

**Sinai Temple Religious School - Curriculum Overview**

**TK - Kitah Gan Hova גן חובה**

**2025-2026 / 5785-5786**

**Overarching Goals**

− To foster a love for Judaism through engaging, playful, and age-appropriate learning activities that create lasting memories.

− To create a warm, inclusive environment where children build friendships and feel connected to their classmates and teachers.

− To instill excitement for Sunday mornings at Sinai Temple, setting the stage for a lifelong relationship with Judaism.

**Practice at home:** Sing and practice the Aleph-Bet and Oseh Shalom, a song of peace for the whole world.

**Unit Goals:** By the end of Transitional Kindergarten (with regular attendance and participation) students can:

**Hebrew**

− “Sing” and play with the Aleph Bet letters through games and movement.

− Practice simple Hebrew vocabulary, such as greetings (*Shalom*, *Boker Tov*), family terms (*Ima*, *Abba*), and holiday words (*Shabbat*, *Menorah*).

− Sing the Hebrew songs and prayers in Hebrew.

**Tefillah**

− Experience Community Prayer: participate in the Morning Blessings (Modeh Ani, Mah Tovu and Barchu, Shema Yisrael), emphasizing the elements of joy and gratitude in prayer. Through this, encourage students to be able to say things they are thankful for.

− Incorporate choreography in Tefillah (prayers) so students will recall certain prayer movements (bowing, hand gestures, using props in the classroom, etc).

**Music**

− Learn 5-10 Jewish songs and prayers for Shabbat and holidays, emphasizing rhythm and melody through interactive activities and dancing. Songs include *Hatikva*, *Am Yisrael Chai*, *David Melech Yisrael*, *Hanukkah-O-Hanukkah, Halleluyah, and Bim-Bam Shabbat Shalom,*.

**Holidays**

− Gain familiarity with the symbols, themes, and traditions of major Jewish holidays:

 o *Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur:* Learn about and listen to the shofar, eat apples and honey, and sing blessings for the new year. Attend Tashlich at the beach.

o *Sukkot*: Make decorations for the sukkah, shake the Lulav and Etrog - blessings in the Sukkah.

o *Simchat Torah:* Celebrate the Torah with dancing and music, fostering love for the Torah.

o *Chanukah:* Make Menorahs out of clay/play doh, learn to spin a dreidel, and hear the story of the miracle of the oil.

o *Tu Bishvat*: Birthday of the trees and their importance of taking care of the earth.

o *Purim:* Shake the groggers, wear costumes, and learn about the characters of the Purim story.

o *Passover*: Eat Matzah, and hear the story of the Jews baking Matzah when leaving Egypt. Sing the 4 questions.

o *Yom Ha’atzmaut:* Celebrate Israel’s birthday with crafts, Israeli songs, Israeli snacks, and a visit to the STARS Israeli Shuk.

**Bible**

− Listen to Bible stories in the book of Beiresheet (Genesis), do art & games around the stories of: Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, Joseph’s coat of many colors.

- Discuss the lessons from these stories of kindness and connection to God.

**Jewish Life & Values**

− Strengthen and build our community by modeling and teaching kindness and respect.

- Bring Tzedakah (charity) each week and learn the importance of giving and sharing.

− Learn to recognize the contents of a Jewish home: Mezuzah, Kiddush cup, Challah, and wine for Shabbat. Attend & know about the Havdalah ceremony.

− Practice saying blessings (*Hamotzi* & blessings over grape juice and snacks) to develop familiarity with Jewish rituals.

- Each month, learn about and ‘live’ a Jewish value.

- Chaver bracelets (*Chesed* - Kindness, *Bracha* - Blessing, *Rachamim* - Compassion) -- Be a good Chaver! (friend)

- Learn about and ‘live’ the B.E.N. Initiative (Bullying Ends Now)

**Israel**

− Be able to recognize the map of Israel.

- Understand that Israel is the Jewish homeland. Students should all be able to say “Israel became a state in 1948!”

- Know that Jerusalem is the capital and the Western Wall is in Jerusalem.

- Learn about Israel through our Shinshinit (an Israeli volunteer who will join Sinai Temple for the year)