

## It's Real Israel – Yom HaZikaron

April 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

- Opening – Alex (welcome and etc.)
- A few words about Yom HaZikaron in Israel – Yoni (2 minutes)
  - What is Yom HaZikaron for the Israelis?
  - What is the magnitude of this day?

### Group discussion – questions to address:

1. What are the differences between the American Memorial Day and Yom HaZikaron?
2. Are these differences based solely on the fact that Israel is a young country or is it something else? (The frequency of wars? The frequency of terror attacks?).
3. How do you feel about the way Americans celebrate Memorial Day? Do you think Americans do an acceptable job of memorializing our dead soldiers?
4. Looking at the Israeli Yom HaZikaron, as Americans, is it something we can relate to? (These are not our soldiers, these are not our citizens). Why should we care?
5. What are your thoughts when you hear about soldiers who die for a cause that you personally don't agree with?
  - (Optional) Lets just say I strongly oppose the presence of IDF soldiers in the West Bank. How am I supposed to feel in regards to an Israeli soldier losing his life there?
6. All IDF soldiers, whether they are combat or non-combat, are obligated to swear an oath – “...to devote all my energies, and even sacrifice my life, for the protection of the homeland and the liberty of Israel...”.
  - Is it just to obligate all soldiers to take this oath?
  - What about the non-combat soldiers, why should they swear to such an oath?
7. Is there any one person or thing in your life that you would deem worthy of giving your life for?
8. Yoni's thoughts: – Thinking about my grandparents and parents I get this notion that I, in my lifetime today, have less things in my being I would give my life for than they had. What does it say about my life? Does it necessarily mean that my life is safer? Or perhaps it means something else? Is it true in the U.S as well?

## The oath of the IDF

"I swear and commit to maintain allegiance to the State of Israel, its laws, and its authorities, to accept upon myself unconditionally the discipline of the Israel Defense Forces, to obey all orders and instructions given by authorized commanders, and to devote all my energies, and even sacrifice my life, for the protection of the homeland and the liberty of Israel."

הנני נשבע (ת) ומתחייב (ת) בהן צדקי לשמור אמונים למדינת ישראל לחוקיה ולשלטונותיה המוסמכים, לקבל על עצמי ללא תנאי וללא סייג עול משמעתו של צבא הגנה לישראל, לציית לכל הפקודות וההוראות הניתנות על ידי המפקדים המוסמכים ולהקדיש את כל כוחותיי ואף להקריב את חיי להגנת המולדת ולחירות ישראל.