

Gender Diversity & Nonbinary Inclusion

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Created for Jewish communities

The following programs may be presented as a series or as one-off programs.

(1) Adam, Eve & Everybody Else

As more and more people regularly introduce themselves with their names and pronouns, the Jewish community has some serious catching up to do. Many of our rituals, and pretty much all of the Hebrew language, relies on narrow ideas about “masculine” and “feminine” ideals. Using the Torah’s account of the creation of human beings as our foundation, we will examine and explore the messages we have received and internalized regarding gender diversity (or lack thereof).

Facilitated by Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

60 minute option

- I Introduction
- II Earliest Assumptions
- III Text Study: Two Creation Stories
- IV Text Study: *Midrash Bereshit Rabbah*
- V Conclusion

90 minute option

As above, but with more time for group discussion, plus an additional section of Q&A

(2) Nonbinary Inclusion: From the Ancient Androgynos to Our Community

Description: Understanding the right terms to use when interacting with all types of people is the first step in being inclusive. We will unpack the words and their definitions, study some text, and learn from a dialogue between our colleague and a non-binary community member who will graciously and generously share their experience and perspective. There will be substantial time devoted to questions from participants.

Facilitated by Bonz Swencionis & Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

60 minute option

- I Introduction
- II Nonbinary 101: Terms & Definitions from LGBTQ+ Activism & Queer Theory
- III Text: *Mishnah Bikkurim* on the Androgynos
- IV Short Q&A
- V Conclusion

90 minute option

- I Introduction
- II Nonbinary 101: Terms & Definitions from LGBTQ+ Activism & Queer Theory
- III Q&A

IV Text Study: *Mishnah Bikkurim* on the *Androgynos*

V Dialogue (delving into facilitators' *hevruta* as trans/nonbinary learner and cis rabbi)

VI Common Blocks to Inclusion

VII Q&A

VIII Conclusion

(3) Rituals and Traditions: Creating Space for Nonbinary Folks

What should Jewish leaders consider as they strive to fully include all congregants in Jewish rituals, life-cycle moments, and traditions? What are new ways of thinking about the use of gendered Hebrew words in key ritual moments? How can we move from inclusion to belonging?

60 minute option

Facilitated by Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

I Introduction

A Review Foundational Items from (1) & (2)

B Preparing for Our Existence

C Livability

II Practical Applications

A Hebrew Language

B Lifecycle Moments

C Unique Rituals

III Conclusion

90 minute option

Facilitated by Bonz Swencionis & Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

I Introduction

A Review Foundational Items from (1) & (2)

B Preparing for Our Existence

C Livability

II Harmful Omissions Jewish Leaders Make

III Practical Applications

A Hebrew Language

B Lifecycle Moments

C Unique Rituals

IV Q&A / Personal Examples

V Conclusion