

### **Information Packet: One-Off Session Options**

The following sessions take place over 90 minutes. Each topic is interactive and educational, utilizing multimedia and the most effective pedagogies for a one-off session. Additionally, these topics can be expanded into multiple sessions to be run as miniseries.

<i><b>Intro to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</b></i>	This conflict is a dispute between two peoples who experience and understand shared events in completely different ways, where one sees 1948 as a moment of independence and the other as catastrophe. The goal of this session is to give learners the opportunity to conceptualize the Zionist and Palestinian narratives and understand the main themes of the Conflict.
<i><b>The Abraham Accords &amp; how the Middle East is Changing</b></i>	Before 2020, Israel had normalized relations with only two Arab countries - Jordan and Egypt. Now Bahrain and the UAE have joined the club. Why now? What was the role of the Trump Administration? Will other Arab countries follow their lead?
<i><b>Israeli Politics: I don't get it</b></i>	Breakdown the Israeli political system, debate its pros and cons, discuss where the political currents are flowing and what the Israeli political map may look like in the future.
<i><b>The US-Israel Relationship</b></i>	Why are the United States and Israeli governments so close? This session will explore the many layers of the US/Israel Relationship and discuss where it may be headed in the future.
<i><b>Explaining the "Territories"</b></i>	What are the "territories"? Why do some say they are occupied, while others say disputed or liberated? What are Areas A, B & C? This will be a short introductory session to the issues in the West Bank/Judea & Samaria.
<i><b>Zionism - The Jewish Renaissance</b></i>	What is the Zionist idea? What are its roots? The goal of this session is to familiarize students with a brief history of Jewish nationalism from antiquity to today.

<i>The Return of the Jewish Question in the West</i>	Why are we seeing so much more antisemitism than just a few decades ago? What has changed? The session will help students understand the historical, societal and political contexts for the recent increase in antisemitism in the West.
<i>21st Century Challenges for Israel society</i>	What are the main challenges facing Israeli society in the coming decades? This session analyzes societal trends, issues within the Jewish world, and long-term national security threats.
<i>Israel Update</i>	How does today's news fit into the local political context and the greater geopolitical challenges and opportunities facing Israel?
<i>Religion and State in Israel</i>	This session will focus on the narratives in Israeli society for and against the role of religion in government and broader society and will examine its place in the Israel/Diaspora relationship.
<i>Israeli Jewishness and Diaspora Jewishness: Are we one people?</i>	Why is one people's Jewishness rooted in ethno-nationalism and another rooted in liberal-religious values? Discuss the trends in how the two largest Jewish communities understand what it means to be a Jew in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century and how that impacts the future of the Jewish people.

## About IMPACT:

[IMPACT](#) educates learners to negotiate between Israel and their Civic and Jewish identities by exploring their meanings, conflicts, and points of integration. Through our educational programs, students explore *why Israel* and *why Jewish* are compelling values to embrace in the buffet of options in pursuing a meaningful life. Learners will ultimately develop their own identities as they encounter Israel as an idea and value of the long running saga of the Jewish story.

## About Benji Davis, IMPACT Director:



Benji Davis, the founder of [IMPACT Israel Education](#), is a Jerusalem-based educator specializing in Israel education. He manages a team of educators that teach Israel education courses for gap year students, gives geopolitical lectures to 60+ Birthright-Israel groups a year, leads seminars, tours and Shabbatons for many visiting groups to Israel and specializes in online Israel education for learners before and after their Israel experience. Benji

grew up in Los Angeles, California, holds a BA in Middle East Studies & History from the George Washington University, an MA in Jewish Education from the Hebrew University and is a doctoral student at the University of Haifa in the Faculty of Education, focusing his research on teacher knowledge of Israel educators of American Jewish teens. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife Rachel and daughters Maia and Ella.

