

EXPLORING OUR VALUES

This exercise is a window into the diversity of thought, perspectives, and narratives that exist in your community and provides a values-based approach to facilitating conversations around such diversity. How can we as educators create the space for multiple narratives? How do we help facilitate conversations that promote the acceptance of diversity and differing expressions?

Exploring how we understand and express values can help us in considering our own connections to Israel. Even when we disagree, we can strive to find common ground and empathize with others when we realize that we share many values. Through this lens, we can gain deeper appreciation and make space for the validity of other perspectives.

MATERIALS

- > A deck of cards with a value on each (see list of values) does this value mean to you?
- > Discussion questions

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Participants will be asked to think about what Jewish values inspire or are meaningful to them. While they are considering these values, the facilitators will spread the deck of values cards across the room. Participants will be directed to sit around a value that resonates with them. Once they have chosen their value, they will sit in groups with the others who chose the same card (note: this ideally works in groups of 3 or 4, so if you notice a large group congregating around a particular value, split them up into smaller groups).

Within these smaller groups, participants will discuss the following questions:

- > What does this value mean to you?
- > Where and in what ways is this value currently expressed in your life?
- > Where and how might this value be expressed in Israel?
- > When might these values come into tension?

Participants should first write their answers down on a lined sticky note or in their journals. Then, they should be encouraged to share their ideas and help each other craft their messages. We will repeat this process if there is enough time, giving participants the chance to explore 2-3 different values cards.

After they have had a few opportunities to explore and share around 2-3 different values, assign the entire group the value of "Community." Have participants consider how "Community" is and could be used throughout their setting.

SUGGESTED VALUES:

1. Ahavat Yisrael
2. Human Dignity
3. Humility
4. Courage
5. Perseverance
6. Sanctification of Time
7. Memory
8. Courage
9. Return/Repentance
10. Knowledge
11. Free Will
12. Friendship
13. Hope
14. Gratitude
15. Learning Torah
16. Harmonious Home
17. Hospitality
18. Empathy
19. Land of Israel
20. Responsibility
21. Sanctity
22. Community
23. Pluralism
24. God's Image
25. Loving-Kindness
26. Compassion
27. Menschlichkeit
28. Cooperation
29. Spirituality
30. Jewish Leadership
31. Self-reliance
32. Stability
33. Democracy
34. Religious Observance