



6. We the Tribe

Suitable for ages 8+

Much of the pain, suffering and sadness in the world can be relieved by relatively simple acts of Tikkun Olam.

One Biblical passage captures this concept best of all, Proverbs 10:16

Peulat Tzadik L'chaim

It means that all of a good person's work is for the sake of Life. It means that a good person's work gives Life itself to others whose lives are in danger. It means that a good person's work restores Life itself to others who many have become disheartened or dispirited. It means that the produce of a good person's work is Life. Just as harvested crops provide nutrition for the human body, Tikkun Olam produces sustenance for the body, heart, and soul of human beings.

Goal: To experience the advantages of cooperation in times of trouble.

Background:

When people are in trouble they sometimes tend to close up and not share their problems with others. Sometimes they don't see the advantage that other people can bring to make their situation better. But humans are a kind of tribe, and as a tribe, do we see ourselves as insiders or do we prefer to live for ourselves alone?

The following story and activity emphasizes these and other questions, giving a platform for the ability hawse all have to aid a group or an individual in time of need, using our individual talents and skills.

Materials: Masking tape or chalk, dice, task cards and character cards

Preparation:

Make two trails (using chalk or tape) and divide them into steps from one to 20.

Prepare two sets of tasks and profile cards. Spread the task cards randomly along the trail.

The Activity:

1. Read the story of Hawk out loud to the whole group.
2. Split the group into two equal parts. Give each participant his profile card detailing their special talents.
3. Choose a leader to help members of each group utilize their special talents, so they will be able to overcome every obstacle, complete all their tasks and hopefully save Nok from the hungry wolves.

4. A dice is thrown determining how many steps to progress along the trail.

Send the group on their journey throughout which they will be required to perform all kinds of tasks. If the player lands on a task card the whole group has to deal with the obstacle and decide how to overcome it.*

5. Ignite a group discussion, POW WOW, will be held after the first group reaches the end of the trail and figures out if they were able to save Nok from the hungry wolves or not, and the reasons that determined this end result.

*Observe: when the group arrives at an obstacle or task, will the people who have the special talents required to help volunteer to do so, in order that they solve the problem and enable the group to move forward?

HAWK'S TALE

Many years ago, in a far away land lived Hawk and his wife White Feather. They lived in a cave carved from stone with their two children Nok and Yok, in the thick of the forest, at the top of the mountain. It was terribly cold in the forest, thick with brush that blocked the sun from coming in, making it very dark. Hawk would leave the forest every day to hunt food for his family. He had a special hunting system: he would dig deep pits in the ground obscured with branches, trapping animals that fell inside. Hawk worked alone. He didn't like to share his game with others. "It's hard enough for me to feed my own children. I don't want to befriend any other people and then be expected to give them what I've worked so hard to hunt. I have a large enough piece of land on which to exist. I don't want or need to bother anyone else or them to bother me."

One day a loud noise was heard in the forest. "That's the black fox" thought Hawk. "I have to be very careful because during this season of the year, that animal is very dangerous. Its cubs are very hungry and the animal becomes vicious". Hawk returned to his cave and dragged a large boulder which he placed outside the entrance to his cave. The next morning he said to his wife: "Be very careful and watch out for the children." He left the cave as he did every day, to go hunting for food. Upon his return home that evening he heard loud screams. His steps became hurried and as he approached the cave he saw his wife flailing on the ground, her hair all wild, fear in her eyes as she mumbled: "He was here... the fox..He took Nok.. The fox took...escaped..." "Oy! What have you done! Why weren't you more careful? It's night now! The wolves are roaming around the area!!!"

He grabbed his bow and arrow and went out into the night... He began to run, fast, faster than he had ever ran before in his life until he came upon a clearing in the forest. There, in teepees, lived all the members of his tribe, whom he hadn't seen in many months. Breathless he stopped in front of the Chief's tent. The chief rose to greet him, stepped out of his tent and looked at him without saying a word.

Hawk, all choked up, looked at him and said, while pointing past the forest: "You must...it's there...my son...the wolves took him..."

The Chief folded his arms to his chest and said in a quiet voice: "We will have a pow-wow to decide whether or not to help you." He pointed with his finger and Hawk, to his surprise, saw 11 warriors standing around him. "Should we go out as one man and help Hawk?"

Will they go out to help him? Should they? Whatever happens, everyone must come into the tent of the old men at the end and talk about the decisions, choices and actions that were taken on the journey.

The Characters:

- 1. Howa:** You are really strong, and can lift a boulder of 200 lbs. You usually carry a blanket in your backpack.
- 2. Grachio:** You are a great marksman but because of your weight (220 LBS) you move slowly. You always carry rope around with you.
- 3. Tayo:** You are very skinny and can slip down into wells and pits and tie up the trapped animals.
- 4. Sioux:** You have a saw with sharp teeth which can cut down trees.
- 5. Vinto:** You have a sharp eye. You can tell the difference between the tracks of animals and people, but you have a poor sense of smell and can't tell if the tracks are fresh.
- 6. Rongi:** You are a girl and know the Yellow Lake well and how to get out of it, but you need to make a small wooden boat. You know how to make the sound of a wounded wolf.
- 7. Shawnk:** You have steel rods that can help you climb rocks and you also have a bow with lots of arrows. You have poor vision but a very developed sense of smell.
- 8. Poonk:** You are very swift and can outrun the animals, however you forgot your bow and arrow. You also know how to heal wounds and carry a first aid kit with you at all times.
- 9. Hok:** You have a tree stump that can be used to light a fire.
- 10. Tangi:** You have a special stone that can be rubbed to make fire, but you don't have the tools to break it down.
- 11. Wintereo:** You have long, thin, sharp sticks that can be used to wound the wolves as they approach. You always carry the tools to break up the fire stones.

The Tasks:

1. Honk falls into the pit. He calls out for help... Who can help him?
2. Honk gets out of the pit. A loud sound is heard in the forest. It's the wolf. Night falls. Where is he? Danger! It might attack!
3. You've arrived at the fire stones. They are very hard. In order to cut through them you need a special tool.
4. You light a fire. What happened? Where are we? We are lost in the forest near the Yellow Lake.

5. You passed the Lake and a fire has broken out threatening all of you. The fire makes you freeze in your places. You have to climb the mountain which is over 20 feet high. The only step is 8 feet above.
6. We are so hungry! We can't go on. We can see there a deer about 100 yards away.
7. It's freezing. Honk is burning up. He must be covered, quickly.
8. The wolves and their noises seem to have vanished. Who can help find where they are hiding?
9. We finally found the wolves cave. The wolf is hiding not too far away. We will have to trick him in order to catch him. Remember, he's wounded and dangerous.
10. One wolf got away. He's got Nok between his teeth and is nowhere to be found. How will we catch him?
11. You found the wolf. He's huge and threatening. He's jumped on Vinto and bitten him. Vinto is bleeding.
12. Hawk's baby has been found and he's fine.

Questions for the Pow Wow:

1. Should the warriors have come out in help of Hawk considering that he never shared anything of his own with them?
2. Which group reached the end of the trail first? What was the secret of their success?
3. Did you learn anything new about yourself?
4. Can you think of any real life situations similar to this task? Would you respond differently today than you would have before, now that you've thought about these things?
5. Is Hawk's view of life the better way of living? Each man for himself?
6. Can we live as separate entities or do we need each other?
7. What special gifts and skills do each of you possess that can help others?
8. Can you think of something you can do to initiate use of your skills and talents for the good of others or something else?