

FEDERATION'S

Imagine ISRAEL

PODCAST



Podcast Discussion Guide

IMAGINE ISRAEL

Connect to Israel and Israelis through the lens of social change

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Imagine Israel is a new initiative designed to engage Washingtonians with Israel and Israelis through a wide variety of programs focused on issues of social justice and civil society.

PODCAST

Federation's Imagine Israel Podcast directly connects you to a modern, relatable Israel in real-time through stories from innovative Israeli influencers leading social and economic changes in the start-up nation.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This discussion guide can be used as a reference to spark conversation and explore social issues in Israel through interactive discussion and activities.

How to use the discussion guide:

- **Adults:** Discussion Party with friends (take your book club to the next level)
- **Educators:** Use as curriculum in your classroom
- **Rabbis:** Share with your congregations
- **Education Directors:** discuss with your teachers
- **Parents:** start conversations with your children



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Meet Rabbi Esteban Gottfried

Co-Founder and Director of Beit Tefilah Israeli
& Warrior for Jewish Pluralism

Hear his story

Learn about his impact

Discuss social change

Imagine Israel Podcast Episode 6:

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Host Robbie Gringras sits down with Rabbi Esteban Gottfried, Co-Founder and Director of Beit Tefilah Israeli (BTI), to explore the balance between tradition and change in Gottfried's mission to build an inclusive spiritual outlet for all Jewish Israelis. BTI is a fast-growing, multi-generational community that has introduced an alternative outlet for spiritual expression which is quickly becoming an international phenomenon. Gottfried discusses the story of the movement and how prayer, song and celebration became the main weapons in the battle for the future of the Judaism in Israel.

Robbie Gringras talks with Changemaker Rabbi Esteban Gottfried:

1. Rabbi Gottfried makes the point that when he left Argentina and came to live in Israel, he no longer felt the "need to be so Jewish." Just living in Israel was Jewish enough.

How do you interpret this change that prompted him to create a unique, pluralistic prayer opportunity that has attracted such a strong following?

2. Why do you think so many Israeli Jews—from the very secular to the traditionally observant—attend Beit Tefilah Israeli services?
3. Is this a model that is 'Israeli specific' or are there elements that would be appealing to Diaspora Jewish communities?
4. After learning about Beit Tefilah Israeli, how would you describe the current state of Jewish life in Israel and what predictions can you make about the future of Judaism?



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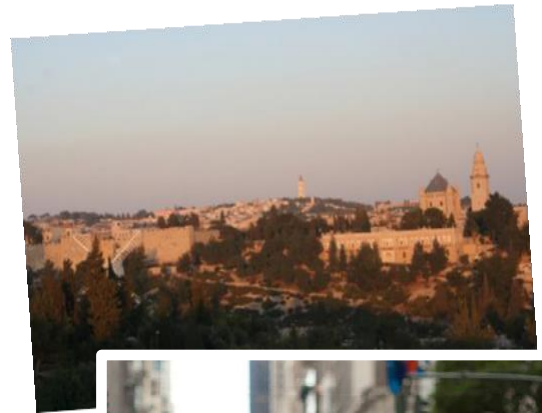
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General Questions:

1. Read the excerpt from the Israeli Declaration of Independence, below. From what you hear on the news and media, do you think the document is an actual guideline or an aspirational standard?

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the in gathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

2. How does this podcast episode affect your perspective of Israel? How may you explore this topic further?
3. How does the issue addressed in this episode relate to you as a Jew living in DC?
4. How would you share this aspect of Israel with others to engage them in a conversation about Israel?
5. Did you learn anything new about Israel? Did anything surprise you?
6. Based on what you heard in this podcast would you describe Israel as a Jewish, democratic or Zionist state?



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