

## **CHANGING G-D VIEWS (ROPES PROGRAM)**

NFTY-TOR Summer Kallah 2005  
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**GOAL:** To create a forum for TORites to express their views on G-d in their lives, hear other's views, and discover how these views have changed throughout their lives.

**OBJECTIVE:** PP's will leave the program with realization of how they themselves and their peers view G-d and how these views evolve.

**PEOPLE NEEDED:** ~2 people to pass out blindfolds at the door of the Teatron.  
~14 people to read monologues  
~3-4 floaters to watch PP's  
~5 guides (college staff) to lead and for discussion.  
~1 advisor for each discussion group (total of 14)  
**Rest of available advisors and college staff to keep PP's quiet in the Teatron during the first 30 minutes**

**SPACE NEEDED:** Teatron  
Ulam

**MATERIALS:** -Blindfolds (1 for each person)  
-14 long pieces of rope/ two super super long piece of rope  
-Candles (for readers, floaters, and group leaders)  
-Boom boxes with quiet instrumental music

**TIME TABLE:**

00:00-00:10	Enter Teatron and put on blind folds
00:10-00:25	Monologues along rope
00:25-00:26	Read first story
00:26-00:45	Answer first story's questions
00:45-01:00	Reconvene, songs, closing statement, silence, and Motzi

### **PROCEDURE:**

**[00:00-00:10]** PP's are led into the Teatron, given blindfolds, and directed to a place to sit quietly with their blindfold on.

**[00:10-00:25]** Five at a time, PP's are led into to Ulam HaSport to go to one of two identical courses. Each course consists of seven stations connected by rope for PP's to follow to each station. At each station they hear a short monologue representing different periods of one's life.

**After PP's are finished with the course, they are led to one of 14 group circles located in the following rooms: Game Room (1\*), Carpet Room (1\*), Kitah Bet (1\*), Stage (1\*), Teatron (5\*), Mirkaz Ivrit (1\*), Ulam(4\*)** (note: \* = how many groups in each room)

**[00:25-00:26]** Once in those groups, an advisor will instruct the PP's to remove their blindfolds and remain silent.

**[00:26-00:45]** The advisor will then read a story and prompt brief discussion with questions given to them.

**[00:45-01:00]** After discussion settles down, the group leader will lead the group back to the Teatron where they will sit quietly and listen to a songleader play "Enter appropriate song titles here" and wait for all groups to reconvene back to the Teatron.

Program head will make a closing statement and instruct PP's to take a moment of silent inner reflection.

Everyone recites the Motzi together and PP's are released to go to dinner.

### **MONOLOGUES:**

1. Early Childhood – "Mommy, today in Sunday School the teacher said that G-d is everywhere, and G-d made the whole world, and all the animals, and all the people."
2. 11-12 years old – "If G-d can control everything, and G-d is good, then how come grandma's cancer won't go away?"
3. Teenager – "I don't really know what to think about G-d, Mom. A lot of my friends say they don't believe in G-d...what do you think?"
4. Newlywed – "Today is the happiest day of my life, Mom. I'll never forget saying those special words: 'Be consecrated unto me according to the law of Moses and Israel.' Surely, G-d was in this place and I, I did not know it."

5. Death of a parent – "It's not fair. No, this isn't happening. It's just like a dream, a terrible, terrible dream. There just can't be a G-d, how could there be? Answer me Rabbi. If there is a G-d, then why was such a wonderful, giving woman like my mom taken away so early?"
6. Childbirth – "Today is the most incredible day of our lives. It's a miracle, a true gift from G-d....WOW!! A baby boy! I can't believe this is for real!"
7. Old age – "I have a lot of time to think now that I've retired. I believe there is a G-d, but I still don't understand why bad things happen to good people... I guess I'll never know."

### **STORY:**

"Hello. My name is Rebecca Lewis. I am 17 years old and will be a senior in high school. My life has been pretty easy I suppose, given all the problems and misfortunes which could have happened to me. I am just very confused. I have always believed in the simple idea that G-d is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent... I never question G-d, my rabbi, or my parents when it came to religious matters. I always figured, "Hey, they know best." But now it seems all my friends are becoming atheists and agnostics. It sounds so interesting and so intriguing. It seems a lot easier, too. Also, it helps to explain a lot to me, like why innocent people are accused or hurt. I don't know all of the answers anymore, and everything isn't as I thought. What do you think?"

### **QUESTIONS:**

Do you believe in some sort of a G-d? How would you describe your views?

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Has your idea of G-d changed since you were younger? How?

Have you ever thought that G-d might not exist at all? How would that change your view of life and yourself?

### **If there's time...**

Have you ever had an experience that made you question G-d's goodness?

How can a loving G-d allow tragedies? Do you think G-d is looking out for people who experience tragedies?

Is it ever better not to question certain things?

What do you think of the idea of G-d as a watchmaker? What sorts of responsibility does such a view impose on humanity?

How do we explain why bad things happen to good people?

# Gymnastics



