

Creating Our Meaning of Worship

Often during services, we as individuals go through the motions. We sing with our chests but we may not always know what we're saying. It is not only important but meaningful to understand what we are praying about and even why we are praying for it. The ability to acknowledge the purpose of these prayers will create a greater experience as well as a tie between worship and those who don't quite connect to it. This program enables people to explore their spirituality and find something new to relate to, all while sharing the experience with others.

For Saturday morning services, the region would break up into groups, found on nametags, with ideally no more than 10 people in it. This group could also be a group that has already participated in a mixer together and would be a future group for another program later in the weekend. This way, the group can further a relationship with each other and talk about multiple topics. The group leader will be assigned a certain prayer or section of a typical service (excluding the Torah service as the region will come back together for it and a D'var) and will have been prepped by having a call with other group leaders, the regional rabbi, RCVP, and spiritual engagement chairs.

After a short introduction, the group leader will read the meaning of their assigned topic- what the prayer means. Then they will read a history of the prayer- why we pray for this. Next, the group leader will ask what the participants believe the big idea of the topic is followed by what it means to them. This should be a free-flowing discussion. This serves to make people feel comfortable to step outside the box spiritually. By doing so, or even by listening, this small community will create a special bond that they may not even realize.

After the discussion, the group leader will prompt the group by mentioning that they will be creating something as a group to represent their unique discussion. The creation could be anything that feels symbolic of what was talked about. Some examples are: a skit, artwork, a human representation, a song, or a poem/story. It should be mentioned that this creation will be shared when the region comes back together by the whole group, a few members, or an individual. The group leader will receive markers, paper, and pipe cleaners.

When instructed to come back, the region will sit together but in their groups. The program leader, will call up the groups by their topic in relation to the service order and will share the creations they made. Everything in a normal service will be included. The program leader will briefly conclude the program discussing how understanding worship can be rewarding, but also mention that doing anything with intention gives you more satisfaction, more passion, and more impactful moments. The RCVP will then lead the region into the Torah service.