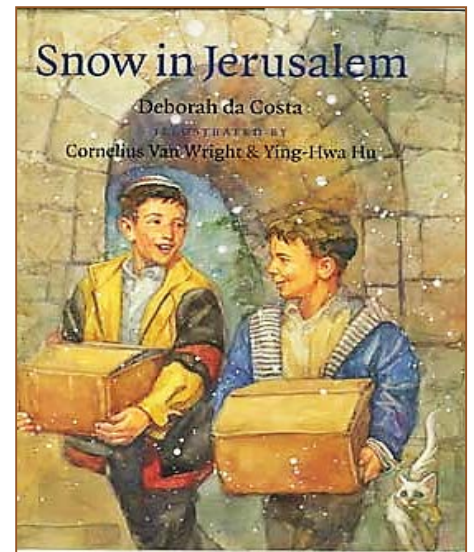


Snow in Jerusalem

By Deborah da Costa

Program Focus

Age group: Ages 4-8
 Time frame: 45-60 minutes
 Central value: Exploring the Jewish Value of Friendship



Synopsis

Snow in Jerusalem traces the development of a friendship between 2 unlikely friends- Avi, an Israeli boy who lives in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, and Hamudi, an Arab boy who lives in the Moslem Quarter of the city. Although they do not realize it, both boys love and care for the same stray cat. One day, Avi follows the cat through the streets of Jerusalem, and discovers that Hamudi feeds the cat every day, just as Avi does. Although the boys are initially angry and suspicious of one another, an unexpected snowstorm and the birth of kittens bring the boys together. Fueled by their love and concern for the beautiful blue-eyed white cat, the two boys find a way to resolve their differences and embark on a promising new friendship which crosses cultural and religious divides.

Goals

A major goal of this program is to foster friendships between participating families. Following the lead of Avi and Hamudi, participants will engage in several friendship building activities. In addition to helping participants establish new friendships, this program will also try to introduce families to the wonders and beauties of the Old City of Jerusalem and to teach families about Judaism's approach to the value of friendship.

Submitted by

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Plan in advance

Prepare Friendship Necklaces

Materials

- Lacing strings and/or pipe cleaners
- Variety of beads: pony, letter, wooden, etc.)
- Foam star with a hole punched in it
- Markers



Prepare Picture-Matching Game

Materials

- 2 copies of Old City of Jerusalem photos (see attached photos)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Prepare Letter Pretzels

Materials

- Pretzel dough (Use store-bought pizza dough, or make dough using the recipe below)
- Eggs
- Plastic spoons
- Plates for carrying pretzels home

Pretzel Recipe Directions

1 package dry yeast (approx. 2.25 teaspoons)

1 1/2 cup warm water

1 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 Tablespoons sugar

4 cups flour

- Dissolve yeast in warm water.
- Add salt and sugar.
- Mix and slowly add flour until dough is elastic and not sticky.



Prepare Jerusalem Collage

Materials

- “Old city shapes” (domes, squares, arches)
- Glue sticks
- Q-tips and glue
- Black construction paper
- Silver glitter (optional)
- Shaving cream (optional)
- Epsom salt (optional)



Prepare Paper or Edible Snowflakes

Materials

- Paper
- Scissors
- String, pony beads
- Flour tortillas
- Jam, margarine, or cream cheese with cinnamon and sugar
- Paper plates



Introduce with an activity

Make Friendship Necklaces

Intro Words

Today, we're going to read a book about two boys who live in different parts of a city, speak different languages, and practice different religions, but are able to become good friends. Because our book is about friends and friendships, we'd like to begin our program by having everyone make a "friendship necklace." Later in our program, when you meet your new friend, the two of you can decide whether you'd like to exchange necklaces or hold onto your own.

Directions

1. Choose a string and star for your necklace/bracelet (pipe-cleaners recommended for children ages 4 and under- several pipe cleaners may be joined together to make a necklace).
2. Place beads on string, add star, and then add more beads.
3. Tie ends of the necklace together.
4. On back of star, jot down 3-4 questions that you might want to ask a new friend (What's your name? How old are you?)



Introduce the Story

Our story is about 2 boys; one named Avi, who lives in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, and the other named Hamudi, who lives in the Moslem Quarter of the city. Although they do not realize it, both boys love and care for the same stray cat. One day, Avi follows the cat through the streets of Jerusalem, and discovers that Hamudi feeds the cat every day, just as Avi does. How do you think Avi feels when he sees Hamudi caring for the cat? This story is about how the 2 boys become friends and discover a way that they can both care for the cat.

Read the story

Encourage Participation

Props

Use a few props to provide context to the story and to build up anticipation:

- Stuffed Cat (be sure to define the word “stray”)
- Pictures of Jerusalem to describe appearance and climate of city

Questions

Raise a few questions, giving children something to focus on during reading:

1. *Let’s look at the book’s cover. What do you see?*
2. *I wonder what the boys are carrying in their boxes.*
3. *I wonder what snow has to do with our story.*

Post-Reading Discussion Questions

1. Where do Avi and Hamudi live?
2. In what ways are their neighborhoods similar? In what ways are they different?
3. In what ways are Avi and Hamudi alike? In what ways are they different?
4. Was it easy for Avi and Hamudi to become friends? What made it hard?
5. By the end of the story, do you think that the boys had become friends? What makes you think so?

Introduce the Jewish Concept of Friendship

Intro Words

The Torah (the special book of the Jewish people) and the Rabbis (the special teachers of the Jewish people) believe that friendship is very important. The Rabbis teach that everyone needs one special friend. The word for friend in Hebrew is chaver. In Pirkei Avot, another special book of the Jewish people, a Rabbi named Yehoshua ben Perachya (Pirkei Avot 1:6) says that everyone should go out and k’ne lecha chaver - buy/make a friend for themselves. Can we buy a friend at the store? No, but the special word k’ne (acquire/buy) means that we have to work very hard to find and become a friend. It takes work to be a friend. Sometimes, we need to do a lot of sharing, giving, and compromising in order to be a friend.

Questions

1. Can you tell us about how you met one of your special friends?
2. Have you and a friend ever fought with each other? Over what kinds of things have you fought or argued?
3. If you’re angry with a friend, what can you do so that you and your friend will feel better?

Follow Up activities and resources

Find a Friend – Picture Matching Game

Intro Words

Right now, we'd like to play a special game which will give you a chance to "k'ne lecha chaver" – to make a friend!

Directions

1. Every child and/or family receives a photo showing a different location in the Old City of Jerusalem.
2. Once you receive your picture, you need to find someone else who has the same picture as you. The person with your matching picture will become your *chaver*- your new friend.
3. Friends should ask each other the questions which they have written on their necklaces. (Friends can ask other questions as well.)
4. If you'd like, you may glue your picture or a cropped portion of your picture to the front of your star. You and your new friend should decide whether you'd like to exchange necklaces or keep the one that you had originally made.
5. After friends have chatted, proceed to the activity tables to work together on other activities.



Make Letter Pretzels

Intro Words

We hope that you have begun to get to know your new chaver (friend). Because we know that making new friends requires work and effort, we would like you to do a little work for your new friend. Can you make a letter pretzel to give to your new friend?

Directions

1. Roll pretzel dough into long snakes.
2. Shape the snakes into letters that spell out your friend's initials (or just the first letter of your friend's name).
3. Once you've shaped a pretzel, paint it with egg (using a spoon).
4. Give it to your friend to take home and bake.
5. Bake at 425° for 12-15 minutes.



Snow- Related Activities

Another approach to snow projects would be to explore the friendship- *reut* or *dibbuk chaverim*, aspect of the story. With these “snow” projects, the goal might be to have kids make a project which will be given to a potential new friend (or, kids may prefer to make 2 projects- one to keep and one to give to a friend). Partners can be found by drawing names from a hat or by matching pictures of Jerusalem.

Make a Snowy Jerusalem Collage

If your goal is to build up participants’ feelings of connection to Israel, you might want to try making a collage of Jerusalem and then adding snow to the collage.

1. Glue “old city shapes” using glue sticks or q-tips and glue, onto black construction paper.
2. Add snow to collage using one of these techniques:
 - Mix silver glitter with glue; apply to collage using a q-tip
 - Mix shaving cream with glue (this will dry puffy)
 - Dissolve 4 tablespoons of Epsom salt in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup hot water and brush mixture on paper

Make Snowflakes with a Friend

Explore the friendship (*reut* / *dibbuk chaverim*) aspect of the story by assigning partners / potential new friends and have them work together on a snowflake project, exchange the snowflakes they make, or make two snowflakes each (one to keep and one to give away.) Partners can be found by drawing names from a hat or by matching pictures of Jerusalem.

1. Fold paper several times and then cut simple shapes on the folds and edges of the paper.
2. Punch a hole in the snowflake and add string and pony beads to make necklaces.
3. Or, make edible snowflakes from flour tortillas:
 - Fold the tortilla in half or in quarters.
 - Using scissors, cut on the folds and edges.
 - Open the snow flake and spread jam, margarine, or cream cheese with cinnamon and sugar sprinkled on top.
 - Make sure to have a plate underneath the snowflake tortilla as you spread, so that the excess spread can fall through the spaces of the cut-outs, maintaining the snow flake design as the snowflake is lifted up and eaten.



Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

Following the program, try to e-mail each family, thanking them for coming and providing them with a copy of the pretzel recipe as well as addresses of all program participants (Ask parents when they first arrive at the program if they would be willing to share their addresses with other participating families). Families may also appreciate receiving a list of fun places to go with friends (Include names and locations of good local playgrounds, children's museums, zoo's etc.). Try attaching a few articles on the topic of friendship as well. Families may enjoy reading the following articles:

Jewish Wisdom on Friendship

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Relationships/Friendship/Jewish_Wisdom_on_Friendship.shtml

Friendship in Jewish Thought

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Relationships/Friendship.shtml>

Photos of the Old City of Jerusalem for Picture-Matching Game



