

"BIBLE CAKE"

Aim:

- To give chanichim an opportunity to have some 'hands on' experience of leafing through the Tanach and finding their way to specific verses.

Method:

1. Divide the group into several kfutsot (groups). Each kfutsa receives a recipe and the Tanach.
2. They must work out all the ingredients, and then they actually prepare the cake. (Don't tell the chanichim what they are making until they discover it themselves).

The Recipe

(All references are according to the Hebrew text - an English translation can be used to help, but the clues are according to the Hebrew!)

Ingredients:

1. The last word in Judges 5:25 _____
2. Jeremiah 17:11 _____
3. The second part of Job 10:10 _____
4. Exodus 23:19 _____

Method:

1. Whip a package (200 grams) of (1)
2. Add two cups of sugar gradually, till mixed
3. Add two of (2)
4. Add two tablespoons of vanilla sugar and mix.
5. Add three packages of (3) and mix thoroughly
6. Take ½ kilo graham crackers and dip them in (4)
7. Cover an 8" square pan with alternate layers of crackers and filling (three layers total)
8. Decorate with chocolate or maple syrup
9. Refrigerate for twenty minutes

בתאבון!

This peulah can be done any time, but it is especially appropriate for Shavuot, as it focuses on two major themes of the holiday: the Torah...and cheesecake! The idea for using Biblical words for a recipe comes from "Together", a curriculum put out by Melton. They suggest a fruit-nut cake instead. You can use the general idea and adapt it to almost any recipe you wish!

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

1. Take a popular (non-Jewish) fable. Have chanichim analyze it, in order to find its message. Write midrashim and commentaries on it, extract laws and philosophical ideas from it. Compare this activity to our understanding of Biblical stories and how the process of interpretation develops in later Jewish sources. Ask: "How does the Jewish process differ from general fables?"
2. Compile a "Jewish view" on a specific issue. Take an issue and have the chanichim find out what the sources say regarding that issue. Examples of the issues might be: Ecology, Smoking, relations to Elderly or Shabbat.
3. Take a specific issue or question with which the chanichim are dealing. Ask them to write and send Responsa questions to several leading Rabbis in different cities/countries.
4. Have a debate: Which is the best mode of conveying stories, customs, ideas and beliefs: books, TV or computer?
5. Simulate a publishers meeting: You want to re-issue one of the classics of Jewish literature but are unsure which book to publish. From which category of literature should you chose to reprint: biblical, midrash, mystical, philosophic or legal? Which is most relevant in today's world? Which will sell the most copies?
6. Conduct a scavenger hunt around a Jewish library. Based on clues that you have written, chanichim locate specific passages from different Jewish texts.
7. Have a quiz regarding different books in the Jewish Library. Part of this might involve putting the titles of books in chronological order.
8. Make bookmarks and/or bookcovers. Decoration could be based on the book titles or using quotes about the importance of study and books.
9. Hold a full day, large scale "Jewish Books Happening". Start the day by performing a musical (written by you!) on "the Jewish Library". A million scenarios are possible; one example is two kids enter a Jewish bookstore complaining about their parents' views on discipline. All of the sudden, various books 'come to life' and join in the conversation, offering their perspectives. The rest of the day can be spent by the chanichim going through various 'tachanot' (stations). Many of the ideas mentioned above can be turned into these 'tachanot'. End the day with a big book sale.