

Bikkurim- Gratitude

There is a mitzvah to bring first fruits to the Temple. Bikkurim were the first fruits to ripen on a tree of one of the special species of the land of Israel. When doing so, one had to recite a passage from Deuteronomy 26:5-10, the section of “Arami oveid avi” (“an Aramean tried to destroy my ancestor” or, possibly, “my ancestor was a wandering Aramean.” This passage may be familiar from the Passover Seder).

The reason for this mitzvah is because a person is inspired by what comes out of his mouth. By speaking the declaration aloud, the message is impressed upon him. The landowner doesn't only bring his first fruits to the Temple in order to share the good things that God has given him, he verbally acknowledges God's goodness. The passage describes how God saved the patriarch Jacob from Laban, redeemed the Jews from Egypt and brought them into Israel. It culminates with the personal goodness with which God has graced the person making the declaration, as demonstrated through his first fruits.

At the height of what could be a self-aggrandizing moment, when our labors have finally reached fruition, we instead turn towards the source of all blessing and express our feelings of gratitude.

2 minute intro and rules by session leader, 11 minutes game, 1 minute cooldown and recap about importance of gratitude towards Hashem and everyone/everything else.

Gratitude Family Feud aka Gratifeud Rules

Will be played in Family Feud Style. Teens are split up into two teams (**advisors** should distribute among these teams as well), and each team sends up one person, and when given a word or phrase, the first to hit the table and give **three reasons** within **ten seconds** for why they are grateful for that particular item gets the point, and the right to continue with the next word or phrase. All of the answers must be logical and acceptable (or at least funny!) to the host (aka Benjy Katz aka Steve Harvey). [At least two of the answers must be genuine and not just trying to be funny.] If they are not able to list three, the other team has the opportunity to steal the point (they can huddle together to discuss), but they must come up with **two different reasons** in **five seconds** why they are grateful for this thing.

Each team can get a maximum of five points in a row, before the board goes to the other team. After each team has gone once, the teams again send up one person to the table/podium to try and hit the table first and get the board for their team.

Like the game “Whose Line is it Anyways?”, the points do not matter a lick, but don't let that stop you from pretending they do!

1. Parents
2. Air conditioning
3. NCSY Advisors
4. Chairs
5. Rainy days/rain
6. Shabbos
7. A nice cozy bed
8. Amazon/Amazon Prime
9. Electric lights
10. Shoes
11. Noses
12. Traffic lights
13. Jolly Rancher Bites
14. Nail clippers
15. Showers
16. Fingers
17. Judaism
18. Post it notes
19. Trees
20. Car commercials
21. Watches
22. Digital cameras
23. Air/oxygen
24. Torah
25. Clothes
26. Microwaves
27. Spring Regional
28. Airplanes
29. Youtube
30. Plumbing and Sewage system
31. Seedless watermelon
32. Shoes
33. Mosquitoes
34. Eating utensils
35. Siblings
36. The wheel
37. Eyeglasses
38. Printers
39. Tissues
40. Music
41. iPhone
42. Umbrellas

