



ACT13!

LESSON 6 – DEVELOPMENT

Pe'ulah (*Action*) – Time to ACT!

OVERVIEW

In this final lesson, students reflect on their ACT13! experience and link *Chesed* (loving kindness) to taking action. The students focus their time in this lesson on planning, organizing and advertising for their development event.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will reflect on the entire program and what was learned.
- Students will understand that performing a mitzvah requires becoming a partner with G-d.
- Students will collectively organize an event that educates the community as a whole and raises funds for Darfur and/or Democratic Republic of Congo

MATERIALS

- Anything necessary to plan your event
- If your class chooses to participate in the Walk to End Genocide, you will need: poster board and markers

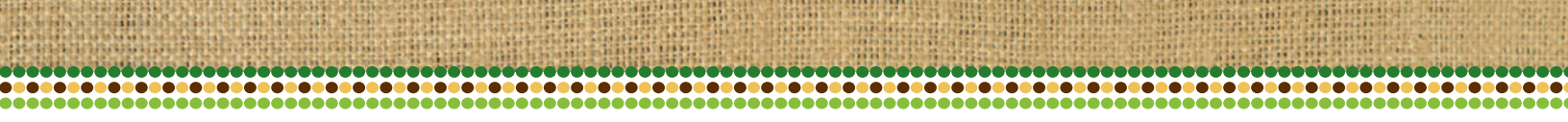
AGENDA

Introduction

1. De-brief (15 minutes): Lead a class discussion asking students to reflect on what they have learned in this unit.

Encourage your students to answer the following questions:

- What have they learned about the conflicts in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo?
- Do they feel they've gained the tools to create change?
- Does Judaism enhance/compliment/inform advocacy? Does being Jewish confer upon you a distinct social responsibility?
- What will they plan to do in the future to make a difference in the world?



2. Referring back to Lesson 1, write on the board: “Study is greater than practice alone, for study leads to action.” (Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 40b)

Explain to the class that, in Judaism, helping others is as important as studying Torah and other *mizvot*. Studying Torah should drive us to action.

The Chofetz Chaim, who was an influential Eastern European rabbi, wrote that greatness lies in the pursuit of Torah learning. All the learning in the world, he goes on to say, will not confirm greatness on a person unless it instills within the person a devotion to helping others. The most exalted figures in Jewish life are those whose wisdom is matched by their compassion. Their deeds teach as much, or more, than their words.

Read this story aloud or have a student read:

“The Skulerner Rebbe stayed in Europe after World War II to look after refugees. He defied the Soviet government by harboring many orphans in his home. He suffered great hardships and struggled to provide food and clothing for all the children he kept hidden from the authorities. One night he could not find a blanket to cover one of the orphans, so he removed one from his own child’s bed. The Rebbe’s son assured his father that he did not mind his father offering the blanket to the orphan. The Rebbe wanted to be sure that his son did not doubt his father’s love for him. So he said to him, ‘You have a father who loves you. You can at least warm yourself with that knowledge. This orphan has no one: let us warm him with a blanket.’”

Chesed (loving kindness) is how we humans become an expression of G-d in this world. When we perform an act of *Chesed*, we are not just “being nice,” we are fulfilling the purpose for which we were created.

Activity

3. Organizing your Fundraising Event (30 minutes)

By now, the class has decided on what kind of a fundraising event they would like to organize – now they just need to put it all together. Here are some tips on how to put together the best event possible. Jewish World Watch staff is always available to help you with your event and supply any materials or support that you may need.

Set goals for the event:

- Who can we invite to the event? (parents, siblings, other students outside the classroom)
- How should we ask them? (face to face, through email, making flyers, putting up posters, facebook, other social media, etc.)
- Who can we ask to sponsor our event?
- How should we ask them?
- Let’s set a goal – how many people do we think we can get to come to our event?
- How much money do we think we can raise?



Step One – Planning Your Event

Decide on Date, Time, and Location: You'll want to hold your event somewhere easily accessible and, ideally, free. Be sure to check with administration to see if the space you want is available on the date you would like to hold the event and that the administration is aware of the plans. Choose a time and date that most families would be able to attend (maybe something right after religious school on Sunday or an evening program). Check to make sure there are no large conflicting events.

Target Your Community: While it's really important to play to your own strengths and hobbies, you have to remember to sell a product or activity that is appropriate for the community you're reaching out to. Are you planning on doing an event in your synagogue, with people of all ages? Then a basketball tournament might not be a great idea, but a bake sale could work really well! On the other hand, selling something really expensive at your school might not work, while you could probably put on a more expensive event with your whole synagogue community.

Plan Your Budget: It's important to know how much an event is going to cost in the early part of planning. The cost of a carwash, for example, would include soap, washcloths, and any facility fees. Try to get a majority of the materials donated, either by the student's families or the religious school. Be sure to check with the administration on any restrictions on reimbursable expenses or if the synagogue would like to help sponsor the event (Brotherhood or Sisterhood, maybe).

Get your supplies together: Make a list of all of the supplies and materials the students will need to bring with them for the event to run smoothly. What will they need to bring from home? What will you need to buy? Assign responsibilities to everyone in your class equally. You may want to send a flyer home with the students with their specific assignment and call or e-mail everyone the night before the event and remind them of what to bring.

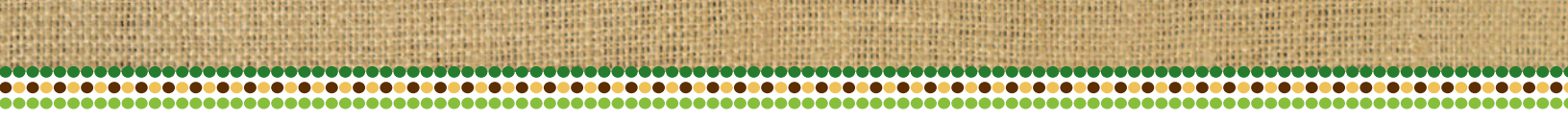
Call the Jewish World Watch office: We can provide you with brochures, advocacy materials and any other Jewish World Watch literature you feel would benefit your event. As your attendees will be so inspired by your event, offer them the possibility of continuing their involvement in the anti-genocide movement by creating a **sign-in sheet**. Ask for their names, phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses, and have them check off if they would like to get on JWW's mailing list or learn more about ACT. Leave a space so they can fill in anything else they may need from us.

Advertise! This can mean placing signs around the class rooms and on community bulletin boards, handing out flyers at the carpool line, or putting an announcement in the weekly synagogue e-mail or monthly mailing. The class can also create a pitch and go around to the other classrooms advertising the event.

Step Two – Event Day

On the day of your event, you'll want to arrive early to the venue with your class and do any necessary set-up. Make sure all the students know what their role is before, during, and after the event. Consider wearing similar colors or making welcome signs.

Assign someone to handle the donations; this may be a task best performed by a staff member or a parent volunteer. The more focused this task is, the easier it will be to keep track of the donations that come in.



Take photos of all important things about the event, like participants, the products you're selling, the signs, and definitely take pictures of the students in the class.

Make sure they leave the venue in the same state in which they found it. Clean up any stray paper, materials, and signs. Check to make sure they haven't left anything valuable.

Step Three – Follow-Up After the Event

After the event, be sure that the class makes Thank You cards for anyone who helped make the event a success. This helps the students understand the team work aspect of any event or relief and development project. Count up all the money you raised, and be sure to subtract any cost that was incurred prior to the event.

You can give your donation to JWW in several ways. Feel free to stop by the office with any checks/cash collected at the event. Alternatively, you can give the money to a parent or a teacher and ask them to give you a check in return. That check can be sent to Jewish World Watch at: 17514 Ventura Blvd, Suite 206, Encino, CA 91316. Along with the donation, remember to include 1) the sign in sheet, 2) a letter telling us about your program and how much you raised and 3) pictures of the class and their project. We will put a picture and description of your project up on our website so the students can show their friends and family the wonderful work they accomplished!

4. Creating a Walk to End Genocide Team

To compliment your class's project- a project of their own creation that they can take ownership of—they can also participate in JWW's annual **Walk to End Genocide** in Los Angeles or Orange County in April. This is a great opportunity for your class to connect with the surrounding community, meet other students in the area who are doing similar projects and show their support for the Darfuri and Congolese people. Your class can create an individual walk team or join your synagogue's existing walk team. Encourage your students' parents and siblings to participate as well. For more information on this year's Walk to End Genocide, please visit www.jewishworldwatch.org, e-mail info@jewishworldwatch.org or call (818) 501-1836.

If a fundraising event is simply not possible for your class's time or budget, the class can actively support JWW Relief and Development Projects by focusing their efforts exclusively around the Walk. Your class can put together a team for the walk, setting goals for the number of people they want to attend or the amount they want to be able to raise.

Please note: there is an \$18 registration fee for all walkers over 13 years old. Students are encouraged to ask for sponsorships to meet or exceed this fee. We encourage all classes to participate in the Walk to End Genocide event; if the class puts on a fundraising event, the money raised can go towards registration fees and any excess can be a straight donation. Contact a JWW staff member for more information.



Activity

Have the class set goals for the Walk:

- Who can we ask to join our team? (parents, siblings, other students outside the classroom)
- How should we ask them? (face to face, through email, using the Walk website, putting up posters, facebook, other social media, etc.)
- Who can we ask to sponsor our team?
- How should we ask them?
- Let's set a goal – how many people do we think we can get on our team?
- How much money do we think we can raise? It's a good tactic to set an attainable goal, and then surpass it!

For this lesson, your class can make posters to hold during the walk. Come up with a creative team name or make a poster with the synagogue's name on it. Here are some slogans they can use:

- "End Genocide!"
- "We Are the Change!"
- "Support The People of Darfur!"
- "Walk for Peace!"
- "Act Now!"
- "Congo Now!"
- "We Want Conflict-Free!"
- "(Your Synagogue) for Conflict-Free!"
- "Jews for Peace!"
- "Arrest President Bashir!"
- "(Your Team Name) against Genocide!"
- "Do Not Stand Idly By!"
- "Stop the Violence!"
- "Students Walk Against Genocide!"