

Students will be introduced more systematically to our sacred literature, learning the names and general themes of the 5 books of Moses, as well as the other two sections of Tanakh (Neviim/Prophets and Ketuvim/Writings). The stories of the Torah show our people's encounter with God, our prayers are a way to talk with God and by practicing our values we bring Godliness into the world.

Torah:

Students will encounter 16 classic Bible texts, from Genesis to the Book of Esther, and the Jewish values that can be drawn from them.

- God and Creation (Taking Care of the World)
- Adam and Eve (Accepting Responsibility)
- Noah (Doing the Right Thing)
- The Tower of Babel (Remembering to be Humble)
- Abraham (Standing up for Others)
- Rebecca (Showing Kindness)
- Jacob and Esau (Keeping Peace in the Family)
- Joseph (Asking for Forgiveness)
- Miriam and Moses (Protecting Life)
- Moses and Pharaoh (Trusting in God)
- The Israelites and God's Laws (Serving God)
- Ruth and Naomi (Feeding the Hungry)
- David and Goliath (Being Brave)
- Solomon (Seeking Wisdom)
- Jonah (Caring about Others)
- Esther (Loyalty to the Jewish People)

Essential Questions:

- How is Torah similar to other stories we tell? How is it different?
- Who are some of the important characters in the Bible, what are their stories, and why are they important in my life and in my family's life?
- How am I like the people in the story and how am I different?
- What values can I learn from these characters?

Avodah: Talking with God

Students will be introduced to the idea of prayer as an opportunity to express their feelings and hopes to God. Students will begin to explore the six word brachot structure and how each word informs our understanding of God and our relationship to the divine. Students will be encouraged to express the themes of the prayer songs they are learning in their own words and to come up with their own prayers.

Essential Questions:

- How can I see God's presence in the world even if I don't see God?
- How can I feel comfortable talking to God? Are there ways that God answers even if I don't "hear" it?

Prayer: At the end of this year, students will exhibit fluency and competency with the following prayers, as well as an understanding of their basic themes and how to apply the prayers' meaning to their lives:

- Modeh/Modah Ani
- Mah Tovu
- Shema
- Hinei Ma Tov

- Mi Chamocho
- Oseh Shalom
- Shabbat Blessings (candles, Kiddush, Motzi)
- Food Blessings

Hebrew: Students will continue work on letter and vowel recognition. By end of the year students will begin to be able to sound out 1 syllable words as well as recognize several longer key words (Shabbat, Shalom, etc).

Gimilut Hasadim:

Students will learn the concepts of B'tzelem Elohim (being created in the image of God), Hakarat Hatov (recognizing the good), Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick), and Shalom (peace).

Essential Questions:

- What is gimilut hasadim? What are examples that I do for others? That others do for me?
- How can I make the world better through acts of gimilut hasadim?
- What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How does this affect how we treat people?
- How do I recognize blessings all around me?
- Why should we visit the sick?
- What is peace? What does peace feel like? Why is peace important?