Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.

URJ Camp Program Packet for *Nothing But Nets*

Dear URJ Camps Staff,

In early 2013, the URJ and the RAC renewed its partnership with *Nothing But Nets*, a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among children in Africa. The Reform Movement recognizes the importance of helping those in need and is committed to saving lives, one net at a time. This packet contains four ready-made programs for you to implement to teach campers about the partnership, malaria, and why this is an important issue for Reform Jews. With the recently renewed partnership, Nothing But Nets and fighting malaria is a priority for our movement. I hope that you will use these programs over the course of the summer to teach our next generation of Reform Jewish leaders on the importance of eradicating global diseases and poverty, and why these are important values to Reform Judaism.

This packet contains four programs that you can run at your camp this summer. The first program, the "starter" program gives campers an overview of basic facts about malaria, *Nothing But Nets*, and our partnership. It can be paired with any of the other programs or serve as a standalone on a Shabbat afternoon or during a shiur session. The Living Talmud and Basketball Tournament serve as great Shabbat afternoon activities, a rainy day plan, or work it into the regular camp day. The final program serves a great evening program for an entire age unit, or multiple age units together.

Should you have any questions about the programs or would like materials such as display mosquito nets or t-shirts to use as prizes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

B'hatz'l'cha!

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1. ***Nothing But Nets* Starter Program:**

This is a quick and easy activity to tag to the beginning of any of the other programs outlined in this packet. It gives campers context on the issue of malaria and Nothing But Nets *to make the programs more meaningful.*

Goals and Objectives:

- Teach campers about malaria and *Nothing But Nets*
- Connect Jewish values to this project

Supplies Needed:

- Index Cards (Index Card Cut-Out)
- Nothing But Nets Facts Worksheet
- Pencils

Program (10-15 minutes)

1. Hand each camper an index fact card, a Nothing But Nets Facts Sheet page and a pencil. Campers need to walk around the room, collecting facts from other campers about malaria, Nothing But Nets, and the partnership. Give students 5 minutes to collect as many facts as they can (they don't need time to collect every fact –they will learn the rest when everyone regroups).
2. Have campers sit as a group, fill in the blanks on the Facts Sheet.
3. Discussion:
    i. What is malaria? How is it spread? When?
    ii. What continent has the most cases of malaria? What and who does it impact?
    iii. How can malaria be prevented? How do nets save lives?
    iv. What is Nothing But Nets?
    v. What can the US government do to help prevent malaria-related deaths?

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Nothing But Nets Fact Cards

About Malaria: Malaria claims the lives of over 600,000 people each year.	*About Nothing But Nets:* Nets are distributed by staff on the ground in Africa who teach families how to use the nets properly.
About Malaria: Malaria is the leading killer of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa.	*About Nothing But Nets:* Sports Illustrated writer, Rick Reilly, helped found Nothing But Nets in April 2006.
About Malaria: Malaria keeps countries poor – with high costs for health care and lost days of work when people are sick.	*About Union for Reform Judaism:* The Reform Movement is working to ensure funding continues for the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria which provide crucial funding in the fight to end malaria deaths.
About Malaria: Malaria is transmitted by mosquito bites.	*About Union for Reform Judaism:* Union for Reform Judaism adopted a Resolution to support the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which seek to eliminate global poverty.
About Nothing But Nets: Nothing But Nets purchases and distributes insecticide-treated bed nets to families in sub-Saharan Africa.	*About Union for Reform Judaism:* "Whoever saves a life, saves the world entire." – *Sanhedrin 4:9*
About Nothing But Nets: One long-lasting bed nets costs just $10.	*About Union for Reform Judaism:* Jewish youth across North America are making an impact by participating in this campaign by making Nothing But Nets a part of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah or confirmation class project.

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Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.

Malaria

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2. _____
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4. _____
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Nothing But Nets

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Union for Reform Judaism

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2. **Nothing But Nets Text Study**:

A Living Talmud is a tool that allows for discussion based on quotes and text. This is a great activity for Shabbat afternoon or a shiur session during the regular camp day. With a partner, read the Living Talmud, using the following questions for discussion.

1) How does the middle text from the Sanhedrin "Whoever saves a life saves the world entire" relate to the concept of *Nothing but Nets?*

2) In what ways does Maimonides theory of *tzedakah* pertain to the *Nothing but Nets* campaign?

3) What do you think Rabbi Tarfon means by: "It is not up to you to finish the work, but you are not free to abstain from it." How does this apply to *Nothing But Nets?*

4) The conversation between Joshua and Elijah spoke about the meaning of *tzedakah* and helping others. What do you think this conversation teaches?

5) The Union for Reform Judaism's Resolution to End Global Poverty has some profound words about our responsibilities towards ending poverty. What are some ways that you can work towards this goal?

6) What text speaks the most to you? Why?

7) What does the Reform Movement's involvement in the *Nothing but Nets* campaign mean to you after reading the Living Talmud?

8) Why do you think the Reform Movement is involved in the *Nothing But Nets* campaign?

9) After reading this Living Talmud, do you think that malaria and the work of *Nothing But Nets* is a Jewish issue? Why or why not?

10) Do you agree with Rabbi Heschel's quote? Are we responsible for the poor, sick and others those less fortunate?

11) If we are responsible, is it a moral responsibility as suggested by Rabbi Hillel, or is it a historical responsibility as suggested by Elie Wiesel?

12) Does donating mosquito nets fall into the highest level of *tzedakah* according to Maimonides? What about advocacy?

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A *Nothing But Nets* Modern Talmud Page

Rabbi Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? And if not now, when?" -*Pirkei Avot* 1:14

"You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." - *Leviticus* 19:16

Rabbi Akiva would say, 'Human beings are beloved because they were created in the image of God. It is an even greater love that this was made known to humanity, as it says, "and in the image of God were people created." - *Pirkei Avot* 1:18

Rabbi Tarfon said, "It is not up to you to finish the work, yet you are not free to abstain from it." - *Pirkei Avot* 2:21

"What is might? When you see people about to fail and you rescue them." - *Midrash Tehillim* 52:24

Rabbi Joshua asked, "Where shall I find the Messiah?" "At the gate of the city," Elijah replied. "How shall I recognize him?" "He sits among the lepers." "Among the lepers?!" cried Rabbi Joshua, "what is he doing there?" "He changes their bandages," Elijah answered; "He changes them one by one. That may not seem like much for a Messiah to be doing. But apparently, in the eyes of God, it is a mighty thing indeed." - *Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin* 98a

וְכָל הַמְקַיֵּם נֶפֶשׁ אַחַת . . .
כְּאִלּוּ קִיֵּם עוֹלָם מָלֵא.

One who saves a life…

It's as if one saves an entire world.

- *Mishna Sanhedrin* 4:5

"Every minute that one delays to redeem the captives when it is possible to move forward, it is as if one spilled blood." - *Shulchan Aruch, Yorah Deah* 252:3

"If we Jews remain indifferent to the plight of the oppressed, what right do we have to criticize the leaders of the free world for having abandoned us during the Holocaust?" – Elie Wiesel

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." – *Amos* 5:24

Maimonides taught that there are eight levels of *tzedakah*, each greater than the next, and the greatest level is to empower others through gifts, loans or partnerships in such a way that they are able to become independent and able to sustain themselves.

-URJ Resolution to End Global Poverty

"Above all, the prophets reminded us of the moral state of a people: Few are guilty, but all are responsible." – Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

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3. Nothing But Nets Basketball Tournament:

A basketball tournament is a great Shabbat afternoon or rainy day activity. Pairing a basketball tournament after a Nothing But Nets *text study allows the program to be more meaningful and holistic.*

1. Divide campers into teams of three to five.
2. Create a "bracket" on poster board, white board, or somewhere so it is big enough for people to see. Ideally if you have a full court, two half-court games can be going on at the same time. If your camp has more basketball courts, you can get more games going at once. Have the winner of Game 1 play the winner of Game 2 and so on. If you have an odd number of teams consider giving the team that can answer a trivia question about malaria/Nothing But Nets first a "bye" in the first round.

Basic Rules

It's important that the rules you use in your tournament be consistent, not necessarily that they are these particular rules. Here is a basic set of rules. Change them if you like.

1. Officiating: All games are officiated by counselors.
2. Team Make-up: Each team may contain no less than 3 players and no more than 5. If more than 3 players are on a team they can be substituted in during any stoppage in play.
3. Scoring: The first team to 11 points (by 1s) wins. The winner must win by 2 points or be the first team to score 15 points, whichever comes first.
4. Game Play:
    a. Possession changes after every basket (NOT "make it-take it").
    b. If a 3-point line exists, all shots behind it are worth 2 points.
    c. "Take Backs": On defensive rebounds (including airballs) and steals, the ball must be passed or dribbled beyond the arc. The ball does not need to be given to a different player.
    d. If a team knocks the ball out of bounds or goes across the mid-court line it shall be awarded to the opposing team.
    e. When a team is throwing in the ball, the offensive team must pass the ball in before a shot is attempted.
    f. If the ball goes out-of-bounds, the offensive team must check the ball with the defensive team at the top of the key.

Adapted from University of Maryland Intramurals

4. Nothing But Nets Evening Program:

This program serves as an excellent evening program for the whole age unit in the older half of camp. The more campers, the better! This game is based on the game Predator-Prey.

Program Name: Nets Tag
Program Objective: Campers should have a better understanding of the plight of African families, the immense task at hand of 'covering' Africa, and understand the effectiveness of nets
Objective of game: To collect the needed supplies without being tagged
Materials Required: pens, small pieces of paper, whistles (optional), net scraps (or anything to represent a net, can be a towel, old t-shirts, etc), 4 cups/bowls/plastic baggies (anything to put the small pieces of paper in), blank printer paper, markers
Time and space required: explaining rules 10 min, game lasts 45 min, discussion at end, 10 minutes

Prep work:

1. Tear pieces of paper up and write 'water' on 50-60 small pieces of paper, then education on 50-60 pieces of paper, etc . (This is based on 70 campers playing; you'll need more supplies if you have more campers, less if you have less campers playing.) Continue with food and work.
2. Predetermine where each of the supplies will be located in camp, though not all of the waters, or foods, for example need to be in one place. Example:

    Tower: water
    Pool: food
    Chadar ochel: education
    Pagoda: food
    Basketball court: work
    Etc

It is also ok to have more campers than supplies; this will just make the game more realistic!

3. Place the supplies at designated areas in camp before the start of the game. Each slip of paper is considered one unit of the supplies. Try to place no more than 10-15 units of each supply per location.
4. Create a map of camp designating where the supplies are. Make 15-20 copies of the map, depending on how many campers are playing.
5. Pre-assign campers into groups so that they can change into the appropriate color before playing. Divide the campers into three groups, the villagers, mosquitoes, and aid workers. Depending on how many campers you have, make the villager group so that it is twice as big as the mosquito group, and the mosquito group is twice as big as the aid worker group. For example, if you have 70 campers playing, 10 campers will be aid workers, 20 will be mosquitoes, and 40 and will be villagers.
6. Assign campers into their groups and assign a t-shirt color to each group.
    a. Aid worker group: red
    b. Mosquito group: blue
    c. Villager group: green

Game:

7. Divide the three groups into subgroups so that each subgroup is 4-5 campers (Based on 70 campers playing, you would have two subgroups of aid workers, 4-5 subgroups of mosquitoes and 8-10 subgroups of villagers). Each subgroup of the people, mosquitoes, and aid worker group must collect the following supplies (these numbers can be adjusted if you have more or less than 70 campers playing):
    i. People group: 5 waters, 5 foods, 5 education, 5 work
    ii. Mosquito group: 10 food, 10 water
    iii. Aid worker: 15 food, 15 water
8. Give each subgroup the map you created so that they can collect the supplies. More than one 1 item can be collected from one spot, though keep in mind, other groups are also collecting supplies, so some spots might be depleted.
9. The challenge while collecting supplies for the villager and mosquito groups is to not get attacked. An aid worker group can attack a mosquito group, and a mosquito group can attack a villager group. The challenge for an aid worker group is to collect supplies while increasing their numbers (attacking mosquito groups) and distributing nets to human groups. When a villager group has a net, they cannot be attacked by a mosquito group. To attack, the attacking group blows a whistle, and from the time of the whistle, campers in the superior group can tag people in the lower group for 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, the attack is over, and the superior group may not attack that lower group again for 5 minutes. When someone is tagged, they become a part of the group that tagged them.
10. Counselors can move about the game taking nets from villager groups. This is emblematic of nets wearing out over time and therefore not effective and need replacement.

After playing for 45 minutes, regroup the campers. Divide into bunks and discuss what campers learned from the game.

1. What were challenges?
2. If you were in a human group, how did you feel when you had a net?
3. If you were an aid worker, what challenges did you face?
4. If you were a mosquito, were you able to tag a lot of people? Did anything make it harder to do that?