



# 1st Grade Curriculum

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 5783  
(2022-2023)**

## GOALS OF 1ST GRADE

- Sparking positive Jewish identity
- Create Jewish friendships
- To explain and introduce the importance of basic mitzvot (commandments)
- To encourage students to express and explore beliefs in God
- To reinforce basic prayers and blessings through daily activities.

### MITZVOT EVERY DAY

Some of the most important mitzvot (commandments) and acts of gemilut chasadim (loving kindness) are the ones we can do easily, day-after-day. In first grade, learners will learn about the mitzvot they're already doing (and might not even know about) and how they can add more mitzvot to their day-to-day routines through dramatic play, storybooks, coloring pages, and games. Learners continue their discovery of the Jewish holidays by exploring the different commandments associated with each holiday. Learners will also focus on the prayers for commandments (those that include the phrase b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu, meaning "commanded us with God's commandments") and blessings of gratitude.

### DISCOVERING GOD

In 1st grade, learners will explore questions about their relationship with God and develop skills to feel connected to God in Jewish ways. Throughout the year learners will focus on three main questions about God:

- Why can't I see God?
- How do I talk to God through words and actions?
- Does God always answer my prayers?

The answers to each of these questions are explored on an age-appropriate level through stories, art, music and movement. This unit of study will include a Family Education component, which will provide adult family members the chance to explore some of these same questions.