

PROGRAM #3

Program Title: Building Israel – Creating A Yeshuv

Category: Israel

Author(s): Sarah Ruben, Alyza Weinberg, and Hannah Mormer

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Edited by: Zach Newburgh

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Please Note: This program may be used "as-is," however; NFTYites are encouraged to "adapt" programs, combining their own elements of innovation with this preexisting program.

TOUCHSTONE TEXT:

“It is true that we aspire to our ancient land. But what we want in that ancient land is a new blossoming of the Jewish spirit.” – Theodor Herzl

GOALS:

PPs will learn more about themselves and their values, how to interact with others and function as a group, and the challenges facing the early settlers of Israel

OBJECTIVES:

PPs will list values important to them in creating a community

PPs will in groups choose values for a new community

PPs will in groups develop their new community by responding to prompts and creating a constitution

PPs will in groups select new olim (immigrants) for their community

PPs will in groups be faced with dilemmas tailored to their individual community

MATERIALS:

Paper and pens for each PP

Attached worksheets for each group

Post-It Poster for sharing of information

PEOPLE:

10 facilitators (1 per group)

3 Group Leaders (the Va'ad)



SPACE NEEDED:

Preferably multiple breakout rooms (one per group)

One central room

TIMELINE:

- 00:00-00:10 Intro, Distribution of materials
- 00:10-00:20 Individuals list 8 values
- 00:20-00:30 Divide into groups and travel time
- 00:30-00:45 Group selects 5 values and sends report
- 00:45-00:50 Explanation of next task
- 00:50-01:10 Groups develop community (rules, roles, etc.) and send report
- 01:10-01:20 Groups select new olim and send report
- 01:20-01:25 Travel Time
- 01:25-01:30 Wrap-up

DETAILED PROCEDURE:

00:00-00:10 Intro, Distribution of materials

Groupleader says: “The year is 1875 and Israel is settled by various yeshuvim, or settlements. The yeshuvim are established by Jews who come to Israel as a way for them to live together and increase their chances of prospering. People build the yeshuvim together, establish rules, and work together to keep their community thriving. You are a new oleh, someone moving to Israel, and you’re establishing your own yeshuv. What 8 values are most important to you in your yeshuv? What 8 concepts or values do you think are most necessary for your yeshuv to thrive? Please try to think about this for a little while, and once you’ve decided, write the 8 values on the piece of paper you are about to receive. It is vitally important which values you choose, as they can determine whether or not your yeshuv will survive. Think about it. What’s most important to you in forming a brand new community?”

Pass out paper and pens, 1 per PP

00:10-00:20 Individuals list 8 values



PPs individually write 8 values most important for the survival of their yeshuv on provided paper

00:20-00:30 Divide into groups and travel time

Group leader says: "Now, you're going to come together into groups to form a real yeshuv. Throughout the process, you'll have to be in touch with the Va'ad, or committee (that's us) through report sheets to let them know of your progress. You'll end up planning many aspects of your yeshuv, but first, you have to start by selecting what 5 values will guide your yeshuv. Each person in the group should share their 8 values, and the final list of 5 should come from those people share or other values you think up. It's important that you reach consensus on your final 5 values; everyone in the yeshuv must agree that those 5 values should guide the yeshuv. Choose wisely, because again, the values that guide your yeshuv may determine whether or not your yeshuv will survive. It makes a difference not only what you choose, but also what you choose to leave out. We're going to number off into 5 groups to form our yeshuvim."

Group leader numbers PPs into 5 groups

Group leader says: "You will have about 10 minutes in your group to select your 5 values. Good luck."

Groups split into different rooms (preferably)

00:30-00:45 Group selects 5 values

In groups, each PP reads their 8 values to guide a yeshuv. Through discussion, the whole group must reach consensus as to which 5 values will guide their yeshuv. A group leader will be in the room to help facilitate the discussion and keep the group on task. Here are some examples of values:

Hygiene	Equality	Justice
Freedom	Opportunity	Faith
Religion	Discipline	Fairness
Compassion	Tolerance	Understanding
Respect	Patience	Health



00:45-00:50 Explanation of next task

Groupleader says: “Now that you know what values are going to guide your yeshuv, you’re going to spend the next little bit developing your yeshuv. Each step of the way, you’ll be sending reports to the Va’ad which is overseeing the running of your yeshuv. You’ll have report sheets to fill out and members of the Va’ad will periodically be stopping by to check in and collect the sheets. Papers will explain what you have to do, and if you have any questions please ask members of the Va’ad, who will either be roaming around or in this room. Good luck.”

00:50-01:10 Groups develop community (rules, roles, etc.) and send report

Groups develop their yeshuv, determining answers to prompts to create a constitution, and fill out report sheet (see attached)

01:10-01:20 Groups select new olim and send report

Groups go through lists of prospective olim from the First Aliyah and decide who to let in or not let in to their yeshuv. Groups fill out the New Olim Report Sheet.

01:20-01:25 Travel Time

All groups return to original location.

01:25-01:30 Wrap-up

Groupleader says: “Great jobs with your yeshuvim, guys. I can tell that lots of work went into all of this and am proud of those of you who were able to create thriving yeshuvim under what turned out to be some difficult conditions. Hopefully, you were able to gain an understanding of what it was like for some of the earlier settlers of Israel. Other than the hardships of food and illness, there were the hardships of working together as a group. This is part of what we had to face tonight, creating yeshuvim through consensus. For the next few days, we’re all going to be living together as a community. Then and into the future, we need to remember the skills that were helpful in creating our yeshuvim: listening to each other, compromise, holding your ground when you really think it’s necessary – working together. May we all continue to work together to create not only successful yeshuvim, but also successful communities throughout our lives.”

BACKGROUND: From 1800 to 1882, Israel was settled in what was called the Old Yeshuv movement. Yeshuvim, or settlements, were created by groups of people in Israel as ways of helping to ensuring survival. Yeshuvim were formed by Jews from many places, Ashkenazim and Sephardim. In 1882, the



First Aliyah began, a movement in which many immigrants from Eastern Europe and a small number of immigrants from Yemen made aliyah to Israel. Most of the olim from the First Aliyah were idealists with little experience who settled as agriculturalists.

Developing Your Yeshuv

In the next 25 minutes, you should begin to establish how your yeshuv will be run. The questions below can help to guide your decisions. Some of the questions are more general, others very specific. In the end, you should create a constitution for your yeshuv covering, but not limited to, the topics below. Along the way, fill out the attached report sheet to turn in to the Va'ad. Good luck.

What are the 5 values that guide your yeshuv? How do these values play a role in your yeshuv?

What language is spoken at your yeshuv? Keep in mind that your yeshuv in Israel may include olim (immigrants) from many different places around the world.

What is the housing arrangement in your yeshuv? Is it communal? Individual? Who builds the houses? Is housing by families, age, some other factor?

Is your yeshuv a religious yeshuv? There are many angles to this question.

Is a certain level of religious observance (or lack thereof) required of all members of the yeshuv, or is it optional?

Do you work on Shabbat?

Do you eat only kosher food?

Do you take time each day to pray 3 times? Communally or individually?

Do you pray on Shabbat?



Do members of your yeshuv follow religious codes of dress, including modesty, kippot, tzitzit, etc.?

What are the eating arrangements in your yeshuv? Do people prepare their own food in personal kitchens or is everything prepared together in one kitchen? Is eating communal or individual?

Is there an education system in your yeshuv? Who is educated and how? What are they educated about (religious, secular, mix, etc.)?

How is your yeshuv run? Is there a single town leader, a city council, group meetings of the whole yeshuv? Who makes decisions in the yeshuv and how?

What does your yeshuv do to support itself? Agriculture? Something else? What? How does your yeshuv do this?

Does each person in your yeshuv play a specific role, or do roles overlap? What are these roles?

What is your yeshuv called?

Constitution for _____ New Olim (Immigrants)

The year is now 1882, and the First Aliyah is beginning. As a wave of new olim (immigrants) come to Israel, some of them are seeking entrance into your yeshuv. Who will you let in, or not let in? Keep in mind who fits in with the ideals of your yeshuv and who will best serve your yeshuv (or not). You must know for each prospective oleh (immigrant) why you did or did not select them. When you have made your decisions, please fill out the attached report sheet and turn it in to the Va'ad.

The following people are requesting entrance into your yeshuv:



Yuri (male)

Russian 17 year old. Never finished high school; no specific skills. Strong and healthy. Jewish.

Petru (male) and Yelena (female)

Romanian couple. In their late fifties. Petru has medical training. Yelena is bedridden. The two will only come together. Jewish descent, nonreligious.

Mendel (male)

37 year old Rabbi from Galacia (Eastern Europe). Requires Jewish observance in his community. Healthy. Also has some medical knowledge.

Chanah (female)

Russian 20 year old. Healthy. Has knowledge of agriculture. Observant of Judaism.

Mikhael (male)

Christian Zionist, 30 years old. Former head councilman in his town. Wealthy man who is leaving his former life behind to develop and protect the Holy Land.

Mahmud (male)

Arab Muslim, 19 years old. Strong and healthy. Skilled in agriculture and labor. Seeking part time work and not a place to live.

Adah (female)

25 year old from Yemen. Strong and healthy. Jewish descent.

Ilya (male) and Rachel (female) and Pessie (female)

Ilya and Rachel are in their late twenties, they have been married for 10 years. Pessie is their 7 year old daughter. Ilya is a baker, and Rachel helps him in the bakery. They are Jewish and prepare challot every Friday and do not remain open on Shabbat.



Crina (female)

Romanian 19 year old. Strong-willed idealist. Leaving family behind to come to Israel. Willing to try any line of work.

New Olim Report Sheet

Please star the names of the olim (immigrants) you decided to accept. Next to each oleh (immigrant), put the reason for your decision to accept them into your yeshuv or to reject them from your yeshuv. When you have filled out the sheet, please turn it in to the Va'ad.

Yuri (male)

Petru (male) and Yelena (female)

Mendel (male)

Chanah (female)



Mikhael (male)

Mahmud (male)

Adah (female)

Ilya (male) and Rachel (female) and Pessie (female)

Crina (female)
