **Identity Café**

Developed by:

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### **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 attendance of 50 teens)

10 tables

Five chairs around each table.

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

10 tall table number holders

10-table numbers or identifying marker.

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

10 large index cards printed with the table's beliefs questions

Five tables x two -of the values badges for the set of questions

10 envelopes each filled with a set of identity cards

10 envelopes each filled with a set of belief or values cards.

10 tablecloths

10 baskets of goodies

200 napkins

60 wine or plastic cups

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

Seat numbers 1-5 labeled on place cards

Café menus

Food

10 table candles

One set of matches

Each answer duplicated five times and put into an “answer” envelope.

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

Instructions:

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

Menus on each table offer the horsd'oeuvre selections that will be served by the staff.

Teens are assigned to go to their first table assignment based on the number sequence on their name badge. For example if you have numbers 2,4, 5,1,3 You will first go to table 2 then table 4, then 5, etc.

At each table have everyone go around and introduce him or herself and then decide if they want an identity question or a values question. One person will take the corresponding envelope from the holder and read the question card aloud and then replace it. 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. Extra badges should be placed in a basket on the table.

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

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

