

Living a Jewish Life – Basic Judaism

Spring Examination

Take Home Exam

Date Completed:

Student's Email Address:

Student's Telephone Number:

Rabbi/Mentor's Name:

Instructions: If you are taking this class for “credit” towards conversion to Judaism, please complete this assignment and return it to the Clergy Assistant Trish Ivey. If you have it in electronic form and can email it to clergyassistant@bethisrael.org, that would be ideal.

If you are not in the conversion process, completing this exam is optional. Please return your completed exam by May 31, 2019. Feel free to use your class notes and text books in answering the questions. This exam is “open book.” Please avoid using online sources; the quality and accuracy of information on Judaism online is uneven at best.

We encourage you to keep your answers succinct. We are looking for quality more than “quantity.” ;-)

You may wish to return your work by email, by snail mail, by dropping it off at the clergy office, or by bringing it to your next meeting with your mentor. But again, if you can, please email your exam to Trish Ivey: clergyassistant@bethisrael.org. Thank you.

- 1) Although we've already learned quite a bit about Judaism and Jewish life, there is still a lot more "out there" to learn. List **three** Jewish things we have either discussed or not yet discussed about which you would like to know more, or something we've learned about that you'd like to experience for yourself and explain why each one is of interest to you.
- 2) Over the centuries, Judaism has developed an incredibly rich "smorgasbord" of poetic images and metaphors for "God." Examine the list of "Names of God" on pages 188 and 189 in the Introduction to Judaism Sourcebook.
 - a) Which five of these names can you, personally, most relate to? Why?
 - b) Which 5 names, on the other hand, do you find most problematic? Why?
- 3) Jewish Worship
 - a) Name the five major sections (technical term, “rubrics”) of a public, Shabbat morning Jewish worship service as we discussed them in class.

Living a Jewish Life – Basic Judaism

Spring Examination

Take Home Exam

- b) The Amidah section of the service is abbreviated on Shabbat and other holidays. What is the exact nature of this abbreviation? Why is this done?
- 4) **Briefly** describe these Jewish holidays:
- a) Purim
 - b) Pesach
 - c) Shavuot
- 5) Briefly discuss the significance of the following events in Jewish history:
- a) The Exodus from Egypt
 - b) The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem
 - c) The Holocaust
 - d) The establishment of the State of Israel
- 6) Discuss the following as to background and current practices:
- a) Brit Milah
 - b) Bnei Mitzvah
 - c) Marriage
 - d) Funerals
- 7) Give brief definitions for the following:
- a) *Midrash*
 - b) *Mishnah*
 - c) *Gemara*
 - d) Talmud
 - e) *Halakhah*
 - f) “*Harei at...*”
 - g) *kashrut*
- 8) How do Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Judaism differ with respect to adherence to *Halakhah*?
- 9) Please share your thoughts and feelings about the surge in contemporary anti-Semitism. How do you think Jews, as individuals and as a community, should respond to this trend?
- 10) Finally, please give us feedback about class. What worked for you? What could we be doing better? Thank you for your opinions!