

## Kol HaLev Religious School Bet Class Syllabus, 2020-2021

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The overarching theme is how to be a *mensch* and be kind. Students will be able to re-tell the *Torah* stories; explain meanings of holidays; state the purpose of community and synagogue and identify symbols, objects, and people's roles in the synagogue; explain what Israel is and some characteristics of the country; say the sounds of the Hebrew alphabet and vowels; and recite some basic Hebrew blessings and prayers in a group recitation.

### **9/13**

What kind of person are you/will you be?

Humans are created in the image of Divine (*B'Tselem Elohim*), we are each unique (*Adam Yahid*), Diversity, guarding speech (*Shmirat HaLashon*), using the Creation story and Holy Days of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*

### **10/4**

How do we treat creation?

Guardians of the earth (Shomrei Adamah), Love of all living beings (*Ahavat haBriyot*), Gratitude (*Hodaya*), Review welcoming guests (*Hachnasat Orchim*), using the Creation and Noah stories and the holiday of *Sukkot*

### **10/18**

How do we relate to the universe, the Divine?

Commandment, obligation (*Mitsvah*), Covenant (*Brit*), Ethical treatment of animals (*Tsa'ar Ba'alei Chayim*), using the Noah story and the holiday of *Simchat Torah*

### **11/8**

How do we relate in our Jewish community? How do we do our relationship with the Great Mystery?

Community, doing our share, cooperating (*Kehillah*), while exploring the synagogue, its purpose, parts, and people, and the three types of prayer: petition, thanks, and praise

### **11/22**

How do we learn in a Jewish way?

Learning (*Talmud Torah*) and ritual (*Shabbat*) in community, asking questions, and exploring Jewish text: how the Torah is made and the structure of *Tanakh* (5 books, prophets, psalms)

## **12/6**

How do we treat other people?

Justice (*Tsedek*), not oppressing and fighting oppression where it exists, Bravery (*Omets Lev*), using the story and holiday of *Chanukah*

## **12/20**

How do we speak?

Guarding speech (*Shmirat haLashon*), words have power and they matter, communicating clearly, through the story of the Tower of Babel

## **1/10**

How do we not destroy the gifts we have been given?

Do not destroy (*Ba'al Tashchit*) and revisiting Covenant (*Brit*), through the story of Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham and Sarah

## **1/24**

How do we take care of our earth?

Environmentalism (*Haganat haTevah*) and revisiting Guardians of the earth (*Shomrei Adamah*) and Do not destroy (*Ba'al Tashchit*) through the holiday of *Tu biShvat*

## **2/7**

How do we honor new life? How do we reconcile in the midst of conflict?

Forgiveness (*Slichah*) and *Brit Milah*/Naming Ceremonies through the story of Jacob and Esau

## **2/21**

What do we do when faced with badness?

Do not be passive in the face of violence (*Lo Ta'amod al Dam Re'acha*) and revisiting Bravery (*Omets Lev*) through the story of Esther and the holiday of *Purim*

## **3/7**

How do we create peace?

Peace in the home (*Shalom Bayit*) and Honesty (*Yosher*) through the story of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah

## **3/21**

How do we respond to our own mistreatment? What do we do when we are mistreated?

We were slaves and strangers in Egypt (*Avadim Hayinu b'Mitsrayim*), so we know suffering, and should not cause anyone else to suffer, we must empathize, and revisit Justice (*Tsedek*) and Repair of self and the world (*Tikun Olam*) through the story of Pesach

**4/11**

Again, what do we do when we are mistreated?  
Compassion (*Rachamim*) through the story of Joseph

**4/18**

What is Israel?  
Israel is a modern Jewish country. Which various types of Jews live there? What are its cities, industries, money, language, flag and culture? Why is it called "the Jewish homeland"?

**5/2**

How do we behave when we have doubts?  
Commandment, obligation (*Mitsvah*) and proper behavior (*Derekh Erets*) through the story of the giving of the *Torah* and the holiday of *Shavuot*

**5/16**

Review: how we treat the earth and the environment

**5/23**

Review: how we treat ourselves and others; purpose of community, prayer and Jewish texts