

ACTIVITY

Constructive Conflict

Goal

- To encourage participants to move away from seeing disagreements within their Jewish community as divisive toward being constructive.
- To encourage participants to reframe the ways they think about other Jews who are different from them, and build potential bridges of connection.

Materials Needed

- Video clip, screening device and internet connection
- Large piece of paper with a visual representation of “ground” and a visual representation of “sky/ heaven”.

Time Needed

45 minutes

Directions for Activity

1. Ask participants to think about a conflict that is coming up in their Jewish community. Encourage them to think about something that is very “alive” for them (it could be something having to do with Israel, or dialogue between Orthodox and non-Orthodox groups, the place of women, or any other conflict.)
2. They should write down on a post-it note.
 - What the disagreement is about?
 - What is the position “pro” and “against” the disagreement (in brief)?
3. Participants should place the post it notes on the large visual representation of ground and sky (closer to the ground). And ask, what would it take for us to approach our disagreements so that they don’t remain “grounded” here on earth, but are elevated (and move closer to the sky.)
4. Watch the G-dcast video

Disagreement for the Sake of Heaven

5. Present the 4 tips for constructive conflict articulated in the clip. Ask someone in the group to represent their conflict as they see it. Now pick another person in the group and together, role play the conflict using one or more of the tips to elevate the conversation.

6. Debrief the exercise. How can we bring these skills into our daily lives? How can it help us appreciate differences and not deride them?