



## Religious School 5781 (2020-2021)

### Kitah Gan (Pre-K/K) Curriculum Overview

Theme: The Journey of the Jewish Year

Students are introduced to Jewish holidays and the rituals that are associated with them through all the senses. Students will learn the key symbols, themes, and rituals associated with the following holidays:

- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year, Apples and Honey, Shofar)
- Yom Kippur (Teshuvah)
- Simchat Torah (Love of Torah)
- Sukkot (Lulav and Etrog, Welcoming Guests)
- Hanukkah (Hanukkiah, Shamash, Dreidel)
- Tu B'Shvat (importance of trees, seasons, Tu B'Shvat seder)
- Purim (Story of Purim, Megillah, Groger, Mishloach Manot, Matanot La'evyonim)
- Passover (Seder Plate, Haggadah, 4 Questions)
- Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel as Jewish Homeland, Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Israeli Flag)
- Shavuot (Torah received on Mt Sinai, Torah Transmission through time)

Students will also learn the key rituals of Friday Night Shabbat (Candles, Kiddush, Motzi) and Havdallah (Wine, Spices, Candles, Distinctions).

#### Essential Questions:

- What are holy days? Why do we need them?
- How and why do we celebrate as Jews?
- What is Shabbat? Why do we need Shabbat?
- How does it feel to be part of a community celebrating together?

#### Torah: Stories from Genesis

Students will be introduced to age appropriate stories from Genesis. Stories will include:

- Creation
- Adam and Eve
- Noah
- Tower of Babel
- Abraham and Sarah
- Rebekkah and Isaac
- Jacob and Esau
- Joseph and his Brothers

#### Essential Questions:

- Who are the patriarchs/matriarchs? What values do they embody?
- What do stories from the Torah have to teach me about doing the right thing?

#### Avodah: Welcome to the Synagogue

The big theme of this year, the Holidays and their rituals, is the main form of Avodah that students will be learning this year. Students will also develop familiarity with the physical space of the synagogue and its components and will learn to sing some of the most common prayers.

**Essential Questions:**

- What is a synagogue?
- What is in a synagogue? What are their purposes?
- What do we find inside a synagogue? What are their purposes?
- Why do we go to synagogue?
- In what ways is a synagogue like a home? In what ways is it different?
- How does a synagogue help us connect to God? To each other?

**Prayer:**

Students will learn to actively participate in morning services with joy. By the end of this year, students will be able to sing the following prayers with appropriate choreography and be able to articulate their basic meaning:

- Modeh/Modah Ani
- Mah Tov
- Shema
- Hinei Ma Tov
- Mi Chamocha
- Oseh Shalom
- Shabbat Blessings (candles, Kiddush, Motzi)
- Food Blessings

**Hebrew:**

Students will begin to learn Letter and vowel recognition

**Gimilut Hasadim:**

Students will learn the concepts of Teshuvah (repentance/saying sorry), Hachnasot Orachim (welcoming guests), and Hodayah (thankfulness).

**Essential Questions:**

- How do my actions affect those around me/the world around me?
- How do we apologize for mistakes we have made?
- How do we make people feel welcome?
- How do we express gratitude?