The Old City and the Three Religions

Pesach Seder. This isn’t the only time we see Christian apostles consumed the last supper, which was really a Muslim. It was on a Thursday that Jesus and his followers ate their last meal together in Jerusalem. But this isn’t the only time we see Christ and Christianity in the Old City. There are many opportunities for our teens to learn about the different communities, most importantly, that Jesus himself is a strong connection to Jerusalem, and trains teens to be Jewish leaders.

Learning with Guy Ben-Porot.

This educational session was focused on the topic of “Church and State.” The session included an outside speaker, which was fascinating. The speaker talked about the truth about the Temple mount. This morning’s tour took us to the holiest site in Judaism, and we learned about the controversies and nuances that must be understood before beginning to formulate an informed opinion. During our time in Israel, we began to appreciate the complexity and depth of the situation.

We experienced what Jewish life was like in the holy land by staying a Shabbat and Pesach. Through all of these experiences, we’ve come to more fully understand our tradition, and are more defined as a community.

The Clevelander.

AIPAC Policy Conference 2018 – “Choose to Lead”

American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference is an annual gathering held in Washington D.C. where politicians and prominent leaders discuss why they support Israel. The moment we set foot in the Washington Convention Center, we were greeted by Hebrew and Howard Stern. And then, as we walked in, we saw a sign that read “We Need to Go.” One speaker, Captain Ofer Erez, is a CEO of Jerusalem Open Windows Academy and an only transgenger officer in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). We were privileged to hear his powerful speech about the LGBTQ+ community. Captain Erez was the first one to announce his sexual orientation to the Israeli Government. In even, we got to see a picture with him, which made our conference even more special. We are grateful for the opportunity. We both plan to use what we learned in our own lives in any way that we can.

AIPAC is not just an American and Israeli conference that takes place in Washington D.C. It is a place to find your voice and that it influences our community. As a leader, it is important to listen to those around you and be a part of the community.

Daniel Jacobson (Cleveland, 2018)

A plateful of different backgrounds blended together at one place at one time to discuss the future of U.S.-Israel Relations, we learned of the importance of Israel. We also learned of the importance of American Jews, whether we are for or against a Jewish state. We asked the panel if schools in Israel are teaching people that people can marry the people they wish and be with those who oppose a Jewish state. We learned that there are many different perspectives and opinions on this topic.

Joseph Bennington (Cleveland, 2018)

The family I married by their own Rabbis, therefore there is great inequality and unacceptable needs to be changed. But also, it is about the change of the Jewish community. Judaism is a people that wants to survive, and more importantly to thrive in this modern world cannot expect to suppress people’s freedom to live the way they want in the name of its own religious beliefs. Israel made the decision to offer citizenship to anyone that has a Jewish grandfather.

Galvin Silver, (Israel, 2017)

Joseph Amir (Cleveland, 2018)

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Galvin Silver, (Israel, 2017)

Shabbat on the Mosiah

Shabbat on the Mosiah was truly a day of rest. In Beit Shean, I experienced an atmosphere of Shabbat. Beit Shean is a city in Israel that was established by the Jewish people. The city was established in 1920 and has a population of over 35,000 people. Shabbat is the Jewish day of rest, and during this time, the whole city comes to a complete standstill. People do not work, do not shop, and do not do any activity that would disturb the peaceful and serene atmosphere.

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