



Unity and Division: *Herzl's Challenge*

This can be used as a classroom lesson, an activity run by a youth group leader or community educator, or by parents. This activity can be run for an hour to suit any group or learning environment. Times are to be used as a suggestion.

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss how the Jewish people are/are not united.
- To learn about how Herzl's dream can foster a unity among the Jewish people in spite of our modern divisions
- To learn about unity and uniformity, how they are not the same thing

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Paper, pens

GETTING STARTED/INTRODUCTION

Are the Jewish people are united? If yes/no why? We are known as 'a stiff necked people!' Are you up for the challenge of getting us united? We will discuss the points listed below, write your own thoughts about each one and then we will take on the challenge.

ACTIVITY

Instructions:

1. Read the Leadership Values and Dreams paragraph below aloud to the group. Divide the groups into pro and con categories, where they will remain for the duration of the activity. The question for discussion is located at the end of the paragraph in bold. Allow time for each side to create an argument and write it down on paper. Set a timer for five minutes allowing each team to rebuttal the other teams statements, the team who has the last argument or rebuttal should be rewarded a point.
2. Repeat the steps listed above but with the Expressing Our Commitment paragraph

3. Repeat the same steps with One Person Making Change
4. Repeat the same steps with Building Israel's Strategy
5. After having a debate about all four paragraphs, lead the group in discussion using the discussions listed below.
6. Allow students to voice their opinion about the activity by posing the What Did You Learn Question below.

LEADERSHIP VALUES AND DREAMS

The retelling of the nation's history becomes an obligation for every citizen of the nation. Time and again throughout Devarim comes the command to remember: *"Remember that you were a slave in Egypt." "Remember what Amalek did to you." "Remember what God did to Miriam. Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you."* By making the Israelites a nation of storytellers, God turned them into a people bound by collective responsibility – to one another, to the past and future, and to God. By framing a narrative that successive generations would make their own and teach to their children, God turned Jews into a nation of leaders.

Good leaders either are, or surround themselves with, problem-solvers. It is easy to see what is going wrong. What makes a leader is the ability to find a way of putting it right. What was Herzl's leadership "genius?" **Is having a leadership personality and dreams for the future important in creating unity among our people? Use this question as the first point of discussion?**

EXPRESSING OUR COMMITMENT

For Herzl in his day, Zionism was a solution to the problem the Jewish people faced - so what are our problems today and what are our solutions for the Jewish people and Israel? **Is commitment a necessary skill to have in a leader to create unity? Use this question as the second discussion question.**

ONE PERSON MAKING CHANGE

Herzl's actions and life is the idea that one person can make a difference and change the world. Who is doing this today? Do young people see that they too can take on a purpose and pursue it and make it happen? **Is it possible that one person can create a large change, yes or no? Use this as the third question for discussion.**

BUILDING ISRAEL'S STRATEGY

Examine the "game plan" that Herzl used to further his dream - what are the components? How can they be translated to replicate success? **Creating a game plan is a tool that many leaders use, is this a necessary tool, yes or no?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do we need leaders for unity?
- What was Herzl's 'game plan'?
- How important are values? Are Jewish values needed specifically? If so what are they?
- Does being responsible for one another help to foster or hinder unity?
- Will this help the Jewish people become unified?
- Is it possible to ever achieve complete unity?

- Is there more unity than before?
- Can you think of some organisations that help promote unity amongst the Jewish people? In your local area/ community or in Israel? A great Israeli example is [Gesher](#) and an individual that sought to bring Jews together was [Rav Kook](#).
- What other skills are needed to be a great leader and promote unity?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Bring both groups back together and pose the question, “what did you learn?” What are your thoughts or concerns regarding the activity?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

“We should use our skills, talents and energy to complete Herzl’s dream – a Jewish state that is safe, secure and living in peace,” said David Matlow. Did we accomplish our challenge and complete Herzl’s dream? Yes/no? Why? How? Perhaps this is something we can do every day of our lives, in a small way, by being respectful to others whose political and/or religious views differ from ours. We can become Am Yisrael, one nation, united.

NEXT STEPS

What more can you do with My Herzl? You can have a look at the [My Herzl program](#) and chose an article to read with participants, or they can read. You can also run an additional Herzl activity from the My Herzl activity booklet pack.

ABOUT THE ISRAEL FOREVER FOUNDATION - YOUR HOME FOR ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

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