

Early Voices of Israel

And What They Mean Today



Introduction (20 Minutes)

Who's in the Room

Why We're Here

Group Agreements (suggested)

- Speak honestly from your personal opinions and experiences
- Listen fully and “hang in there” when you hear something challenging
- Share airtime and don't interrupt others
- Avoid personal attacks – focus on critiquing ideas

- Try not to make assumptions about other peoples' beliefs or motives – instead, talk with them and test your assumption
- If someone speaks in a small group or one-on-one, assume the comment is confidential unless they give you permission to share it
- Make the most of this chance to learn from each other

Personal Connections

Say a few words about your personal connection to Israel. Why do you care about Israel and what happens there, and why do you choose to devote energy to these issues? What from your personal experience has led you in this direction?

Part I: Early Voices (30 Minutes)

Small Group Discussion

What does this excerpt mean to you, and why does it resonate? What are the key elements in this vision of a Jewish homeland? What do you imagine this thinker would say today?

Mixed Group Discussion

What are the similarities and differences in these Zionist thinkers' visions? What do you like about the visions? What does not jive with you as much?

Part II: Current Voices (20 Minutes)

Large Group Discussion

What were some of the key differences or points of contention in these different visions for Israel?

How do the questions raised by the early voices play out today? What kinds of voices supporting Israel are being heard in current discourse?

In your opinion, is there a need to broaden the current debate about what it means to be supportive of Israel, at the national level? The campus level?

What can we do on our campus to demonstrate that a broad debate about Israel is just as necessary today as it was in the past?

Closing (5 Minutes)