

As students transition to middle school and begin to prepare more seriously for becoming bnei mitzvah we will look specifically at Shimon the Righteous's teaching in Pirkei Avot and challenge ourselves to embody those three foundational principles personally.

We will be looking at sources in their context (Torah stories in the Chumash, prayers in the siddur), so students will develop the confidence to navigate these texts in a shul setting.

**Essential Questions:**

- What is my Torah? My Avodah? My gimilut hasadim?

**Torah: My Torah**

Students will work on developing skills to be able to become independent Torah learners. They will develop familiarity with looking up verses in a Chumash/Tanach, being able to identify major types of Jewish literature as well as use modern tools such as Sefaria as a resource to deepen Torah study.

**Avodah: My Prayer**

The Psalmist says: Va'ani teffilati: I am my prayer. Students will reflect on this statement.

**Essential Questions:**

- Can I make prayers written by others my own?
- What are the prayers of my heart?
- What is the difference between set prayers and personal prayers?
- Why are the strengths and weaknesses of both?

**Prayer/Hebrew:** Conclude the Hebrew in Harmony (Behrman House) curriculum.

- Birkot Ha Shachar
- Ashrei
- Ahavat Olam
- Ahavah Rabbah
- Vachulu
- Magen Avot
- Kaddish Shalem
- Nishmat
- Yishtabach

**Gimilut Hasadim: My Middot**

Students will be introduced to the concept of mussar and will work on identifying character traits that they want to improve and developing strategies to do so.