



## Background for Educators:

This lesson plan is built as a companion for A Common Goal. It is best delivered once students have already seen the film, but can also stand alone for learners who were not able to watch the film ahead of time. Please note that all activities can be modified to meet the needs of your students and community, and suggestions for modifications/variations are included within.

### ***Representing Myself, Representing the Collective***

#### **Opening Activity (5 minutes)**

Each student should take a few minutes to list the top ten ways that they identify themselves using nouns (that is, I'm a daughter/brother/student/Jew/friend/American, not I'm nice/smart/adventurous). Having looked at their individual lists, each one should pick a single word that best defines who they are. Depending on the size of the group, they can share it out loud, with a partner, or in the chat.

*Notes: You will come back to this word at the end of the lesson.*

#### **Reflection (10 minutes)**

A Common Goal focuses on the experience of the Arab players on Israel's national soccer team. They're caught between worlds - they represent Israel, but don't always feel fully accepted. Their families are proud of them, but not necessarily their participation on the team. For the players, the complexities of who they are as athletes, Arabs, and Israelis, all overlap and sometimes contradict each other.

For this activity, we're going to explore our Jewish identities, and the different elements that make us who we are. Everyone should have paper and something to write/draw with.

Everyone should make an outline of a stick figure - artistic talent is not required!

1. On your eyes, write or draw something that represents how you see the part that Judaism plays in your life.
2. On your head, write or draw something that represents how Judaism affects the ways you make decisions.
3. On your mouth, write or draw something that you pray for.
4. On your hands, write or draw something Jewish that you do.
5. On your heart, write or draw something Jewish that is meaningful to you.
6. On your stomach, write or draw something that represents your favorite Jewish or Israeli food.
7. On your legs, write or draw something that represents mitzvot that you do or actions you take to benefit others/the world.
8. On your feet, write or draw something that represents your Jewish roots.

#### **Pair + Share (7 minutes)**

Divide into breakout rooms and share your drawings with a partner(s). Together, reflect on how you see yourselves Jewishly. Is it the same way that you think the rest of the world sees you?

Israel In Shorts is a program of @akiva and the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

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### **Coexistence** (10 minutes)

Coexistence is literally defined as “the state or fact of living or existing at the same time or in the same place.” But when we think about coexistence, it often goes beyond that baseline. What does coexistence mean to you? What are examples of it that you can identify, either from the movie, the United States, or your knowledge of Israel?

*Notes: You can put this definition on a slide or in the chat for reference. The conversation about coexistence can be verbal, or can be guided through use of a WordCloud, Menti conversation bubbles, etc.*

### **Sports as a Path to Peace** (10 minutes)

[Check out this article](#) about another Israeli soccer team featuring both Arab and Jewish Israelis. How does the experience of this team align with the team featured in *A Common Goal*? How does it differ?

As a group or in pairs, start developing a list: what are steps that Israel can on a micro level as well as nationally in order to foster coexistence between Jewish and Arab Israelis?

### **Wrap Up** (5 minutes)

Think back to the word that you chose to define yourself by at the beginning of this session. If that one word was how everyone else saw you, what would they be missing about you as a person? Would you be proud to be known as just that one thing, or would you be more frustrated? How would you relate to others if you were only seen through one lens?

Thank you for joining us for Israel in Shorts!

*Educator notes: The @akiva team would greatly appreciate your feedback, as well as any photos you can share of your students in action, their drawings, etc. These can all be sent to Samantha at [svinokor@akivacleveland.org](mailto:svinokor@akivacleveland.org).*