



masa  
leadership &  
impact center



masa מסע  
ISRAEL JOURNEY

# HOME IS WHEREVER I'M WITH YOU

## Goals:

1. Familiarity with the commandments and customs of Sukkot.
2. Personal and group clarification regarding the meaning of the concept of home in our lives.
3. Deepening familiarity and coordinating expectations between group members – what we need and give to create a sense of home and belonging

## Emphasis

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- Whether your group is at the beginning of the program or is already in full swing, what all your participants have in common lies, among other things, in agreeing to get out of their comfort zone and into the non-permanent and unknown outside.
- The holiday of Sukkot allows us to appreciate impermanence, trust the process as an engine for growth, and put the physicality aside while trying to create a sense of home and belonging in a place thousands of kilometers away from where we grew up.
- The activity before you emphasize our ability to be adaptive, to understand that the constant is the change, and to find the anchor in interpersonal relationships and within us, and not in property and materiality
- Be mindful of the sting: chairs in a circle, cell phones on silence inside the bags, embrace active presence.

## **General background for the facilitator**

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**"42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are home-born in Israel shall dwell in booths;**

**43 that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."**

(Leviticus chapter 23; 42-43)

**"13 Thou shalt keep the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in from thy threshing-floor and from thy winepress.**

**14 And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, and the Levite, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates.**

**15 Seven days shalt thou keep a feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose; because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the work of thy hands, and thou shalt be altogether joyful."**

(Deuteronomy chapter 16; 13-15)

- The practical meaning of the verses mentioned above is reflected in the three pilgrimages (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) in which pilgrimages are made to the Temple in Jerusalem – during the assembly in the seventh month, the month of Tishrei, you have to build a sukkah and live in it for seven days. The first day is a sabbatical holiday (similar to Shabbat) and the eighth day is a holiday – Simchat Torah sabbatical. In the middle of Chol Hamoed, during which it is allowed to travel, cook and work only what is necessary. At the time of the Bible, people would make pilgrimages and be in Jerusalem all those days.

## Opening (15 min)

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- Optional for an opening integrating movement: a short game from the world of theater that illustrates a complete and lively picture with the help of people and roles they take on in drawing the physical house.  
The first participant enters the center of the circle and declares himself - I am a house in... A moshav in the Galilee / a suburb in the US / an Igloo in Alaska / tipi / an apartment in an apartment tower in Petah Tikva, etc.  
A second participant joins in and describes themselves following what the first participant declared - I am the polar bear in front of the Alaskan igloo / I am the neatly trimmed grass in front of the house in the American suburb (following what the first participant announced) and position themselves in the center of the circle near the house as requested by the role they took on.  
Third participant - I am the pride flag hanging from the balcony of the apartment in the apartment tower in Petah Tikva and so on until all the participants have chosen which detail they want to be from the picture of the house they created.
- Present the theme of Sukkot which we will be dealing with in the coming hour and that it was inspired by the commandments and customs of the holiday.
- Opening round: When do I feel at home? .

## Main part (35 min)

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### > Option 1 - Work in small groups with text -----

- Read the texts below together and answer the following questions:
  1. Explain the passages in your own words.
  2. **“Beautiful vessels, he should bring them up into the Sukkah, beautiful divans, he should bring them up into the Sukkah; he should eat and drink and pass his leisure in the Sukkah.”**
    - a. Why do you think the tractate emphasizes these elements as necessary in turning the temporary sukkah into a permanent place?
    - b. How would you turn your temporary sukkah into a permanent place?
  3. What advantages and disadvantages do you think there are with “practicing” in a temporary home?
  4. Are there non-material things that make a new or temporary place a home? Which?

**“ALL THE SEVEN DAYS 21 A MAN MUST MAKE THE SUKKAH HIS PERMANENT ABODE AND HIS HOUSE HIS TEMPORARY ABODE.”**

(Tractate Sukka chapter B Mishna Tet)

**“Our Rabbis have taught, All the seven days, 21 one should make the Sukkah, his permanent abode and his house his temporary abode. In what manner? If he had beautiful vessels, he should bring them up into the Sukkah, beautiful divans, he should bring them up into the Sukkah; he should eat and drink and pass his leisure in the Sukkah.”**

(Talmud Bavli Tractate Sukka K”H page B)

> **Option 2 - Work in small groups with a video** .....

- Play the attached short video in the [link](#) and ask participants to write to themselves while watching which sentences caught their attention.
- Then, answer the following questions together:
  1. What are the phrases that have captured your attention in a special way? Why?
  2. Between which elements is it recommended to balance them according to the video? Do you agree/oppose it? Why?
  3. In your opinion, what layer of the video adds to the opportunity inherent in building a sukkah?
  4. Bring an example from your current experience of creating a home in a new place that illustrates one of the elements mentioned in the video.



## Return to the plenum discussion (20 minutes) – adapted to both options

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- Invite each group of two or three to share what was the similarity and differences in their answers around the text/video? What surprised them? (For the facilitator - try to connect with the statements made in the opening round regarding the importance of a home, a place that is mine, a sense of security, and more).
- Together with the participants, read the following passage by the writer Chayuta Deutsch and then answer the attached questions together:

**"A home doesn't have to be a house. it can Be a cave in the desert or an insane asylum. What creates it is the sense of security."**

1. What is the main argument of the writer? Do you connect with her words? Why?
2. Share examples of past or present experiences that have allowed you to feel confident in a new and different space.
3. How can you as a group help each other to strengthen and promote a sense of belonging and the creation of a home during your program in Israel? (For the facilitator – it is recommended to write the things that come up from the participants on a poster board or board, take pictures, and return to this from time to time throughout the year and examine how we can as a group supports our sense of security).

## Concluding Part (5 min.)

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- Play "Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros /Home" linked [here](#) And ask the participants to write to themselves one or two things that they want to try implementing starting tomorrow in order to deepen their sense of home, belonging and security during the program in Israel.

