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 **Kitah Vav (6th grade)**

**Week of December 10th**

Students in Vav began Judaic studies with a look at a significant date in Jewish history (The founding of Emory University in Georgia, one of the first southern universities to welcome Jews) and why today’s date will be significant to Jewish history. Wonderful discussions ensued about the movement this past week in which the US recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Help your student follow the news around this as you go through the week and discuss with them what meaning it has for us as American Jews, for Israeli Jews, for others living in Israel, and the world in general. We then began a study of the “Time of the Judges” when The Promised Land was ruled not buy one single entity (Joshua having died) but by a series of judges who helped make major decisions for the people and the land. See if you and your student can name some of the most famous judges. (Hints: one is a woman; for another it’s a hairy matter)

**Week of December 3rd**

We had a wonderful class this past week! We discussed the concept of tzedakah.  Specifically, we wanted to expand the student’s concept of what tzedakah is.

The discussion began with a question on the definition of tzedakah and whether we are obligated to give tzedakah, or just if we choose to.  Once we gave our answers, we read an article which posed a question and answers by three Rabbis (one Orthodox, one Reform and one Conservative). We compared the differences and similarities to the answers which helped to expand our concept of tzedakah on helping individuals, giving to charities and more.

To continue our exploration on the forms of tzedakah we watched a video on microloans.   After watching the videos the classes decided these were definitely another form of tzedakah, even with receiving a small return on investments.  It sparked a great discussion. The end part of our discussion was to introduce the non-monetary ways we give tzedakah.  This opened up a treasure of ways we give of ourselves to others.  It was a wonderful discussion and a great day!

**Week of November 19th**

Half of the Vav students had Judaic Studies in which we looked at the similarities between Thanksgiving and Sukkot. (During the second hour the whole class practiced for our Vav Shabbat coming up on December 1-be sure it is on your calendar.) Did you know that much of Thanksgiving comes from Sukkot? Students solved scrambled sentences and listened to a story to find the similarities. At your Thanksgiving table, ask your child to tell you how much of Thanksgiving is drawn from Sukkot. Happy Thanksgiving to all.