



Title	Think, Pair, Share with a Jewish Perspective
Created by	Lisa Handelman, Capitals Camps
Intended Audience	All ages - from middle school through adults
Materials Needed	None
Program Description	<p>The goal of this activity is to provide a format and structure to allow individuals to think about the issues of inclusion in the context of Jewish text and tradition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask all participants to spread out and find their own space to think about a question you are going to ask. Explain that one of the reasons everyone is standing in their own space is to give everyone time to think before answering each question. We all process information at different speeds and the time to think, the “gift of time,” can help everyone in a group to process and to come up with more meaningful answers • Ask the first question – and give the group quiet time to process. It is helpful to look at a watch and make sure to allow at least a minute and a half of silent ‘think time.’ • Ask everyone to find a partner and discuss their answer to the first question. • Ask everyone to get back into their own “bubble”. • Ask the second question, and give the group quiet time to process. (Repeat asking questions and giving the group quiet time to process before discussing their answer with a partner. Depending on time and the group size, partner groups can also share their answers with the larger group. <p>Below are questions that have been successfully used with teens and young adults (age 16 to 26). Choose the number and type of questions that are right for your group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people?” What makes you unique or diverse? • It is said that you can judge a community by how the community treats the most vulnerable members of the community – what makes someone “vulnerable”? <p>See page 2</p>



<p>Program Description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Exodus (4:10-11), Moses, one of our great leaders, reminds God, “I am slow of speech and slow of tongue”. However God still had Moses speak for all of Israel. What lessons about accepting differences can we learn from this? • In Proverbs (31:8) it says “Speak up for those who cannot speak...speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy.” What are our obligations as a community towards those who are “different”? • In the Torah, we are instructed “not to put a stumbling block before the blind” (Leviticus 19:14). This refers to exploiting someone’s weakness. What kinds of “differences” can feel like stumbling blocks to us? What kinds of differences are hidden from our sight? • We are instructed in Leviticus not to insult a person who is deaf – while this may be reminding us to treat someone with a disability kindly, it also instructs us not to verbally insult someone even when that person is not aware of the insult. What “throw away” sayings do we sometimes use that others may find insulting? • There is a <i>Midrash</i> that challenges us to give others the benefit of the doubt. What judgments do you make when you first meet someone – do you consider the clothes someone wears, the way they talk, the color of their skin? • Why is inclusion not simply a matter of <i>Chesed</i>, or kindness, but rather a matter of <i>Tzedik</i>, of Justice – why should we strive to create a fully inclusive community? • How do Jewish values, stories and traditions provide teachable moments to encourage inclusion?
----------------------------	--