

Ask questions about Israel. Be willing to share thoughts and feelings about Israel with others with respect, humility, and thoughtfulness. Summarize something you have learned about Israel.

**LEARNING .**  
*We honor Torah, wrestle with Jewish traditions and beliefs – including God, and engage directly with the difficult questions of our age.*

What experiences have helped you learn about Israel and the West Bank/Gaza? How does the current conflict challenge your understanding of Israel and the West Bank/Gaza? When you think about the current war between Israel and Hamas, what questions have come up for you? Is there something you would like to understand better? How could you explore it? Is there something you've learned, changed your mind about, or considered in a new way since Hamas' October 7 attacks in Israel? Is there new information you find yourself seeking out?

**BELONGING.**  
*We build, connect, and enrich communities – congregations, camps, programs, social justice work, and more – where youth and adults across all identities, generations, and lived experiences feel a deep sense of belonging.*

Cultivate ways for every person to feel a sense of belonging in the camp community. Expand your understanding of how you and others can find a sense of belonging with Israel.

Share a time when you felt you truly belonged in a community. What contributed to your feeling that way? Share a time when you felt you didn't belong. What made you feel that way? Have you been part of a mutually respectful community? What did that community look like? What did it feel like? What do you need to participate as your full self?

How do you feel connected with Jews? How do you feel connected with Palestinians? What do you know about the diversity of people and identities in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza?

## URJ CAMPS STATEMENT ON ISRAEL

*Values, Learning Outcomes, Guiding Questions*

**ISRAEL AND JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD.**  
*We believe all of Israel and the Jewish people are responsible for each other.*

Express your personal connections to the land and people of Israel. Explain how and why your relationships with Israel and Jewish Peoplehood have changed.

In what ways are you linked to the land and people of Israel? How does where you live shape your relationship with Israel? How has your relationship with Israel and the West Bank/Gaza changed over time? When have you felt a connection to the Jewish people, Israel, and Palestinians? When have you felt a sense of separation from the Jewish people, Israel, and Palestinians? How has the current conflict impacted your feelings of belonging or isolation?

**JUSTICE.** *We seek justice for all people throughout the world.*

Determine and/or perform an act to support justice for Israel, the West Bank/Gaza. Explore an example from Israel or the current war of justice or injustice. What does justice mean for Israelis? What does justice mean for Palestinians? What actions can you take to support justice in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza? Are any of your values in tension with one another when you think about Israel and the West Bank/Gaza? How so?

**EVOLVING.** *We awaken to new awareness, holding ourselves accountable for changing as we grow.*

Explore multiple narratives within Judaism, Zionism, and Israel's history. Differentiate historical truths, facts, and perspectives. Illustrate how your awareness of Israel has shifted this summer.

When you think about what's happening in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza, what values are present, and which are bumping up against one another? How are your values pulling you in different directions? How have your ideas about Israel and the West Bank/Gaza changed? What has prompted this change? When you talk about difficult issues, where do you feel them in your body? How do you feel when there is a pause or silence in a difficult conversation? What is an experience, conversation, or relationship you've had that caused you to change a deeply held belief or understanding? Finish this sentence: When the war between Israel and Hamas ends, I hope that \_\_\_\_\_.



***Our commitment to a strong, vibrant, Jewish and democratic state of Israel, secure within its borders, is unyielding. Since October 7th we have repeatedly called for measures that ensure that Israel remains strong and secure, that the hostages are released immediately, that humanitarian aid reaches Palestinians in Gaza, and for a future in which an Israeli and a Palestinian state exist side by side in peace.***

**SHARED HUMANITY.**  
*We see everyone as created in the divine image and so we should treat everyone with respect, dignity, and kindness.*

Express emotions surrounding Israel in constructive ways. Identify areas of agreement between people who also hold differing views of Israel. Display empathy for people who hold different identities in Israel and those who are affected by the current war.

What does shared humanity mean to you? How might we share humanity when we feel that our views are different from someone else's? What can we agree on that helps us find our shared humanity? How do you feel connected with people who live in Israel and the West Bank/Gaza? How do your personal identities shape how you view the conflict between Israel and Hamas? How could other people's identities shape how they view this conflict? The ancient Jewish text Pirkei Avot teaches: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am

only for myself, what am I?" How might this teaching relate to the current conflict? How have people been practicing the value of Shared Humanity since the war began? How have they not?



#TALKFORACHANGE

URJ Camps & Immersives – Summer 2024