

Educational Department

Project Zachor – Candles Lesson

Goal: To enable students to reflect on the totality of a person's life and remember them that way.

Materials: Pictures of different candles including but not limited to: birthday candles, Shabbat candles, Chanukah candles; dinner candles; yartzheit candles; scented mood candles etc..

Activity: 1) Break the group into smaller units of two or three. Give each small group a set of candle pictures. Ask them to group the candles into at least three clusters using some criteria. Have them make a note of why they grouped them in this way. Then have them repeat the process creating new clusters and new criteria.

2) Bring the groups together. As each group reports on one of their clusters and the rationale behind it, have a recorder listing the information on a chart where participants can easily see the clusters and rationale. If one of the groups created the same cluster but for a different reason, add that to the recording. If at the end of the reporting, some group created a different cluster, have them share it and include it on the listing.

3) Ask participants to use one emotion to go along with each cluster and list them in the margin.

4) The group facilitator at this point should be prepared with a story about someone, who is remembered on Yom Hashoah or Yom Hazikaron. First hand knowledge of the person is advised. Include vignettes where many of the candles would have been used. Something about a special birthday party, present etc., a Shabbat or chag with that person, etc..

5) Pose a final question to the group: Why use a yartzheit candle to recall a person? (Be prepared to remind the group about the emotions, candle experiences etc. Ultimately, the yartzheit candle includes all the others- it has religious significance, sets a mood, recalls the person's light from happy times and celebrations etc...)

Assignment: Distribute large outlines of the various candle shapes in paper. Ask the participants to talk to family members, friends, neighbors etc. about a person who perished in the Shoah, in an Israeli war, or as a result of an act of terrorism in Israel. Write a vignette inside each paper candle outline that's appropriate to that type of candle and remember his/or life!