

## Emily Mostow's (CRUSY Regional Rel/ed 2009-10) Creative Services

### **Build-A-Prayer**

In this learning minyan, USYers will decide what prayer means to them and design their own prayers accordingly. Together, they will try to build a service that will be most meaningful for the whole kehillah.

Materials Needed:

-Construction Paper

-Markers

-Masking Tape or Glue

-Scissors

-a Large Piece of Paper or Posterboard

1. (10 min) USYers will be each be given one piece of construction paper. They can divide this piece of paper however they would like into one or more blocks. Each block will represent some element of prayer that the USYer finds to be important. The size of the block should be proportionate to the value that element holds.

2. (15 min) Once each USYer has created several "building blocks" of prayer, the whole group will come together to build a service. They will discuss together and decide which building blocks are most important to include on their posterboard, and how they can fit together to create the best service. (This is both figurative and literal; they will physically tape or glue the best building blocks onto the posterboard. Conflicting building blocks should be placed far from each other, or one should be chosen over the other, depending on the group's decision.)

3. (5 min) The group should review the service they have created. With this in mind, they should do the Shema and Amidah. If appropriate, they should apply the attributes from their service to the Shema and Amidah.

### **Shirah Shacharit**

This service is targeted for USYers who are bored of monotonous tunes that don't sound pretty. USYers will do the service, learning new tunes along the way. They may also learn harmonies for the tunes. By spending more time singing, USYers will feel more spiritually connected (similarly to slow ruach). Jeremy Pappas has enthusiastically agreed to lead this service.

### **Whose Verse Is It Anyway?**

In this minyan, USYers will play improv games that are related to prayers in the Shacharit service. The scenes and content of their games will relate to synagogues and prayer.

*Party Quirks-Birkat Hashachar*

- Select 5 volunteers. The first volunteer will be hosting a party. The other 4 volunteers will have the following weird quirks, which you will whisper into their ears. The party host must guess the strange quirks assigned to each party guest. The audience will not know them either. These quirks will correspond to the things we thank Hashem for in Birkat Hashachar. The quirks are: naked, lacking courage, downtrodden, and lost (not on his path).

*ABC Game-Ashrei*

- Select 2 volunteers. They will perform a scene. Each time they switch speakers, they must start their sentence with the next consecutive letter of the alphabet. Their scene will be in the location of the group's choice, discussing G-d.

*Song Game-Halleluyah*

- Select 3 volunteers. The group will choose either a style of song or a song for them to change the words to. The volunteers will make up a song, complete with any kind of beat-boxing, drumming, or harmonizing, that is about praising G-d.

*Props-Shema*

- As many volunteers as there are can come up. In Shema we get the commandments for tzitzit, tefillin, and mezuzot. They sometimes look strange to the outside world. USYers will take turns thinking of (appropriate!) things a person might think one of those objects is besides what it really is. The last person standing wins.

*Questions Game-Mi Chamocha*

- Select 2 volunteers. (They will begin, but expect them to get out and other USYers to replace them.) They may only speak in questions. If one of them pauses or speaks in a non-question, that person gets out and the next person on their team replaces them. The starting question is "Who is like G-d, among all that is worshiped?" The group may pick the setting.

*Whose Line-Amidah*

Select 4 volunteers. 2 will act, and 2 will feed them lines as they go. Once handed the line, they will have to incorporate it into the scene. The lines will be from different prayers of the Amidah. The group may pick the setting and the starting scene.

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## **Improv Minyan**

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