



Chai Mitzvah Teen Program

CHAI MITZVAH TEEN PROGRAM TOPIC 4

Interpersonal Relationships

Chai Mitzvah teen program materials are designed for use in a religious school setting, by youth groups, or as a club in any school.


The Chai Mitzvah program includes learning, social action, and ritual. Teen program materials include texts to spark discussions, suggestions for increasing meaning in ritual observances, and examples of volunteer opportunities for each topic that can inspire the group towards creative ideas for social action. There are also links to additional information on each topic. Activities are varied, to accommodate groups of different levels and interests. Choose the discussion questions and activities that best suit your group.

icons

 introduction


 text


 conversation

 notes for leaders

 links to additional information

 activities for individuals or groups

 activities specifically designed for groups

 suggestions for meaningful ritual observance

 social action opportunities



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Interpersonal Relationships



notes

The biblical text that you are about to read tells a complicated story about friendship. In it, Jonathan, King Saul's son, becomes friends with David, the boy who was able to slay the "giant" Goliath with a stone launched from his slingshot. They meet when Saul engages David for military service, and the two young men make a pact of friendship. David is very successful as a soldier, and Saul becomes jealous. When Saul urges his son Jonathan and all of his courtiers to kill David, Jonathan is left with a difficult decision. As you read the story, think about what you would do if you were in Jonathan's place.



introduction

The Biblical text below follows the chapter where David has slain the "giant" Goliath. King Saul asks his military general to summon the boy who killed the Philistine, and this narrative picks up after David identifies himself to King Saul as the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. Here we have the beginning of the story of one of the great friendships recorded in the Bible — the friendship of Jonathan (King Saul's son) and David (the future king of Israel).



text

18 1 When [David] finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan's soul became bound up with the soul of David; Jonathan loved David as himself. 2 Saul took him [into his service] that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Jonathan and David made a pact, because [Jonathan] loved him as himself. 4 Jonathan took off the cloak and tunic he was wearing and gave them to David, together with his sword, bow, and belt. 5 David went out [with the troops], and he was successful in every mission on which Saul sent him, and Saul put him in command of all the soldiers; this pleased all the troops and Saul's courtiers as well... 7 The women sang (when David and Saul returned from a successful battle against the Philistines) as they danced, and they chanted: Saul has slain his thousands; David, his tens of thousands! 8 Saul was much distressed and greatly vexed about the matter... 9 From that day on Saul kept a jealous eye on David...

Samuel I 18:1-9

19 1 Saul urged his son Jonathan and all his courtiers to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan was very fond of David, 2 and Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is bent on killing you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; get to a secret place and remain in hiding. 3 I will go out and stand next to my father in the field where you will be and I will speak to my father about you. If I learn anything, I will tell you." 4 So Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. He said to him, "Let not Your Majesty wrong his servant David, for he has not wronged you; indeed all his actions have been very much to your advantage." 6 Saul heeded Jonathan's plea, and Saul swore, "As the Eternal lives, he shall not be put to death!" 7 Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all this. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as before...

Samuel I 19:1-7



conversation

- In Samuel I 18:1, Jonathan chooses David as a friend. Describe what initially attracted you to your friends.
- In this narrative, the loyalties of family and friendship are tested. Why do you think Jonathan warned David about his father, King Saul? Do you agree with Jonathan's actions? Why or why not? How does this story resonate with your understanding of friendship?
- Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with the idea of a son who chooses loyalty to a friend over loyalty to a parent? How does this resonate with your own modern experience?

Interpersonal Relationships



activities

Friendship Toss

This game is a fun way to think of the qualities that make someone a good friend.

You'll need:

- dice template (supplement page)
- pencil or felt tipped markers
- scissors
- tape

What to Do:

1. **Make the dice.** Choose six actions that Jonathan took in the narrative, Write each action in one of the boxes in the ACTION die template. Cut out, fold, and tape the template to make a die. Choose six qualities that Jonathan had that made him a good friend. Write each action in one of the boxes in the QUALITIES die template. Cut out, fold, and tape the template to make a die.
2. Use the dice to play *Friendship Toss*. *Directions:* Player 1 rolls the dice. If the ACTION and the QUALITY match, that person gets a point. Player 2 does the same thing. The first person to get three points is the winner. **CHALLENGE:** Can one action be linked to more than one quality of a good friend? Explain your answer.



Lean on Me Game

This activity is almost impossible to do by yourself, but easy to do when you work with friends.

How to Play:

The goal of this game is for the players to stand up without using their hands.

- A pair of players sits back-to-back with their arms hooked together. They hold their feet flat on the floor in front of them, and bend their knees.
- The players must get off of the floor and stand up without using their hands. (HINT: Leaning on the other player makes this task easy!)
- As soon as the pair is up, sit down again, and add another player. The new player hooks arms with the first two players and all three must go from sitting to standing. Keep adding a new person each time the group successfully stands up.



social action

Below are some suggestions for social action. Try these, or come up with some of your own ideas to build friendship in your community.

- The **Friendship Circle** is based on the Biblical commandment of *V'Ahavta L'Reacha Kamocha*, "love your fellow as yourself." **Be a friend to a special child.** Go to friendshipcircle.com to find a volunteer opportunity near you, or download the app, *FCconnect*.
- **Mentor a child in your synagogue.** Become a *madrich* or a tutor for a child in Hebrew school.

Share your ideas on the Chai Mitzvah Facebook page! Tell about what your group has chosen to do. Send your story to Nina Woldin: nina@chaimitzvah.org

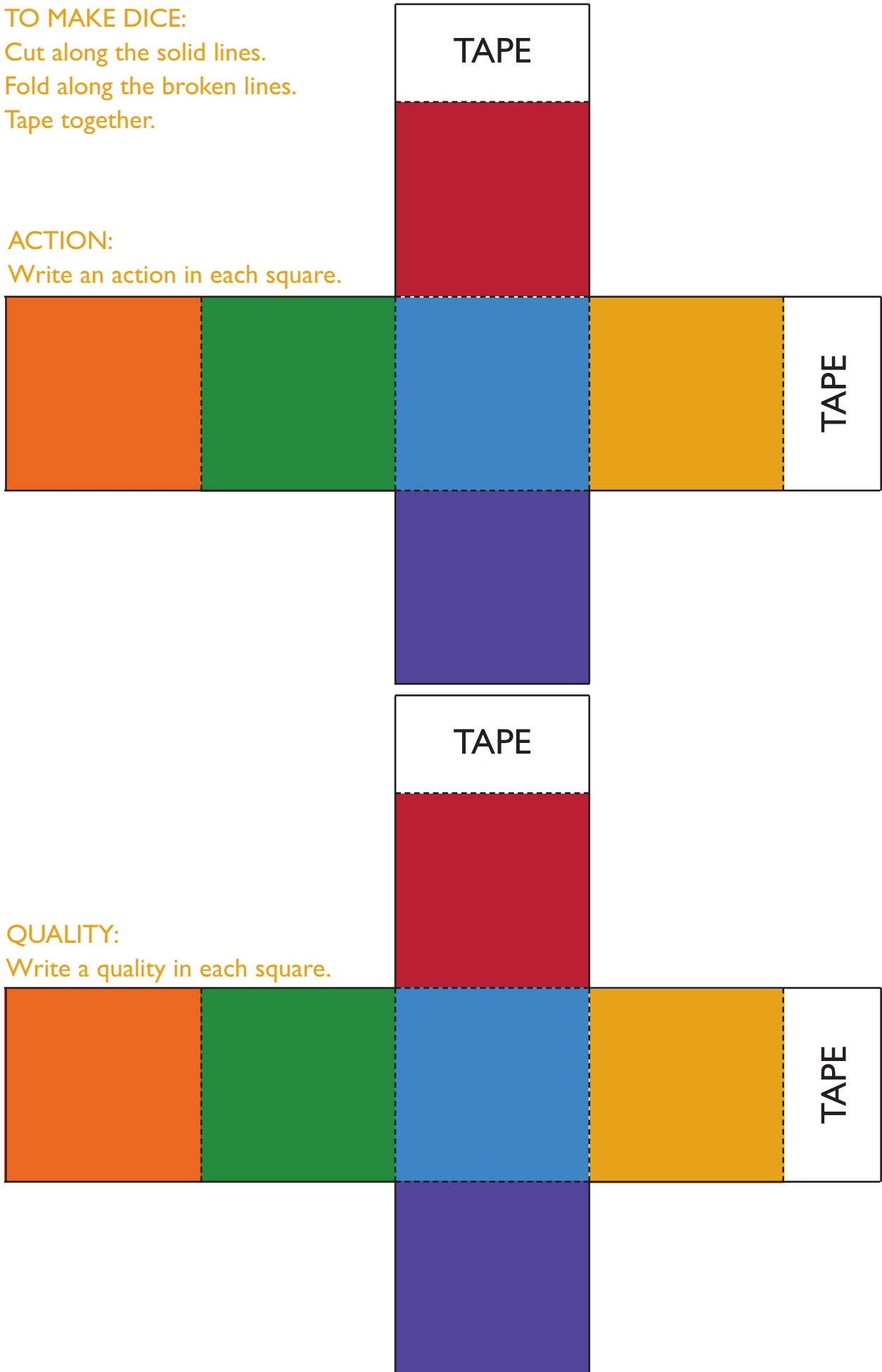


links to additional information

- **Hine Ma Tov** is a classic Jewish song about brother/sister-hood based on Psalm 133. Nefesh Mountain sings *Hine Ma Tov*, How good it is for brothers and sisters to be together! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXmb-rAJIvc>
- **Just for fun:** Download **Friendship Calculator** to determine how good a friendship is, based only on photo analysis. Keep in mind that a photo doesn't really reflect all that is inside, and use this app just for entertainment!

TO MAKE DICE:
Cut along the solid lines.
Fold along the broken lines.
Tape together.

ACTION:
Write an action in each square.



QUALITY:
Write a quality in each square.



Chai Mitzvah was originally created as a way to engage adults in a Jewish journey throughout their lives. **Chai Mitzvah** teen program materials provide teens, who are in a time of personal discovery, with a way to move forward with their personal Jewish journeys.

There are five steps to becoming a **Chai Mitzvah**:

1. Attend nine study sessions, with a specially designed curriculum.
2. Identify something Jewish you want to learn.
3. Take on or deepen an existing Jewish ritual.
4. Engage in a social action project.
5. Celebrate your achievement!

It is our hope that **Chai Mitzvah** will serve as a catalyst and ignite deeper Jewish engagement and continued growth into the 21st century.

***Chai Mitzvah** is an unaffiliated, non-profit independent 501(c)3 corporation, funded through donations and grants. Please consider sponsoring a **Chai Mitzvah** program in your community or making a gift today.*