



Rabbi Billy Dreskin

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Inviting Others to Present an *Iyyun T'fillah*

There is nothing about creating an *iyyun t'fillah* that requires any special expertise. With a little bit of guidance, pretty much anyone can create one. And it only enriches the prayer experience to have different insights and points of view being shared. I've provided below the email-correspondence I use to get others involved.

Billy

Initial Email of Invitation

Dear Mike,

Will you be attending the Shabbat evening service on Friday, November 20? And might you be willing to write a 250-word *iyyun* (a directed thought that introduces one of our prayers during the service) on the theme of < name specific theme of evening here>? If yes, I'll send you additional details.

Billy

Follow-up Email with Instructions

Dear Mike,

Thank you for agreeing to prepare an *iyyun t'fillah* (a directed thought that introduces one of our prayers during the service). I'm hoping to have three congregants each present one *iyyun*. Your challenge (and, I hope, your delight) will be to come up to the *bimah* just prior to < name specific prayer here> (I'll invite you) to do the following:

- 1) In 250 words or less, combine the theme of the evening with the theme of < name specific prayer here>, and share an idea about what that might mean for each of us.
- 2) Theme for the evening: < name specific theme of evening here>.
- 3) Theme(s) of < name specific prayer here>. < provided information about the prayer here ... it's simple meaning, as well as one or two of its messages>

You don't have to use every idea. In fact, just pick one facet of the evening's theme and one facet of the assigned

prayer to make one clear, concise, and meaningful statement. And if you come up with your own take on a prayer, that's great too.

Most importantly, use a brief story (personal or not) or a quoted passage to illuminate your point.

The purpose of *iyunei t'fillah* is two-fold: 1) to give each congregant listening to you something that will help make the recitation of the prayer itself a more meaningful experience; and, 2) to help unify our Shabbat evening together under one thematic umbrella.

I'd love to see your *iyyun* sometime by the day before our service. Holler if you have questions. And thanks!

Billy