

## SWUSY LTI 2008 - Responsibilities of a Jewish Leader

### Session #1

Time: 60 minutes

Goals:

- Get to know each other
- Learn about important Jewish values for leadership
- Practice communicating ideas to others
- Have a great time

#### **Part 1: Content-based Icebreaker** **10 minutes**

Go around the group and have everyone say their name, chapter, position, and what they think most important quality is in a Jewish leader.

#### **Part 2: Building off Prior Experiences** **5 minutes**

*After you are finished going around, build on their stated important qualities:*

After hearing everyone's most important quality of a Jewish leader, which do you think are most important? Why?

What are some practical ways one exhibits these qualities?

#### **Part 3: Learning from each other - Earthquake Simulation** **20 minutes**

*Let them know that being able to communicate idea is an extremely important aspect of leadership. Today not only are we going to learn about important Jewish values and see how they relate to ourselves as USY leaders, but we are also going to work on teaching these values to each other so we can work on our own communication skills.*

*Read the attached "The Situation" out loud with your group. After your group has read the situation, hand out the envelopes with the action steps (these will be provided to you at LTI). Each person should individually rank the action steps without discussing the situation with anyone else.*

*After everyone has ranked the action steps individually, they should repeat the process as a group.. Select, by consensus, the sequence that the team thinks makes the most sense.*

*Follow up questions:*

How did the group come to a decision?

Did anyone step forward and take a leadership role in the decision-making process?

How did they do that?

Did you find it more difficult to make decisions in the group or individually?

Which ways provided the most effective solution to the problem?

#### **Part 4: Real-Life Decisions** **10 minutes**

*Break the group into two groups of five people and give each group one of the attached situations and questions to think about.*

**Part 5 - Teaching Each Other**

**10 minutes (5 minutes per group)**

*Have each of the groups come up and present their Jewish value to the larger group. If necessary, help each group lead a short discussion about their situation.*

Note the actual conclusions of the situation from 1948 - #3 (the ship was attacked by Ben Gurion).

**Part 6 - Assessment and Wrapping Up**

**5 minutes**

*How did it feel teaching the rest of the group your situation?*

*What techniques that people used seem to work the best?*

*Note that communication of ideas is extremely important for a leader to be able to do. They should all be proud of themselves and think about what they can do to improve their skills.*

*Of these values we learned about, which do you think are most applicable to your actions as a USY leader?*

*How can we make sure to be the best leaders we can be this year in USY?*

# The Situation

Monday, July 27, 7:12 p.m.

You and five coworkers are finishing a presentation for tomorrow's early morning meeting. You are in the basement library of your 10-story downtown office building.

"Oh my gosh, what is happening?"

"I can't stand up."

"I think it's an earthquake! Watch out for those books, take cover, and get under the table!"

"Oh no, there go the lights!"

The building shakes violently and then stops. There is a deathly silence except for the slow groan of the building settling. You begin to pick yourselves up and assess the damage.

"Is everyone OK?"

"I think so, but my arm hurts."

"I've got a cut on my leg. One of those huge reference books hit me."

"Hey, does it look like the column in the corner came up over there?"

"It sure does. I wonder how badly the rest of the building was damaged?"

"How can you see anything in the dark?"

"There is some light coming in from the crack in the wall over there near the water heater. I'll go over and take a closer look."

"Forget about the damage, let's get out of here before the rest of the building gives way!"

"I think I smell gas. Does anyone else?"

"Do you hear a hissing sound?"

"I'm not sure if that is hissing or the building moving."

"Hey everyone, we aren't going anywhere. The stairs to the basement are completely blocked. There must be a ton of concrete here."

"We have to get out of here. The whole building could cave in!"

"Everyone needs to calm down. We need to start looking for another way out. What about the elevator?"

"Nope, the shaft is jammed with rubble. I can feel a draft coming down, but I can't see through all the debris."

"Can we climb up on the water heater, and get out of the crack you found in the wall? The water heater seems to be OK."

"Forget that idea. Only a small animal could fit through here."

"I'll check the phone. Maybe we can call for help. The telephone lines are not always damaged in these things... Forget it, the lines are dead."

"You obviously haven't experienced a bad one yet. A great deal more than telephone lines are usually damaged."

"How do you know it was a bad one?"

"It lasted longer and shook us around a lot more than most of them do."

"Oh, so that makes you an authority on earthquakes?"

"Would you two stop arguing and come over here with the rest of us? I found a radio by the janitor's work bench. The news report will be a far more reliable source of information than you two."

*We interrupt this broadcast to bring you an Action One special report...*

*There has been a major earthquake. At 7:12 p.m. this evening, San Francisco and the surrounding areas were rocked by an earthquake that experts say may have measured as high as 7.5 on the Richter Scale. It is believed to be one of the worst earthquakes to hit this area in decades. Initial estimates say that the quake lasted for approximately 40 seconds and that the danger from the earthquake may not be over. There could be more shaking. The city's telephone network is paralyzed. Electrical wires are down and a number of fires are burning throughout San Francisco. Gas explosions and water main ruptures are occurring throughout the city. Many buildings in the downtown area appear to be severely damaged. City officials say they may be forced to shut down all utility services in order to prevent fire outbreaks. Many freeway overpasses have collapsed and most of the San Francisco surface streets are clogged with debris and abandoned cars. Air traffic does not appear to be coming in or out of the San Francisco International Airport. Unofficially, the mayor was reported as saying that it could be 72 hours or more before city repair crews are able to restore communications and utilities. The mayor also requested that city residents stay off the streets, except for emergencies, until further notice and be prepared to be on their own for at least three days. Stay tuned for more updates...*

"It really does sound bad."

"I wonder how long it will take someone to find us? Oh no!! The aftershocks are starting already."

Within 10 minutes of the quake, a violent aftershock occurs and stirs up more dust and debris in the basement.

How are we ever going to survive this? Being stuck in this basement during these aftershocks isn't very comforting

"At least they know there is damage to buildings in our area. Maybe they will look for us right away"

I don't know With all these aftershocks, it may be a while before they are able to dig us out

You can never tell with these things. We might be here for a while, or someone may find us right away, so we need to make the best of it. Anyone find something we can use to look around a bit?"

I found a flashlight. Let's do an inventory of what we have to work with.

After searching through the rubble you find:

- a working, battery-operated radio
- two candles
- cleaning supplies: mop, bucket, bleach, window cleaner, screwdriver, wrench, and work gloves
- a first-aid kit: bandages, antiseptic, gauze, and aspirin
- a package of matches
- a coffee machine, half pot of coffee, and three packages of coffee
- a flashlight with extra batteries
- four leftover chicken salad sandwiches in the refrigerator and two bags of chips (from the lunch meeting earlier in the day)
- three full ice-cube trays in the freezer
- six cans of cola

## Action Steps

There are 7 action steps you should take to ensure your survival and rescue and 5 action steps that you should not take because they are either unnecessary or may harm you. Decide which 7 of the action steps listed you would take, assigning a "1" to what you would do *first*, a "2" to your second step, etc (1-7). Then continue the ranking with the remaining 5 steps you would not take numbering them 8-12, twelfth being reserved for the most dangerous or least helpful step, eleventh, the next less dangerous step, etc

Complete the individual ranking without discussing the situation with anyone else. Place your answers in column A.

Next, repeat the process in teams. Select, by consensus, the sequence that the team thinks makes the most sense. Put the team answers in column D.

Shut off all utilities.

Check for injuries and administer First Aid.

Assign someone to monitor the radio and listen for updates.

Locate and secure a water supply.

Develop day and night signaling techniques and begin signaling immediately.

Discuss long-term survival strategies as a group.

Divide the sandwiches and eat them this evening.

Purify the water sources.

Pound on the pipes with a steel wrench.

Divide the sandwiches and ration them over the next few days.

Attempt to remove the rubble from the entrance to the first floor.

Light the candles so you can see and rescuers will be able to locate you.

### **The case of Kfar Kassim, 1956**

In the end of October 1956, on the eve of the *Kadesh Operation* (where Israel conquered the Sinai in a weeklong operation), ZAHAL called a curfew on all Arab settlements in Israel. The command was very clear: Anyone walking out on the streets past 6:00 PM – will be shot!

When one of the soldiers asked what to do about Arab workers who might return home later from work, his commander replied: "*Allah Yerachamo!*" (Arabic for "Only God will will have compassion forfor him").

At 6:00 PM, a group of Arab workers returned to their homes in the Arab town of *Kfar Kassim* (near *Petach Tiqvah*). The Israeli commander, Colonel Shadmi, ordered to open fire. Many Arab civilians were killed.

**What do you think:**

Which values are conflicting in the Israeli commander's mind before he orders to open fire?

What do the soldiers think?

What would you do if you were a soldier in this situation?

## On the edge of a Jewish civil war, 1948

### Background:

The time is June 21, 1948. Seven Arab armies, threatening to destroy her invade the State of Israel, only born a month ago, before the State even began to breathe.

Heavy battles are taking place fifteen miles south of Tel Aviv, in the Negev (Southern part of Israel), and in the Galilee. Jerusalem is under siege for months by now. Her Jewish inhabitants are starving, fighting for their lives. The Jewish quarter had fallen just now to the Jordanian Legion.

Although *Zahal* (The IDF) already exists, there are some *Etzel* (= Initials in Hebrew for "*Irgun Tzvai Le'umi*", National Military Organization, also known as "*The Irgun*", it was an activist Jewish underground, headed by **Menachem Begin**) platoons in besieged-Jerusalem, under independent command.

Although *Etzel* had undertaken to stop all independent arms purchases in Europe, it's learned that a ship carrying 900 new-immigrants (refugees of the Holocaust in Europe), plus 250 machine-guns, 5000 rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition, is approaching the shores of Tel Aviv.

The government of Israel demands that the ship, including its cargo, be placed unconditionally at its disposal, but the *Etzel* leaders refuse. They claim that this ammunition could save the lives of many in besieged Jerusalem, including their troops.

As the ship is already seen from the beach in Tel Aviv, you (=David Ben Gurion), and the Cabinet of Israel, need to reach a decision what to do:

### Options:

- 1) Let the ship anchor, and confiscate all the cargo for the IDF. (but possibly have to fight *Etzel* supporters!)
- 2) **Not** to let it anchor, until an agreement is reached with Menachem Begin, leader of *Etzel*.
- 3) **Shell** the ship by gunfire. *We will show them who the boss is here!*
- 4) Force the ship to sail back to Europe. Israel cannot allow "private militias" in the country.
- 5) Other solutions: ????

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO AS A LEADER?**

