



## Shabbaton/Retreat with Rabbi Simon Jacobson

### Sample Schedule

*Note: This is Rabbi Jacobson's suggested schedule, based on his experiences in the past. The style and schedule you choose must be suitable to the nature and interests of the crowd you are hosting. You may use some of it, all of it, or none of it. Please let Rabbi Jacobson know your program schedule in advance.*

#### **Friday night**

Friday night before davening, or in the middle of convening (before Barchu), or after davening right before going to the meal – introduce Rabbi Jacobson for a short presentation, which consists of brief words of introduction, humor, and inspiration. This serves as a “teaser” for the crowd, who now might be eager to hear more from the speaker.

During the meal, it adds ambience and warmth when melodies are sung. One person from each table can be asked to introduce him/ herself and share a feeling or explain how or why he/ she has come here. You might want to ask just one or two of the people to share a feeling, a story, or a personal experience. This can increase the momentum and excitement of the evening.

Following the meal, a presentation by Rabbi Jacobson for 45-60 minutes, followed by questions and objections.

#### **Shabbos morning**

You can arrange a shiur, class, discussion group, or meditation, as a preparation for Davening. For a Torah crowd, this is great time for a shiur. For a more secular crowd, this is a good time for Q & A concerning Yiddishkeit. It's also a great time to explore spiritual and mystical themes of Judaism. For a more advanced audience, we can use a text for study.

#### **Davening**

Rabbi Jacobson delivers a Sermon after the reading of the Torah. This serves as a good time to demonstrate the depth and meaning of the Torah portion of the week, making it personally relevant to each of our lives. In many ways, this is the most powerful presentation, since there is no food or distraction present.

## **Kiddush/ Lunch Meal**

Following the meal there can be a presentation by Rabbi Jacobson, coupled with song. You can arrange a farbrengen style event if you wish.

## **Shabbos Afternoon**

### **Crossfire**

When a guest speaker comes, people often feel comfortable to open up and ask questions that have been sitting on their hearts for years. In this afternoon session, people can bring up any topic they wish, and the Rabbi will address it.

### **Shiur/ Lecture**

A lecture for the community can be arranged (for everyone, or women only, or teenagers etc.), or/and a shiur, Daf Yomi, or another topic.

## **Shalosh Seudos**

A presentation by the Third Meal. You may also want to turn this meal, or Shul assembly, into an emotionally interactive experience. We can assemble in a circle, singing heartfelt Jewish melodies. Between songs Rabbi Jacobson will interject with short, spiritual and inspiring ideas, insights and tales. This is designated to be an emotional experience for the participants.

## **Havdalah**

A Havdalah ceremony, which includes a musical Havdalah, can be combined with a brief charged explanation as to the spiritual and psychological significance of Havdalah.

## **Melavah Malkah**

Followed by a presentation.

## **Sunday morning,**

Following breakfast (only if agreement was made in advance, as this is not included in Shabbaton)

A presentation to wrap up the weekend: This is designated to serve as the "last hit," leaving the audience with a powerful and delightful taste from the Shabbos experience and with the inspiration to go ahead and introduce the light of Yiddishkeit into their lives, based on the injunction of our Sages that action reigns supreme, *Hamaseh Hu Haikar*.

