

## BETH-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <p>Sunday class from 9:30-12:00 Student age 5 by September 1. The Topic for their curriculum will be holidays, bible stories and Hebrew.</p>	<p>Children will discover the joy of our holiday tradition through a series of booklets called "Jewish and Me", and through lots of crafts, music and games. The bible story will be introduced through an exciting book called <i>Torah Alive</i>, a unique method teaching Torah to young children (dramatic role-playing, puppetry and more. Basic Hebrew holiday vocabulary will be introduced. Bible stories and the values drawn from them will be explored through a series of booklets called "Teach Me Torah." A Hebrew specialist will introduce the Hebrew Aleph Bet weekly for thirty minutes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grade 1:</b></p> <p>Theme: Discovering myself in the Jewish story.</p> <p>I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people. My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.</p> <p>I am part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i>.</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - Introduction: What Is Torah?, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah: Woman of Kindness and Courage, Jacob and Esau, Joseph (Lesson <i>Alef</i>): Trouble among Brothers, Joseph (Lesson <i>Bet</i>): Personal Change and Reconciliation, The Genesis Journey Map,</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, What Is a Blessing?, <i>Havdalah</i>, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, <i>Shehecheyanu</i>, Being a Jewish Hero: An Introduction to <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> and <i>Tzedakah</i></p> <p><b>G'milut Chasadim</b> - Being Kind with <i>Derech Eretz</i>, Do Not Do to Others..., Repentance: Is Saying Sorry Enough?, Welcoming Guests: <i>Hachnasat Orchim</i>, Helping Our Synagogue Community, Taking Care of the Earth, <i>Tzedakah</i>: A Different Way of Helping, <i>G'milut Chasadim Hero</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grade 2:</b></p> <p>Theme: The personal relevance and power of Torah, Avodah, and <i>G'milut Chasadim</i></p> <p>Studying Torah can teach me important lessons about how God wants me to live.</p> <p>Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God. We make the world a better place by performing acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> in our everyday lives.</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - Intro to Torah, Intro to Book of <i>Sh'mot</i>, <i>Parashat Sh'mot</i>-Finding God in Small Places, <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session alef), <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session bet), <i>Parashat B'shalach</i>: Nachshon Comes to Visit, <i>Parashat Yitro</i>: Helping Hands, <i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i>: Hold On to Your Hat, God!, <i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>: Reaching Out to Strangers</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Why Can't I See God?, Shabbat Blessings, Morning Blessings, <i>Sh'ma</i>, Evening Blessings, How Do I Talk to God?, Why Does God Want Me to Grow?, How Does God Talk to Us?, Does God Know Me?</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasadim</b> - Making A Difference, Opportunities to Do <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, Torah Teaches Us, In God's Image, Being God's Partner, Welcoming Guests, Taking Action, Reflections on Doing <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Celebration</p>

**Grade 3:**

Theme: Kedushah (holiness)

The laws and rules found in the Torah can help us to live a life filled with holy moments  
Through avodah, we can make our lives and the world more holy (kadosh).

Each individual act of g'milut chasadim can make the world more kadosh (holy).

**Torah** - Introduction to *Vayikra/Leviticus - Parashat K'doshim*: Holiness, *Parashat Vayikra*: Sacrifice, Gifts, Drawing Near, *Parashat Sh'mini: Kashrut* - Holy Eating, *Parashat K'doshim Session Alef*: Stumbling Block, *Parashat K'doshim Session Bet: Tochecha* (Rebuking Others), *Parashat Emor*: Shabbat - Holy Time, *Parashat B'har*: The Sabbatical Year - Holiness of the Earth, *Parashat K'doshim*: Love Your Neighbor, *Parashat B'chukotai*: Rules, Laws, and Teachings - Passing It On

**Avodah** - Synagogue Helps Us Make Room for God, Road Signs to God, How Do We Relate to God?, Getting Connected, Acting Holy, Everything's *B'seder*, All Is in Order, Our Bodies Are a Gift from God, Ordinary Moments Can Be *Kadosh*, Taking God Home

**G'milut Chasidim** - Taking Responsibility: Doing *G'milut Chasadim*, *K'lal Yisrael*: Helping Jews around the World, *G'milut Chasadim*: Helping Others and Helping Ourselves, Our Actions Make a Difference: Caring is Contagious, *G'milut Chasadim* Everyday, A *G'milut Chasadim* Road Map, The *G'milut Chasadim* Holiday Connection (Session *Alef*), The *G'milut Chasadim* Holiday Connection (Session *Bet*), *G'milut Chasadim*: Review and Taking Action

**Grade 4:**

Theme: Me in My Community

With the promise of a holy land (Eretz Yisrael), we as a holy people (Am Yisrael) have a responsibility to strive toward holiness by observing the brit (covenant)

Keva and kavannah, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections.  
We have a responsibility to perform acts of g'milut chasadim for the people we encounter in our daily lives.

**Torah** - *Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and the B'rit, Am Yisrael— Session Alef*: All Jews are Members of *Am Yisrael*; I Am a Member of *Am Yisrael*, *Am Yisrael* - *Session Bet*: It Takes Twelve Tribes to Create a People, *Eretz Yisrael - Session Alef*: The Physical Land, *Eretz Yisrael - Session Bet*: The Land for Our Souls, *B'rit - Session Alef: Parashat Sh'lach L'cha*: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, *B'rit - Session Bet: Parashat Sh'lach L'cha*: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, *B'rit - Session Gimel*: Keeping the *B'rit*, Wrap-Up: We Are About to Enter the Land

**Avodah** – *Kavanah, Keva*: Why We Pray, Siddur Geography: Our Journey through the Prayer Book, The *Sh'ma* and Its Blessings: Finding *Kavanah* in *Keva* (Session *Alef: Sh'ma* and *V'ahavta*), The *Sh'ma* and Its Blessings: Finding *Kavanah* in *Keva* (Session *Bet*: Creation, Revelation, Redemption), *Kiddush*: Sanctifying Our Lives Through Fixed Prayer and Personal Feelings of Holiness, Communal and Individual Prayers, Blessings of Wonder, Silent Prayer: Creating a Moment for Ourselves, with Our Own Words

**G'milut Chasidim** - Making Peace Among Friends, *Sh'lom Bayit*: Peace and Harmony at Home, Accepting Differences: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (*V'ahavta L'rei-acha Kamocha*), Show Honor with Action: Honor Your Parents (*Kibud Av Va-em*), Befriending the Lonely, The Danger of Gossip: *L'shon*

	<p><i>Hara</i>, Understanding the Elderly, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keinim</i>) Session <i>Alef</i>, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keinim</i>) Session <i>Bet</i>: Intergenerational Program</p>
<p><b>Grade 5:</b> Theme: Reform Judaism and the power of community.</p> <p>The words and messages of the prophets are at the heart of Reform Judaism.</p> <p>The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God.</p> <p>We are all part of klal yisrael and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p><b>Torah - Tanach:</b> Getting to Know You, Meet the Prophets, Joshua: Warrior Prophet, Deborah: Bringing Light to Her World, Jonah and Jeremiah: The Reluctant Prophets, Amos and Isaiah: The Intolerant Prophets, Elijah: Who Was He? Who Is He?, Reform Judaism: Response to Prophecy, Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - The Prayer-to-Action Connection, Introduction to the <i>Amidah</i>, <i>Amidah</i> Section 1: <i>Brachot</i> of Praise, <i>Amidah</i> Section 2: <i>Brachot</i> of Petition, <i>Amidah</i> Section 3: <i>Brachot</i> of Thanksgiving, The <i>Aleinu</i> Prayer: Choosing God, The <i>Kaddish</i> Prayer: Remembering and Affirming God, Israel in Our Prayers, The Prayer-to-Action Wrap-Up</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim - K'hilah:</b> The Jewish Community, <i>Al Tifrosh Min Hatzibur</i>: Do Not Separate Yourself from the Jewish Community, <i>K'vod HaMet</i>: Showing Honor to the Dead, Conversion: Becoming Part of the Jewish Community, <i>Keruv</i>: Welcoming Jews-by-Choice into the Jewish Community, Justice in the Community, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 1: How to Choose Where to Give, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 2: Avoiding Embarrassment, Speaking Out and Speaking Up</p>
<p><b>Grade 6:</b> Theme: Revelation – What Does it Mean In Our Lives Today?</p> <p>Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continually revealed to others and to ourselves.</p> <p>Avodah is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, to community, and self.</p> <p>We can experience God in our world, in others, and within ourselves, by engaging in acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p><b>Torah</b> - Introduction to <i>K'tuvim</i>/Writings, <i>M'gillat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Mining the Text For Meaning, <i>Megilat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Finding God in Moab and Canaan, Introduction to Wisdom Literature, <i>Mishlei</i>/Proverbs: Wise Words for All, <i>Kohelet</i>: Wise Man or Cynic?, <i>T'hilim</i>/Psalms Session <i>Alef</i>: Poetry and Liturgy, <i>T'hilim</i>/Psalms Session <i>Bet</i>: Images of God, God, How Are You Revealed in the World and What Is My Relationship with You?</p> <p><b>Avodah</b> - Standing at Sinai: My Role in Revelation, The Torah Service as a Public Reading, The Torah Service and Community Building, Finding Our Way to Sinai: A Map of the Torah Service, Choreography and Etiquette of the Torah Service, The Blessings of Torah, What is the Haftarah?, The Role of <i>Sh'liach Tzibur</i>, My Communal Role in Revelation: Entering the Covenant as a Jewish Adult</p> <p><b>G'milut Chasidim</b> - Finding God in Our World Through Acts of <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Protecting the Rainforests, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Recycling and Conserving Energy, <i>Tzaar Baalei Chayim</i>: Care and Protection of Animals, World Health Issues, Peace, World Hunger, Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, <i>Hineini</i>: Embracing Our People around the World</p>

**Grade 7:**

Theme: Hineini – What Does it Mean to Be a Responsible Jewish Adult?

My life is reflected in and reflects Torah. The message and power of Jewish prayer can help me understand and define myself as an individual and as an authentic member of the Jewish community.

Our development as emerging Reform Jewish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (*middot*) and the performance of acts of *g'milut chasadim*

**Torah** - *Lech L'cha*, The Journeys We Take, Cain and Abel: Family Relationships, *Akeidat Yitzchak*, The Binding of Isaac: Honoring Parents, Rebekah: A Virtuous Woman?, Rebekah: Tough Choices, God and Abraham: A Relationship Like No Other, Jacob and the *Ish/Being*: Struggling to Change (Lesson *Alef*), Jacob and the *Ish/Being*: Struggling to Change (Lesson *Bet*), Wrap Up: Our Lessons from Genesis/*B'reishit*

**Avodah** - Introduction to the Jewish Life Cycle, *B'nei Mitzvah* and Marriage: Responsibility and Relationships, Birth and Death: Teach Us to Number Our Days, The High Holy Days: Focus on Repentance, Pesach-- Questions: Then and Now, Chanukah and Purim: Do You Believe in Miracles (and Boundaries)?, My Jewish Identity: *Eilu D'varim* – What Must I Do?, My Jewish Identity: *Sh'ma* – What Do I Believe?, My Jewish Identity: *Hineini*

**G'milut Chasidim** - Time for a Checkup, That's What Friends are For: *Dibuk Chaverim*, Truth as an Act of Kindness (*Emet*), Stop the Bullying NOW!: Not Standing Idly By (Lo *Taamod Al Dam Rei-echa*), Keep Your Cool: Being Slow to Anger, (*Erech Apayim*), What's With The Attitude? Having a Pleasant Demeanor, (*Seiver Panim Yafot*), Courage! (*Ometz Lev*), Living Generously (*N'divut*), *Hineini*--Here I Am! I Am Ready to Act!

**Midrasha – 8th-9th grade.**

**Sunday – 9:30-12:00.**

**09:30-10:30 – core class curriculum**

**10:30-10:45 - break**

**10:45-11:30 – enrichment program: Field Trip, Tikkun Olam projects, Art, drama, cooking, etc.**

**11:30 – 12:00 – Talmud Page with Rabbi**

**Electives /first semester:**

**Confirmation – Special project.**

This year, the confirmation students will create a special project related to the Religious School Theme "God." Looking into non-fiction Jewish books such as the Torah, Talmud, the books by the sages and so on, they will be able to find (a) the importance of them in the Jewish tradition, (b) a Jewish way of looking at them, and (c) that they are no remote antiquities but are a real, vital force in the lives of Jews. The students will pick the book/topic or author/ sages and research and create a project in a multi media way (slide show movie, play, creative writing and so on.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade – Early adult issues-K'dushat haquf.**

- 1. Life choices** – personal ethics, choosing right from wrong and exercising self-control.
- 2. Body ethics** - Students will discuss drug and alcohol abuse, body piercing and tattooing through Jewish sources.
- 3. Coming of age in an age of confusion**– Jewish values and dating. Lessons from the bible about modesty, peer pressure and interfaith dating.

**9<sup>th</sup> grade – Questions, questions all around...**

- 1. Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and Israel** – students will study the history and affects of Anti-Semitism and discuss how to fight hate. The birth of Israel.
- 2. Christianity and Islam** – Early histories of Christianity and Islam, the key beliefs and their relationship with Judaism.

**Confirmation – 10th grade.**

This program is designed to develop critical thinking about Jewish topics.

Jewish teaching, Jewish law, Jewish tradition and Jewish history all embraces a remarkably constant set of beliefs and behaviors that can be found in Jewish books.

Applying Judaism to everyday life and learning how being an active Jew enhances life.

Love, sex, marriage and intermarriage (what is love, how does one pick a partner? Does the Torah approve of wedding between a Jew and non-Jew? Does the Torah say anything about sex before marriage? Stress and suicide. Jewish identity (Why Judaism is special? What is the basis of Judaism? Who is considered a good Jew? Do we have to believe in God? Can a Jew be a Jew without worshipping? Is Judaism a nationality or a religion??) Middle East conflict.

Theology with the Rabbi - Rabbi will analyze with the students selected biblical texts and rituals to see how they correlate with what we perceive Judaism to stand for. Rabbi will also prepare them for the Confirmation service.

