

Program Title: Noar Telem Program

Category: Jewish Learning

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Created for: NFTY-NE December Institute

Touchstone Text:

“Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28)

Goals:

PPs will learn about Noar Telem.

PPs will see the similarities between NFTY and Noar Telem, thus drawing parallels between the movements.

Objectives:

PPs will undergo a mock Noar Telem event.

PPs will participate in a learning session about the beauty of Noar Telem.

Timed Procedure:

1. Skit.....	2 mins
2. Break into Groups.....	3 mins
3. Name Game.....	6 mins
4. Introduction to Noar Telem.....	10 mins
5. Station 1.....	10 mins
6. Station 2.....	10 mins
7. Station 2.....	10 mins
8. Station 4.....	10 mins
9. Noar Telem Discussion.....	20 mins
10. Regroup.....	3 mins
11. Closing Skit.....	2 mins
Total Time.....	86 mins

Materials:

- coat
- jacket
- sweater
- mittens
- hat
- scarf
- plastic food
- basket
- 1 map of Israel for each PP in a group
- crayons
- sample programs 1 and 2 for each PP in a group

People:

- GLs
- PPs
- Rovers
- Station leaders

Location:

Typical Manor House locations

Background Information:

This is not a parallel universe program. There will be 5 largeish groups. If necessary, each group can have 2 groupleaders (that works well). After you have gone through all 5 stations, stay at the last station to complete the learning session. Groupleaders move with their groups.

A songleader needs to be employed to run the song session station.

Our sort of cool RCVP needs to be employed to run the T'fillah station.

Someone will need to be employed to act as our homeless person.

In the discussion/explanation of what Noar Telem is, certain things are italicized. This is because they are important things for the PPs to understand because they will be important later when you are leading them to the connection of how Noar Telem is similar to NFTY.

In the Tikkun Olam station, a basket of warm clothing and fake food should be set up beforehand and left there.

EXTRA INFORMATION IN CASE YOU NEED TO STALL:

Noar Telem works differently from NFTY. They are a lot smaller- only around 800 people in the country. Second of all, they work like most movements in Israel, where kids are chanichim/campers/participants from 4th to 8th grade (sort of like JYG), in 9th grade they go through a leadership training year, where most people become counselors afterwards. Then from 10th-12th grade they are part of what's called the "senior grade", which is the real heart of the movement, doing all the activities and are counselors.

They have two main events- the summer camp, which is their main attraction, called 'havaya', which means 'experience', and their convention once a year where they make all our decisions and decide the goals of the movement (sort of like our convention and, on off years, midyear boards or veidaaaah).

But the main thing they do is the weekly activities, where anyone from 10th grade on who wants to does activities for the chanichim, which are mainly fun, but have the purpose of teaching their values (and do). Their values are just like ours- democracy, Zionism, tikun olam, equality, environment, responsibility, community, leadership, Judaism.

Detailed Procedure:

1. Skit.....2 mins

American: This is SO GREAT that, you, my wonderful Israeli cousin that is the same age as me but I never get to see, get to come with me to my NFTY event. It's really going to be awesome.

Israeli: Yeah my awesome American cousin that is the same age as me but I never get to see. I'm really glad that we get to do this together and I get to see what kind of stuff you do here.

American: If I were you, I'd be so jealous of me. I mean, we're the same age but because we live in two completely different countries, you don't get to have an awesome thing like NFTY.

Israeli: Well actually, I do...

2. Break into Groups.....3 mins

3. Name Game.....6 mins

GL: Hey everyone. How are you all? Awesome I hope. We're actually not going to start with a name game because we're 45 minutes behind already and we don't have any time to spare. Just kidding. I want everyone to go around and say their name, TYG and favorite thing about Israel.

(Hi my name is Tal and I'm from ISRAELY and my favorite thing about Israel is falafel)

4. Introduction to Noar Telem.....10 mins

GL: Wonderful. So now we are going to have a really fun rotation program. But before we get started on our ridiculously wonderful adventure, I just have to ask, does anyone know what Noar Telem is?

(noooo)

(YES. it's the youth movement in Israel)

GL: Woohoo! You are right. Noar Telem is indeed the reform youth movement in Israel. To get a better idea of the specifics of Noar Telem, I'm going to give you an incredibly lovely and beautiful handout.

[GL gives out handout 1]

GL: Could I get someone to read this please and thank you? The only thing I ask is that, while you are reading, pay attention to the phrases that are italicized because they will come in quite handy later on in the discussion.

(I would really like to read this handout because my mom says that I have a knack for pronunciation)

[PPs read handout 1]

GL: Thank you very much. That was some very excellent reading that you just did and I really appreciate it. Can someone please summarize what was just said in this handout?

[PP summarizes handout]

GL: Exactly. All of that makes a ton of sense to you, right? Right. I know it does. Right.

(Yeah, it certainly does)

[If PPs have questions, answer them]

GL: And now it is time to start the party! We are going to go off on our lovely journey through a Noar Telem event.

5. Station 1-Tikkun Olam.....10 mins

GL: Shalom! In this station we are going to do a really wonderful-

[GL notices a person who appears cold and is ill dressed and also looks hungry and is more or less homeless and needs severe help]

GL: Well what have we here? Hello. You appear to be cold and not well off at all.

Person: Yes. I do not have adequate clothing or food and I also live on the street. I could use a considerable amount of help.

GL: Well you are definitely in luck because these lovely people here I'm sure are willing to help you because, in Judaism, Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is an essential element and helping you would definitely fall into that category I think. Hey group, are you up for helping this person?

(are you KIDDING? of course we are)

GL: Ok that is wonderful. I have a nice basket of clothes and some food here so you should dress this person up and give them some food and send them on their merry way and I know that you will change their life forever and you will all be better people because of it.

[PPs help sad person]

GL: Yay. I can already tell that with this warm clothing and food that this person is on the right track to leading a happier and more splendid life. Doesn't Tikkun Olam just make you feel so wonderful?
(yes)

GL: I'm glad. But really, we all know Tikkun Olam makes us feel warm and fuzzy inside, but why do we do it?

(We have the opportunity and ability to. We have a moral, social, religious and personal obligation to do so.)

GL: Right on. And the key word there is a religious obligation. We need to repair the world to create God's perfect world. To repair the broken vessels. You know how it goes. That is why it is so important, not only to NFTY, but of course to Noar Telem. Does that make sense?
(of course it does)

GL: So now we are going to talk about Tikkun Olam in our own worlds. Why do you PERSONALLY do Tikkun Olam?

[PPs briefly discuss]

GL: Wow. You are all such wonderful people. And because of those reasons, what are some of the things that you do?

*(I give money to homeless people on street corners)
(I donate my old clothing to the fashion challenged)
(I work as a seeing eye dog to the blind)*

GL: I am glad. And now we are going to the _____.

6. Station 2-Israel.....10 mins

GL: Woohoo. This station is really super awesome. I wanted to let you all know that I'm totally 100% completely and utterly in love with Israel. Seriously, it's my favorite place in the entire world...probably the best place that ever existed. I'm not even joking. And everyone should live in Israel. Right?

(right)

GL: I know I'm right. So we're going to make a plan right now. A plan to make everyone move to Israel. I'm going to give you all maps of Israel. You guys are going to color them in. Make them really beautiful because Israel is really beautiful and if you have ugly maps then it might affect people making Aliyah and that would really not be good for our Zionistic policies. So yay. Color your lives away.

[GL passes out maps]

[PPs color in maps]

GL: Wow. Those are some seriously stellar maps. But you know what? It's not just a nicely colored in map that should make you want to move to Israel. Why is it that in NFTY and Noar Telem, Zionism is so important and so emphasized?

(Because, in the Jewish religion, it is believed that when all the Jews go to Israel, we will be in the Messianic age and all will be good with the world.)

GL: Exactly. Does anyone have any input into whether or not they would want to make Aliyah?

[PPs discuss briefly]

GL: Has anyone ever been to Israel?

(no)

(yes)

GL: So for those of you that have been, it's pretty evident that they (for the most part) are passionate about their country and Zionism. Right?

(definitely)

GL: Great. Those were all fabulous points and I know that because of those maps and your discussion, everyone is going to want to make Aliyah and that is really excellent because Zionism is super important. Great job. You are fabulous. And now, we are going to the _____.

7. Station 3-Song Session.....10 mins

GL: THIS IS MY FAVORITE! It's time for a song session!

[Songleader leads group in songsession]

GL: Yeah. Seriously. I love those. They never get old. Obviously, though, those things aren't necessarily the most educational activities in the world. Do you have any idea why we just did one?

(for fun. GOOD LORD)

GL: Exactly. Like NFTY, Noar Telem isn't just programming. They love to have fun just like we do and, at their events, they have song sessions every Friday. So they aren't as focused around them as we are, but they love them just as much. And since I love song sessions so much, it really pains me to say that we have to move on. But we must. We are going to the _____.

8. Station 4-Leadership.....10 mins

GL: I know that you all idolize me because I'm a groupleader. And that's totally understandable because I'm awesome. And I want you to all be as awesome as me. So I'm going to give you that once in a lifetime chance. Right now I'm going to split you guys into 2 groups. Each person should get a partner from the other group. Then I'm going to give you all a sample program and you can grouplead the other. Then switch off. YAY. BUT before you go, just remember some very key tips about groupleading: BE INTERACTIVE! Talk to your PPs, not at them. You can do that by not reading right off the sheet. Give it your own personal spin. If it looks like your PPs are missing the point, try to steer them in the right direction. Don't be afraid of additional questions that will add to the discussion. I know you can definitely do it.

[GL hands out program]

[PPs grouplead each other]

GL: You guys are so talented. Seriously. You're almost as good as me. I'm glad to know that you have such amazing leadership skill that you can grouplead each other. It is wonderful to know that there are true wonderous leaders in our midst. Do any of you have any idea why it was so important that you just grouplead each other?

(YES. So I can be just like you)

(nooo)

(Because, like NFTY, Noar Telem values youth leadership. So the youth needs to know how to lead more youth.)

GL: Exactly right. Noar Telem is so up on youth empowerment which is why they like youth leadership. Very nice job.

9. Noar Telem Discussion.....23 mins

GL: So guys, we just did a pretty sweet bunch of activities. Who wants to recap what they were again?

(a stall because this is actually a fakeout for a social program?)

(someone didn't really want to write a program so we just did a bunch of random stuff?)

(stuff we do during NFTY events?)

(a Noar Telem event?)

GL: Oh yes, you are so brilliant. And as you know, this incredibly glorious rotation that you all just went through was a mock Noar Telem event.

GL: So now I want to draw you attention back to NFTY. We're the North American youth of the reform movement, right? Right. Well Noar Telem is the Israeli youth of the reform movement. Sooooo it is only reasonable to conclude that there are probably some similarities between NFTY and Noar Telem. Right? Right. Now we're going to have a really big party and write some of these similarities on butcher paper. Think way way back to your original handouts. They will help you. Who wants to scribe?

(I do because I have really whirly twirly handwriting)

[PPs make list]

(Noar Telem works aims for equality for all people like NFTY)

(The value of community is important to them sort of like how we're always talking about being a Kehillah Kedosha)

(They like social justice. So do we. YEAH SOCIAL ACTION)

(They also have the youth empowerment/youth led thing. Like regional board is a bunch of seniors in highschool rather than adults)

(They have not just highschool like we have JYGs)

(They have a lot of stuff on the national level too. Camps and other programs and such)

[If PP's just aren't getting at it, subtly hint that they should LOOK AT THE ITALICIZED BITS ON HANDOUT 1]

GL: Exactly. That is a very beautiful list. Noar Telem has a lot of the same values as we do and they work towards many of the same things that we do also. Think back to each of the stations. What activities did we do?

*(we did a Tikkun Olam thing by helping a man)
(we did a Zionism thing when we colored in our maps)
(we group led each other)
(we had a song session)*

GL: Right. So now we're going to do some tying in. Think about the Tikkun Olam bit. How does that tie into the values of Noar Telem?

(yeah, Tikkun Olam is a value of theirs because it's something that is also central to Judaism. So obviously they would run Tikkun Olam programs as well.)

GL: Exactly. Think about all the social action that you do. Stuff like the Walk for Hunger or even just the Social Action Program that we do at every institute. Noar Telem does the same sort of thing and, like you all, they make a huge difference. Just recently they spent Tisha B'Av distributing white ribbons with the Hebrew inscription, "V'ahavta l'reacha camocha (Love thy neighbor as thyself)." This idea came from the orange ribbons displayed by those against the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank, and blue ribbons of those in favor. On Tisha B'Av, more than 1,200 white ribbons were distributed at major intersections throughout the country. This was a huge deal. And this is so much like what we all do in NFTY. What we do in Social Action and everything else affects everyone around us, just like what Noar Telem does. What about the Israel station?

(Well, Noar Telem is in Israel. So of course a lot of what they do would end up being Zionism based. So that is why we colored the maps of Israel and talked about how awesome it is.

GL: Exactly right. And how about you guys demonstrating your leadership and groupleading each other?

(Noar Telem thinks leadership and learning how to be leaders is pretty cool. Like us they are a youth run movement so obviously being a leader is an important thing to keep that concept running. So that was why we took turns groupleading each other.)

GL: Correct! And of course the song session...what's with that?

(Well what would an event be without some raucous fun. It's got to be in there somewhere)

GL: Aren't those connections just ridiculous?

(Whoa now. They are pretty crazy.)

GL: AND THE CONNECTION DOESN'T EVEN STOP THERE! I bet some of you are connected in an even closer way to Noar Telem and don't even know it. Do any of you know if you are from a congregation that has a sister congregation in Israel?

(yes)

(no)

[If any PP does, have them explain a little bit, but if not, just go to the spiel]

GL: Yay for connections! I know it's bothering your noggin though to know why these connections are so important. Lucky for you, I will tell you. Because it is also important to many youth groups in Noar Telem to build a connection with Jews in the Diaspora, one group traveled to visit their sister congregations in Boston. Oh yes yes yes it is true. Those congregations were Temple Isaiah, Temple Israel, Temple Beth Elohim, Temple Shalom, and Temple Shir Tikva. It is the truth. Some of those may even be your own congregations. Whoa the world is small.

(It's a small world after all)

GL: Seriously. How much do you just love it? I know that, when we were going through the stations, a lot of you didn't even realize that we were doing something that was outside of a NFTY event. Why do you think that you felt we were doing all the same NFTY type things?

(Because they are based around the same things as us so they'd do the same things)

GL: RIGHT. Because, truly, their values are so similar that they end up doing a lot of the same activities and types of programs that we do. Truly amazing, no?

(ooooh yes)

GL: I know that this is something that causes wow and confundment in all of your brains, but I trust that, in time, it will register. Before we wrap up, does anyone have any final questions about the gorgeousness that is Noar Telem?

(No, I don't have any questions because this program was so well written that everything I could have ever wanted to know was answered and my knowledge about Noar Telem bests any of that of all of my friends.)

[PPs ask questions]

GL: Yay! You guys have been an awesome group. We're now going to go back and regroup in Manor House living room.

10. Regroup.....3 mins

11. Closing Skit.....2 mins

American: Oh man my wonderful Israeli cousin that is the same age as me but I never get to see, I had no idea that there was such a huge world out there called Noar Telem that is your youth movement. It's really quite miraculous.

Israeli: Yeah, I know. We're pretty awesome and we change the world every day.

American: You definitely do. It's so impressive. Even more and better, I had no idea how much of a connection there is between NFTY and Noar Telem. It is stellar.

Israeli: Yeah. It's pretty tov.

Handout 1
Noar Telem Program
Hannah Siegel+Andy Schachter

OH MY GOD WHAT IS NOAR TELEM?

Noar Telem is the youth movement of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism. Noar Telem works for the advancement of a better society, working towards such goals as *equality between all people*, the revival of the *value of community, social justice* and the full acceptance of all streams of Progressive Judaism within Israeli society, and through that, to promote a Judaism within Israel that is both open and pluralistic. Through the principle of "*youth leading youth*", members of the senior age groups constitute the leaders who run the various branches of Noar Telem throughout Israel.

They provide experiential activities for children from *4th grade through 12th grade*. Local programs at centers around Israel include *social activities and programs*, enabling the children to encounter the values of the International Movement for Progressive Judaism and an acquaintance with Jewish tradition and culture, social justice, equality and democracy. All of which were mentioned before. Noar Telem's national activities include *seminars, tours and summer camps*.

FUN FACT: "Noar" means youth, and "Telem" is the Hebrew acronym for Movement for Progressive Judaism

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Sample Program 1

GL: Hello and welcome to an AMAZING program. We're going to start off, per usual, with a name game. So please say your name, TYG and favorite type of chocolate dipped fruit.

(my name is Crafonda, I'm from SNIFFY and my favorite type of chocolate dipped fruit is chocolate dipped pomegranate seeds)

GL: I'm glad I know you so much better now. So the point of this program is to learn all that we can about the famous movie known as Mean Girls. Does anyone know what happens in this movie?

(YES. A girl, Cady, goes from being homeschooled in Africa to being a plastic teen queen in American public school and she loses all her friendships and slowly realizes that life is not about how much money you have or how many friends but about the quality of your life and stuff.)

GL: Yes, that is exactly right. I'm glad you gave such a good synopsis. Now have you ever experienced anything like what happened in Mean Girls?

(Yes I have! My best friend totally had a party and didn't invite me and she stabbed me in the back and wrote nasty things about me in the burn book and all I did was love her.)

GL: Gee that is just such a shame. But you figured out a solution, right?

(yes. My life is much better now.)

GL: That is awesome that you found a solution. Our lives are all about solutions and you are clearly a solution master. Congatulations and thanks for participating in this program. Have a great day.

Sample Program 2

GL: HI! Welcome to a truly excellent and meaningful program. We are going to start with a name game so can I have you say your name, TYG and your favorite smell.

(My name is Francine, I'm from SMELLY and my favorite smell is the smell of rain on a dewy afternoon when the dogs are wet from being walked and you can smell cookies baking in your house)

GL: Sweet thanks for sharing. We're now going to talk about something that is really awesome. It is a little something I like to call the art of song. Raise your hand if you have ever sung a song before.

[PPs raise hands]

GL: Well that is a very good showing. Since we have such avid singers, I am going to teach you a new and wonderful song. I don't know if you have ever heard it but I know you will catch on fast. Repeat after me.

[GL teaches Row Row Row Your Boat]

GL: I AM SO GLAD THAT YOU KNOW THAT SONG NOW! Do you feel great now that you know it?

(yes)

GL: Of course you do. Do you know the verb for "to know" in Hebrew?

(no)

GL: Oh, well it is "l'adat". How about "to sing"?

(no)

GL: Well it is ok that you are not a Hebrew scholar. To sing is "l'shir". And now you are educated and that is very excellent. Thanks and have an perfect afternoon!