

Program Title: Battle of the Sexes

Category: Social Action

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Created for: NFTY-STR Winter Regional 2003

Goals:

1. To allow PPs to examine what Judaism has to say about sex and look at sex from all sides: what Judaism says, what they believe, what their parents/teachers would say, and what society would say and to allow them to see that conflict in this area isn't necessarily a bad thing.
2. To show PPs different teachings that can enable them to make their own decisions
3. To allow PPs to analyze a conflict that is not a common topic of programming
4. To allow PPs to see that Judaism has a lot to say about sex/sexual activity and show them specifics and that in Judaism sex is not a sin
5. To enable PPs to apply Judaic text and teaching to their own lives
6. To let PPs have a great time!

Objectives:

1. PPs will study texts on sex/sexual activity and other such topics and discuss them in context to their own lives and actions
2. PPs will engage in a fishbowl like program that will allow them to see the thoughts and feelings of the other gender that might often go unnoticed
3. PPs will participate in an awesome, fun battle of the sexes!

Materials:

Jewish Texts from: *Sex in the Texts* and *Teaching Hot Topics*

Timeline:

0:00 - 0:10 Skit to introduction and breakout
0:10 - 0:30 Gender program (fishbowl)
0:30 - 1:25 Sex Program/Discussion
1:25 - 1:45 Reassemble for skit 2/introduction/explanation
1:45 - 2:50 Battle of the Sexes
2:50 - 3:15 Tallying and Final Event

Detailed Procedure:

Overview: After an introductory skit by the Regional Board, PPs will be split into groups by grade. In the first part of the program PPs will be asked questions, read by the Regional Board, and will be asked to stand if it applies to them. The women will be asked questions separately than the men.

Afterwards, the PPs will split into groups of 15-20. Led by Advisors, the groups will engage in a discussion first about the program they just participated in, and then on other topics revolving around the general topic of sex. The 9th and 10th grade groups will have the topics of sexism, sacred sex, contraception, and homosexuality while the 11th and 12th grade groups will have the same topics but including the topic of sexual pleasure as well. This part of the discussion will revolve around a collection of texts (as well as questions for discussion) on each topic that the group will have to respond to and share their thoughts and feelings about. NOTE: Group leaders should discuss with their groups whichever topics they are most comfortable with and those that they can best lead a dynamic discussion about.

After these discussions, the groups will reconvene as one big group and watch another skit by the Regional Board that will introduce the final part of the program: an all out Battle of the Sexes. The PPs will go into the gender-split groups (all grades together) and engage in an assortment of physical activities and a question-based game show.

0:00 - 0:10 Skit introduction and breakout

A skit will be performed by the Regional Board to introduce the program. SUMMARY: a guy will walk up to a girl he likes and the PPs will be able to hear his conscience/inner voice. After a few quick, witty lines, he starts talking to her about hanging out at her house while her parents are away. The skit serves its introductory purpose in the end as the inner voice of the guy says "I wonder what Judaism would say about this" the guy replies, looking confused, and the voice

says “well you’re Jewish aren’t you? Do you stop being Jewish when you come near a girl?” Then, each grade will be sent to a different location.

0:10 - 0:30 Gender program (fishbowl)

All women in the room are asked to stand at each of the following statements that applies to them, notice who else is standing, and notice their feelings. Then they sit, and the next statement is read. All have the right to pass, but are asked to notice their feelings if they do so.

Please stand up silently if you...

- Are comfortable with what you know about sex
- Have ever been discriminated against because you are a woman
- Have ever felt less important than a man
- Ever remained silent, or were ever ignored, because boys or men were doing all the talking
- Have been taught only abstinence in health or science at school
- Have ever been given some form of contraception by your parents
- Have ever been called a bitch, a slut, a whore, or a similar name
- Have ever dieted or exercised to change your appearance
- Have ever stopped yourself from showing affection to, hugging, or touching another woman because of how it might look
- Have been taught about contraception in health or science at school
- Have ever felt the need to prove your worth to a guy

All men in the room are instructed to stand at each of the following statements that applies to them, notice who else is standing, and notice their feelings. Then they sit, and the next statement is read. All have the rights to pass, but are asked to notice their feelings if they do so.

Please stand up silently if you...

- Have ever been told to “act like a man”
- Have ever worried that you weren’t tough enough
- Have ever exercised to appear stronger
- Were ever told not to cry
- Have ever been called a wimp, a queer, or a fag
- Have ever been forced to fight, or been in a fight because you felt you had to prove you were a man
- Have ever been given some form of contraception by your parents
- Have ever been physically injured and hidden the pain or kept it to yourself
- Have stopped yourself from showing affection to, hugging, or touching another man because of how it might look
- Are comfortable with what you know about sex
 - Have ever been discriminated against because you are a guy
- Have been taught only abstinence only in health or science at school
- Have been taught about contraception in health or science at school

0:35 - 1:25 Sex Program/Discussion

Participants will be broken into groups, 15-20 in each group. The group leader will facilitate a discussion on the previous activity based on but not limited to the following questions:

Questions

*What did it feel like to stand and be watched by the opposite gender? By your own gender?

*What did it feel like to watch other people stand?

*Were there any questions that irked you or made you uncomfortable that you wouldn’t mind sharing now in a smaller group? Why?

*Have you ever discussed these topics with parents/friends? In school/at home/other settings?

*Have your decisions ever been influenced by Judaism or things you have learned in Hebrew School or youth group?

After that or another such segue, PPs will receive a packet of texts and engage in a discussion led by the advisor group leaders on the following topics: for 9th, 10th, & 11th graders, sexism, contraception, and homosexuality and for 12th graders, it’s the same plus sexual pleasure. Group leaders should discuss with their groups whichever topics they are most comfortable with and those that they can best lead a dynamic discussion about.

The conflict being examined in this portion of the program comes in many ways. The texts themselves conflict with each other, what they say can easily conflict with PPs' opinion, and can also conflict with what PPs might have been told by either parents, teachers, etc.

Please share with your groups the following and feel free to paraphrase:

This program is not intended as "everything you ever wanted to know about sex" but instead as "what does the Jewish tradition say about sex." This is why we're focusing on the texts: what they say about sexual issues, and how they relate to us and our lives.

The texts and topics for this program were compiled primarily with the help of *Sex in the Text*, and *Teaching Hot Topics*

1:25 - 1:45 Reassemble for skit 2/introduction/explanation

PPs go back to the main room for a skit introducing part three. The skit will be performed by the Regional Board and will introduce the concept of our battle of the sexes. SUMMARY: a guy board member will dress as a girl and a girl as a guy. They will carry out a conversation about their relationship and who is the superior sex throwing in every gender stereotype possible. At the end of the skit, the rules of the game will be announced: in each room will be a team of guys and a team of girls. The 2 teams will be competing in various events to gain points for their teams.

The first activity will break the PPs into their groups:

- All girls will be sent to one side of the room, guys to the other
- For the first activity, the first gender be in 7 evenly distributed lines and stays quietly in those lines wins 20 points for their team.
- Once both teams are in their lines, group leaders will grab a team of each and go to their locations!

1:45 - 3:00 Battle of the Sexes individual events

The following activities as well as gender specific questions will be the main components of the "Battle of the Sexes" and each group leader will be able to tailor the structure to their groups. NOTE: don't forget to keep track of the score

***Rolling tennis ball with nose (10pts)**

Two tennis balls will be needed for each group. X amount of people from each team will be split on opposite sides of the room. Once the relay begins, one person from a certain sex will roll the ball to their teammate on the other side until all teammates have gone.

***Sock wrestling (10pts)**

Participants will take off their shoes and begin Sock Wrestling. The point of the game is for one team to take off all the socks of the other team. First team to remove all socks wins.

***Find a jellybean in whipped cream (10pts)**

Two tin trays will be given to each group and there will be one Jelly Bean in each tray. They must dig their mouths/hands into it and find the one Jelly Bean.

***Paper airplane throws (5pt per airplane that makes it across)**

Teams will be given a stack of scrap paper and will be told that they have one minute to begin assembling paper airplanes with the purpose of throwing them across a line which the group leader will determine. They will have one minute of throwing time and their group may continue building airplanes once the throwing has begun.

***Questions from Battle of the sex's game (5pt per question correct)**

Question game. The group leader will have a stack of questions which are supposed to be difficult for one sex but not for the other. The teams will get in lines and in order will be asked these gender specific questions. Scores will be tallied and a winner will be announced.

***Paper ball shots into a basket (5pt per shot)**

With the used paper airplanes, PP's will go into a b-ball shootout. With an 15 crumpled up pieces of paper, PP's will be given 10 seconds to make as many shots as they can. The teams will alternate in shooting and will be

3:00-3:15 Tallying

PPs will reconvene in the main room where the scores from each girls team and each boys team will be added into the gender totals. The totals will be announced very dramatically.