



Religious School 5781 (2020-2021)

Kitah Dalet (4th Grade) Curriculum Overview

Theme: Mitzvot u'Middot: Jewish Lifecycle/
My Personal Jewish Journey

This year will focus on the lifecycle events from birth to death, personally connecting them with the life cycles that have been celebrated in their own families. California Unit: As California history is part of the Common Core for 4th grade, our students will also have a special unit on California Jewish History.

Essential Questions:

- What are life cycle events? Why do we need them?
- How do lifecycle rituals help bring meaning into our lives?
- What makes a life cycle event Jewish?
- What life cycles have I personally been through? What do I have to look forward to?
- What have been key lifecycle moments in my family?

Torah:

In Pirkei Avot 5:21, Yehuda ben Tama says that at 10 years of age a student should begin to learn Mishnah. Although students will have already been exposed to rabbinic texts in previous classes, kitah dalet will be where they will more formally be introduced to the concept of Oral Torah in general and the Mishnah in particular. The Torah texts students will be learning will be tied in directly to the lifecycles.

Avodah:

Students will learn the rituals that bring holiness to our life cycle events, performing mock ceremonies and designing their own to mark occasions they think are important.

Essential Questions:

- What are the rituals that we do around life cycles?
- How do these rituals add holiness to our lives?

Prayer/Hebrew: Introduce Hebrew in Harmony (Behrman House) curriculum to teach prayer fluency, as well as the major themes of prayers and key Hebrew roots

- Avot/Imahot
- Gevurot
- Kedusha
- Hoda'ah
- Birchot Shalom
- Shalom Rav
- Sim Shalom
- Oseh Shalom
- L'cha Dodi
- V'shamru
- Shalom Aleichem

Gimilut Hasadim:

Students will reflect on the values that are taught and celebrated at lifecycles events.

Essential Questions:

- What are the values reflected in lifecycle events?

- In what ways does attending lifecycle events help me become a better person?
- Why are lifecycle events mitzvot?