

## Sinai Temple Religious School-Curriculum Overview

### Kindergarten - Kitah Gan ך

#### 2023-2024 / 5783-5784

#### Goals:

- To foster a positive experience and love of Judaism through the learning of *Midot* (character traits): *Kavod* (respect), *chesed* (loving kindness), etc.
- To have fun and to create friendships that last through adulthood
- To want to come back to Sinai in 20 years and remember all of the good times they had in Religious School
- To “skip” all the way to the classroom on Sunday mornings

**Challenge of the year:** Be able to recite the Ma Nishtana (4 questions) on Passover- Practice at home!

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

#### Hebrew:

- “Sing” the Hebrew consonants (letters)
- Learn Hebrew words and phrases
- Use Hebrew words and phrases in song and play

#### T’filah:

- Sing the Morning Blessings, *Modeh Ani*, *Mah Tov* and *Barchu*, *Shema Yisrael* with a basic idea of meaning, melody, and choreography
- Participate in the Sunday morning T’filah service with joy

#### Music:

- We focus on the joy music brings to our Judaism – we learn songs for Shabbat and songs for each holiday that the students can bring home, teach their families and celebrate the Jewish calendar year. Some of the songs we sing: Heveinu Shalom Doo Wop/ Artik Menta / David Melech / Adama V’Shamayim / Ozi / Hinei Mah Tov / Romemu

#### Holidays:

- Explore, understand, and identify the key symbols (listed below) and the themes of each Jewish holiday:  
**Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur:** Jewish New Year, Apples and Honey, Shofar  
**Sukkot:** Lulav & Etrog  
**Simchat Torah:** Love of reading of the Torah  
**Chanukah:** Chanukiah, Shamash, letters on the Dreidel – Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin  
**Tu B’Shevat:** Birthday of the trees and their importance in our lives, Etz=tree, Tu B’Shevat Seder  
**Purim:** Story of Purim, Megillah, Grogger  
**Passover:** Haggadah, Seder Plate, 4 cups of wine, *Ma Nishtana*/4 Questions – why are questions important?  
**Yom Ha Atzma’ut:** Yom Yerushalayim (kotel), Israeli Flag, Israel’s birthday!  
**Shavuot:** The Torah, Ten Commandments, was received by the Jewish People at Mt. Sinai

#### Bible:

- Be familiar with the stories in *Bereshit*, including Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his Brothers

#### Jewish Life:

- Strengthen and build our community, embodying the value of *K’lal Yisrael*
- Describe/explain the contents of a Jewish home: Mezuzah, Books (Bible, Siddur, Haggadah), and Shabbat symbols (in Hebrew and English), including Kiddush cup, Challah cover, candlesticks, wine/grape juice
- Havdallah Service: Recognize the three instruments of blessing in the service (candle, wine, spices)

#### Jewish Values:

- Recite the blessing over the bread (Hamotzi)
- Define *Kavod* as respect for one another and *Chesed* as loving kindness

#### Israel:

- Know that Israel became a state in 1948 and that its capital is Jerusalem
- Learn about an important personality in connection to the State of Israel