

## THE MISSING PIECE

<b>Time needed</b>	<b>30 minutes</b>
<b>Age range</b>	Any teen
<b>Background of teen</b>	Any
<b>Set up</b>	Classroom or group around a table

### Goal:

To learn to focus on the positive and good in life

### Relevance:

Tu B'Shvat and Purim, Positivity, Bereishis

### Supplies needed:

3 puzzles (no more than 24 pieces each)

### Active Learning:

Remove one piece from puzzle one. Remove one whole part of puzzle two (I happen to remove the eye of a tiger). Leave puzzle three whole. Split the room into three groups.

If done for Tu Bishvat... ask: *what do we celebrate on Tu Bishvat?*

If done for Purim... go through the story of Purim.

If done in connection to Bereishis... go through the story of Adam and Eve in the garden and how they ate from the one tree Hashem commanded them not to.

After discussing a bit... hand out one puzzle per group and instruct them to put the pieces together (do not mention the missing pieces). Go around the room seeing how they are doing and listening to the conversation. At some point, one team will notice a missing piece and will say something.

### Facilitation Questions:

After they have completed their respective puzzles, ask them how they felt it went. I have always found that one team will say, "It went well, but we were missing a piece." Another team may say "Well, but there is a whole missing part of our puzzle, (the tigers eye is missing, for example), the third team will feel good they finished the puzzle.

**Wrap up message and Torah thought:**

<p><b>Now you can explain: The instructions were not to complete your puzzle but to put all of the pieces together!</b></p>	<p><b>Sometimes the issue in life is focusing on what is missing and not on what is whole and complete.</b>  <b>We need to learn to focus on the positive!</b></p>
<p>For Tu B'Shvat:</p>	<p>We celebrate how something seemingly unapparent, something so deep in the ground is actually beginning to bring back life to a dormant tree.          We are taught to focus on what is <i>happening</i> as opposed to what is <i>lacking</i>.</p>
<p><b>For Purim:</b></p>	<p><b>Haman was so evil. He was rich, had a large family, and had incredible power, but it was worth nothing to him if Mordechai the Jew would not bow down to him.</b>  <b>We must always focus on what we <i>do</i> have and not on what we are <i>lacking</i>.</b></p>
<p>For Bereishis:</p>	<p><b>Adam and Chava were given the entire garden, but fell prey to human nature, which is to focus on what we don't have.</b></p>
<p><i>Hashem gave us all a bunch of puzzle pieces and our job in life is to piece together the pieces that are handed to us. We need to stop being negative and begin to focus on the amazing gifts we do have. Don't lose focus of what seems to be lacking but rather rejoice with the greatness endowed within us.</i></p>	