



The Creativity of Creation by Matan Har

Subject Area: Torah/Talmud, Values, Art

Single lesson plan

Target Age Group: 4 to 10 years old

Lesson Objective: Students will discover the immense creativity behind The Creation and enjoy being creators themselves. Students will learn that we have the spark of the divine in each of us.

This lesson can be given with minor adjustments based on the age group it is being used with. Materials for this lesson include: markers, Crayons, clay, any arts and crafts materials such as feathers, pipe cleaners, tissue paper, googly eyes, etc.

First, read a children's version of the story of Creation with the class. Rehash what G-d created on each of the first six days and that G-d rested on the seventh. Ask the class a few questions about creation: Do you think the world was really created in six days? If not, why would the Torah, our holiest of books, tell us it was? What do you think about the order in which the world was created? Etc...

The next part can alter slightly based on age. For four year olds ask the group to name as many of G-d's specific creations as possible. Ask them to name types of animals, fruits, plants, etc. For an older group ask the class to name a type of animal for every letter in the alphabet, challenging them to come up with the most unusual animals they can think of, then compare the lists and see if anyone came up with original answers.

After a while ask the group to stand up and begin walking around the room and when the teacher says the name of an animal the whole class begins acting like that animal. List off different animals: giraffe, hippo, lion, puppy. Tell them to imitate sounds and movements and behavior. Then ask them to act out their favorite animals and interact with each others animal. Let them have a good time with this and get some energy out. This activity will probably be more appropriate for the younger ones. Skip this part if you do not think it applies to your age group.

Ask the class some questions: Why do you think there are so many different kinds of living things on earth? Why are there so many different colors and shapes and textures?



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Tell the class that we are all made in the image of G-d. That is arguably the most important element in the whole story of Creation. We are all made with a spark of the divine.

Ask the class to list all the things that humans have in common with G-d and list them on the board (things like compassion, strength, love). Steer the conversation towards creativity and the ability to create. If we are all made in the image of G-d that must mean that we all have the capacity to create in this world. What can humans create? Can we create happiness or sadness? Can we create something out of nothing? Creation in itself is holy. By drawing a picture you have made the piece of paper you drew on an extension of you, of your creation, and thus holy.

Tell the class the next activity will give us the ability to be the creators that we are. Tell them to create an animal that they would have made if they had created the earth. Make up what it looks like, whether it walks or flies, what it eats, where it lives, what its name is. Create an animal from scratch and the story that surrounds that animal.

Give the class time to really engage this activity. Offer all sorts of materials they can use to create their animal. Allow them to make it out of clay if they wish, or out of pipe cleaners or simply drawn on a piece of paper. From my experience they will absolutely love doing this and the animals they create will end up being incredibly imaginative. If there is time let them share there creations with the rest of the class.