

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**3rd Grade - Kitah Gimmel כיתה ג**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Overarching Goals**

* To positively connect with Judaism
* To be a proud Jew
* To contribute to the Jewish community through prayer literacy
* To be able to accurately identify and pronounce Hebrew letters and vowel blends

**Practice at Home:** Dog Tag Hebrew Tests, Hatikva and Friday night Kiddush

**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 Cafe

**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, Lecha Dodi, and Hatikva
* Recognize meaningful words within the Shema and V’ahavta
* The importance of the Siddur in our Jewish life

**Music:** Our focus is on the Friday evening service. At the end of the year, students lead the Kabbalat Shabbat Friday night service. We also focus on Am Yisrael Chai, and songs related to the Jewish Holidays and Israel.

**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
* 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)
* 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 Bishvat: 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, four cups of wine, cup of Elijah and afikomen
* Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel’s birthday) & Leaders of Israel
* Shavuot (when school is in session): The Omer = counting seven “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 & Values:**

* Strengthen and build our community embodying the value of K’lal Yisrael (the Jewish collective of Israel) & Kehila Kedosha (Holy Community)
* Havdalah Service: Be familiar with Havdalah prayers and the three symbols and “which blessing connects to each symbol.
* Read and say the blessings over food before eating (Hamotzi, Shehakol, Mezonot, Haetz, Ha’Adamah)
* Choose an organization to give Tzedakah (charity) to.
* Each month, learn about and ‘live’ a Jewish value.
* Learn about and ‘live’ the B.E.N. Initiative (Bullying Ends Now)
* Define Kavod as respect for one another
* Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

**Israel**

* Appreciate the importance of Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel), and a visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk.
* 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 and weather in Israel
* Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)

**Textbooks:** A Child’s Bible: Lessons from the Torah, \*My Jewish Year, Time to Read Hebrew Volumes 1 & \*2, Siddur Lev Shalem