



Teen *Beit Midrash* 5784 /2023-2024

Teen *Beit Midrash* (TBM) is OKC's Thursday night teen education program for students in 8th-12th grades. Teen *Beit Midrash* is an opportunity for teens to connect meaningfully with the Jewish traditions' texts and concepts, and to develop significant relationships with Rabbi Corey Helfand and to one another.

Each week, students begin with dinner (provided) and check-ins with Rabbi Helfand. Then participants engage in a year-long exploration into the Jewish tradition's perspective on fundamental personal and ethical issues in society.

Supplemental activities, including a group trip are planned to expand the themes and synthesize the learning experience.

Learning Topics Include:

- *Ethics and Medical Ethics*: Wrestling with the most complex issues of the day.
 - Topics included but are not limited to organ donation, reproductive rights, artificial intelligence, end of life issues, and the death penalty.
- *Theology*: The God that I Do and Don't Believe In
 - What does it mean to believe in God? Does God ever change? Who is the God of creation, revelation, suffering/evil, justice/injustice? Do I have free will or is everything predetermined?
- *Zionism and the Holocaust*: Traditional Themes and Historical Events
 - Charting the history from the time of the Torah through modernity, reading the great Zionist thinkers (from Abraham to Herzl and beyond) to understand how the Zionist Idea was born, has changed, and might evolve going forward.
 - Investigating the key moments, events, and people that gave rise to the most defining period of tragedy in Jewish history and how it has shaped and will shape the last and next 100 years.
 - Understanding the history and evolution of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism as students prepare to encounter the world around them in high school and beyond.
- *Social Justice*: Defining our Universe of Obligation and Social Justice
 - The Torah teaches us, *Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdorf*, (we must pursue justice). How do we define justice and what does it mean to pursue it?
 - How does the Torah and rabbinic tradition inform the way we think about those in need in our midst, from the closest person to the stranger?
 - Explore topics around poverty and hunger, environmental concerns, slavery, anti-Semitism and racism, gender equity, and more.

Schedule:

6:30 - 7:00PM Dinner and Check-ins with Rabbi Helfand

7:00 - 8:00PM Study and Discussion