

Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview

3rd grade - Kitah Gimmel פִּיתּוּחַ ג'

2023-2024 / 5783-5784

Overarching Goals:

- To positively connect with Judaism
- To be a proud Jew
- To contribute to the Jewish community through prayer literacy
- To be a productive and knowledgeable Jewish adult in the future
- To be able to accurately identify and pronounce Hebrew letters and vowel blends

Unit Goals: *By the end of 3rd grade (with regular attendance and participation) students will be able to:*

Hebrew:

- Correctly name and produce the sounds of most Hebrew letters and most Hebrew vowels and accurately identify and pronounce most letter-vowel blends
- Divide syllables appropriately, read simple words accurately and read sentences accurately, but with some hesitation
- Learn Hebrew words and phrases related to the Jerusalem Café project

Tefillah:

- Sing the Friday night service and Kiddush with a basic idea of meaning, melody and choreography, focusing on *Shalom Aleichem*, *Shema V'ahavta*, *Veshamru*, *Rommu* and *Lecha Dodi*
- Recognize meaningful words within the *Shema* and *V'ahavta*
- The importance of the Siddur in our Jewish life

Music:

- We focus on the Friday Night evening service. At the end of the year, students lead the Kabbalat Shabbat Friday night service. Some of the songs we sing throughout the year are: Creation-Yismechu/ L'chu N'ran'na / Shiru L'Adonai / Romemu

Holidays:

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: Names of the Hebrew months of the year, four names of the holiday, shofar sounds, blessings for holiday food, shofar and new year, the concepts of *Tashlich*, *Teshuvah* (repentance), *Tefillah* and *Tzedakah*, rituals of fasting and wearing white, *Het* (sin)/ to miss the mark

Sukkot: The idea of dwelling in the Sukkah, the four species, the historical and agricultural connection, the blessings for the sukkah and the lulav and etrog, *Hachnasat Orchim* (hospitality), *Hallel* and *Shemini Atzeret*

Simchat Torah: Being happy to study Torah, the *Sofer* (scribe), *Hakafot* and the concept of the annual cycle of reading Torah

Chanukah: The miracles of Chanukah, the struggle to maintain a Jewish identity, eternal light, *nes gadol hayah sham*, the Maccabees, reciting the blessings over the Chanukah candles

Tu B'Shevat: The connection between Tu B'Shevat and the creation story, the concept of taking care of our environment (Tikkun Olam) and the land of Israel

Purim: The main characters in the story of the Megillah and *Mishloach Manot* (giving gifts)

Passover: The Passover story, Moses, the Burning Bush, the Ten Plagues, steps of the Seder, Four Questions, Seder Plate, Haggadah, Hametz, 4 cups of wine, Cup of Elijah and Afikoman

Yom Ha Atzma'ut: Eretz Yisrael vs. Medinat Yisrael, the people of Israel throughout history and today, *Aliyah*, Theodor Herzl as the founder of the Zionist movement, Israel's Birthday and Magen David

Shavuot: The Omer = counting 7 "weeks" between Passover and Shavuot, receiving Torah on Mt. Sinai and Ten Commandments

Bible:

- Appreciate our ancestors' lives and accomplishments through studying their stories in the Torah
- Recognize the content, characters and lessons in the Biblical stories of the books of Genesis and Exodus (*Bereshit* and *Shemot*)

Jewish Life:

- Strengthen and build our community embodying the value of *K'lal Yisrael*
- Examine the process of how a *Sofer* (scribe) writes a Kosher Torah
- Havdallah Service: Be familiar with Havdallah prayers for the three objects and feel comfortable reciting prayers
- Read and say the blessings over foods before they eat (Motzi, Shehakol, Mezonot)

Jewish Values:

- Define *Kavod* as respect for one another

Israel:

- Appreciate the importance of *Eretz Yisrael* (the land of Israel)
- Explain and sing Israel's national anthem, *Hatikva*, "The Hope"
- Know that Israel became a state in 1948 and the capital of Israel is Jerusalem
- Learn about the climate/weather in Israel