
TORAH IS LIKE AN ONION

Learning Goals:

1. NCSYers will think about the benefit of learning Torah.
2. NCSYers will understand that learning Torah isn't about being right, but finding truth.
3. NCSYers will understand that learning Torah is about effort, not results.

Advisor Toolbox:

ACTIVITIES/GAMES

- Cut An Onion – The deeper you cut the deeper it impacts/affects you

VIDEOS/ARTICLES

- Chimney Sweeps - <https://tinyurl.com/NCSYChimneySweep>
 - Also in print on (page 129)
- Chofetz Chaim parable for effort in learning (page 132)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you like to learn? What do you like to learn?

Activities/Hooks

- Cut an Onion
 - Literally take an onion (buy it beforehand) and cut through it. Pass it around and let everyone cut a little more.
 - See who cries first cutting an onion – Torah is the same... the more you peel and the deeper you go, the more it personally effects/impacts you.

A Little Explanation

3. This session is to illustrate what Torah learning is all about – understanding the world that HaShem created and how to function in it.
4. The idea is to explain that Torah is multi-faceted; it has many layers and interpretations. Be careful about pluralism and conservative and reform Judaism here.
5. Be thoughtful in which examples you use in the text. If you talk about Psychology, the Constitution and Pardes you might lose your teens.
6. Talmud Megillah 6b – the Gemara's conclusion that if you put in effort then you will "find" Torah might not make sense to teens. Use the Chofetz Chaim's parable (page 44) on the prayer when we make a siyum (or finish a session of learning) to illustrate the point further.
7. Example of Pardes:
Pshat (straightforward) – עין תחת עין – "An eye for an eye" (but we don't take it literally)
Remez (hint)– what is "under" (תחת) the letters for "eye" (עין)? כסף – money! Instead you pay damages (which is hinted in the verse). ע → י, י → כ, כ → נ, נ → ט = כסף