

THE POWER OF OUR ECHO - ACTIVITY

Materials

- Paper cups (2 for each participant)
- String (1 for each participant, varying lengths)
- Worksheet (1 for each participant)

Directions

Have the learners write on their form - *5 minutes*:

- What is the echo that I hope to have in the world?
- Who helped me uncover that voice inside of me?
- What do I believe I can give to or do for others through my personal echo of influence?

Give each learner 2 paper cups with strings of different lengths to create their own old time telephone - *5 minutes*

Have the participants walk around the room and give the other cup from their string to someone else in the group and separate until the string is tight. They should whisper into the cup their message and the listener has to repeat it back. Then vice versa.

On their form, they should write down:

- 1) the name of the other participant
- 2) the sentence they were trying to pass on
- 3) the sentence they heard back from their partner
- 4) the sentence they think they heard from the other person

Students should do this 3-7 times, depending on group size and time allotment.

Time recommended: 25-35 minutes

After the exercise, have the group come together for a discussion.

- Did you have fun listening to other people's ideas of what they want to do to make their echo heard?
- What did it feel like to repeat it out loud? Did you find it easy to hear the words? To remember them?
- What made this challenge interesting for you?
- What was your favorite part - speaking, listening, or repeating?
- What was the echo statement that you heard that you liked the most?
- What echo statement of your own or someone else's that will stick with you after today?

LEADER: So now we will think about the power of not only our echo and that of our friends, but how leaders and people just like us have to shape the desired echo of their voice, what is needed to make that echo heard, and what impact it can have on the lives of others.

Reflection Questions:

- What is the amplification power of one person's influence?
- Why do so many people filled with hate for Jews have a stronger echo effect than those with Jewish pride?
- Why does the demonization of Jews echo so loudly in every forum of opportunity when any other such expression of hate would be recognized as such? Why are Jews the exception?
- What can we do about this if our own echo is so limited?
- Social media is the medium for many people's megaphone for their echo. How is this a good thing? How is it also a bad thing?
- What tools can we use to hear the others' echoes in a smarter and more effective way?
- When we speak to those who think just like us, it is called an "echo chamber." All the same sounds, circulating and coming back to us to reinforce our existing opinions. How can someone be sure that they can hear the conversation outside that echo chamber in a healthy and positive way?
- If we aren't the influencers with massive followers, does our sound still have an echo?