



Spread Over Us the Shelter of Your Peace Poster

Grade Level All; project may be adjusted to level of the learners

Goals for the Lesson/Activity

Students gain familiarity with...

- The phrase פָּרַח וְרוּחֶךָ לִּי יְנוּסָה וְיָרַח לָנוּ רַחֲמוֹתֶיךָ (‘‘and spread over us the shelter of Your peace’’)

Students will be able to...

- Create a beautiful piece of art, based on Jewish text, to hang in their sukkah or house

Materials needed / Prepare in advance

- Copy 11x17 text sheet - one per person
- Markers
- Assorted papers for collage
- Glue sticks
- Die-cuts, if possible
- If the work will hang in a sukkah, the finished piece should be laminated or coated with clear contact paper for protection.

Background for Teacher

The phrase פָּרַח וְרוּחֶךָ לִּי יְנוּסָה וְיָרַח לָנוּ רַחֲמוֹתֶיךָ (‘‘and spread over us the shelter of Your peace’’) appears in the prayer *Hashkiveinu*, which is the second prayer that follows the *Shema* during *Ma’ariv* (the Evening Prayers). With this phrase, we ask God to protect us during the night.

The reference to יְנוּסָה (shelter of Your peace) likely refers to the interpretation presented in the Talmud (Sukkah 11b) that *B’nei Yisrael* (Children of Israel) did not dwell in actual physical sukkot as they traveled through the desert but rather that they dwelled beneath the pillar of cloud provided by God. This visible symbol of God’s presence protected and comforted *B’nei Yisrael* on their journey.

Description of Activities

Before the art project, you may want to open a *Siddur* (prayerbook) and find the *Hashkiveinu* prayer to review with your students.

Some questions to help students connect to the text are:

- Why should we say a prayer that helps us remember how God protected our ancestors on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land?
- Why do you think this prayer is read at night time?
- How is receiving protection from a sukkah on Sukkot different from receiving protection from God the rest of the year?

Distribute the 11x17 sheets. Invite participants to think about what the text means to them, and use that as their inspiration. Using all of the different art supplies available, illustrate the text. If the artwork is going to hang in the sukkah, laminate or cover both sides with contact paper.

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