



We welcome your interest in learning more about Judaism. As you wait patiently for the next learning opportunity as part of the Introduction to Judaism series at our congregation, here are a list of actions and learning materials to begin your learning.

DO:

Please join us for worship in-person or online as often as you can.

<https://www.bethshalomaustin.org/worship>

You are also invited to our weekly Torah (Five Books of Moses) study each Saturday morning at 9am. <https://www.bethshalomaustin.org/learning/adults>

As you begin to explore, it is very important that you get a sense whether or not Temple Beth Shalom is the right fit for you. We strongly encourage you to visit other Austin congregations for worship and study.

READ (you are not expected to read or own all of these books, a rabbi can help to curate this list with you. We recommend the volumes with an "*" to start.):

Diamant, Anita. *Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs, and Values for Today's Families, Revised and Updated Edition*. Harper Collins, 2007.

Berlin, Adele and Marc Zvi Brettler, ed. *The Jewish Study Bible*, Second edition, Oxford University Press. Please note that the second edition is not available in paperback. This Bible uses the same authoritative translation as above, and adds explanatory notes, introductory materials, and essays by leading biblical scholars on virtually every aspect of the text, the world in which it was written, its interpretation, and its role in Jewish life.

*Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Sabbath*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1951. A classic work; republished many times.

Holtz, Barry W. *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992. Essays analyze the major traditional texts of Judaism from literary, historical, philosophical, and religious points of view.

*Hurwitz, Sarah. *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*, New York: Random House, 2019.

Kaplan, Dana Evan. [*A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism's Sacred Path*](#), New York: CCAR Press, 2018.

Klein-Halevi, Yossi. *Like Dreamers*. New York: Harpers, 2013. Traces the history of Israel and the divergent ideologies shaping it from the Six-Day War in 1967 to the present.

Knobel, Peter, ed. *Mishkan Moeid: A Guide to the Jewish Seasons*, New York: CCAR Press, 2013. Also available in a PDF electronic version. A survey of the sacred days of the Jewish yearly cycle.

Knobel, Peter, ed. *Navigating the Journey: The Essential Guide to the Jewish Life Cycle*, New York: CCAR Press, 2018. An introduction to the Jewish life cycle.

Mack, Stan. *The Story of the Jews: A 4,000-Year Adventure—A Graphic History Book*, Jewish Lights, 2001. A pictorial journey through the millennia of ups and downs faced by the Jewish people.

Lipstadt, Deborah. *Antisemitism: Here and Now*. Schocken, 2019. An analysis of antisemitism in the United States over the last decade.

*Pogrebin, Abigail. *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*, Fig Tree Books LLC, 2017. Jewish holidays through the eyes of a wondering Jew, with brief reflections from prominent rabbis and Jewish thinkers.

Robinson, George. *Essential Judaism: A Complete Guide to Customs and Rituals*. Atria Paperback, 2016. Comprehensive guide to the religious traditions, everyday practices, philosophical beliefs, and historical foundations of Judaism.

Scheindlin, Raymond. *A Short History of the Jewish People*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998. Presents the major geographical, cultural, and political forces and the many individuals that have shaped the course of Jewish history.

Shapiro, Mark Dov, ed. *Gates of Shabbat, A Guide for Observing Shabbat, 25th anniversary edition*. CCAR Press, 2016. A practical and inspiring volume for a liberal approach to Shabbat observance. Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

Sonsino, Rifat and Daniel B. Syme. *Finding God: Selected Responses, Revised edition*. Behrman House, 2002. Essays on significant Jewish thinkers' responses to the questions: Is there more than one way to perceive of God? How can we know God? What does God "want" from us? Please check that you are purchasing the latest edition.

*Tuling, Kari. *Thinking About God: Jewish Views*. Jewish Publication Society, 2020.

Washofsky, Mark. *Jewish Living: Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice*, revised. URJ Press, 2010. The definitive guide for Reform Jewish practice.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night: A Memoir*. New York: Hill & Wang, 1960. A memoir of the author's experiences during the Holocaust. Republished many times. Available as an audio book and in many languages.

*Wylen, Stephen. *Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism*, Paulist Press, 2000.

WATCH

An American Tale
A Serious Man
Cast a Giant Shadow
Crossing Delancy
Deli Man (2015)
Denial
Dead Sea Diving Resort
Exodus
Fiddler on The Roof
Gentlemen's Agreement
Hava Nagila (The Movie) (2012)
School Ties
Schindler's List
Yentl

LISTEN

[On the Other Hand: Ten Minutes of Torah](#). Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, offers something to think about from the weekly Torah portion, in ten minutes or less.

[Stories We Tell](#). Each episode gives you a new story from Jewish tradition to reflect on and discuss with the people in your life.

[Wholly Jewish](#). A new podcast that explores the experience of Jews of Color who share their experiences, insights, and how their identities enrich and create a more vibrant Jewish community.

[Unorthodox](#). A smart, fresh, fun take on Jewish news and culture, each weekly episode includes a friend from another faith or cultural background with a question they've always wanted to ask about some aspect of Judaism.

[Israel Story](#). Modeled after This American Life, Israel Story brilliantly shares everyday stories, told by and about regular Israelis.

TED Talks

[https://www.ted.com/talks/rabbi lord jonathan sacks how we can face the future without fear together](https://www.ted.com/talks/rabbi_lord_jonathan_sacks_how_we_can_face_the_future_without_fear_together)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/deborah lipstadt behind the lies of holocaust denial](https://www.ted.com/talks/deborah_lipstadt_behind_the_lies_of_holocaust_denial)

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/eli-talks/making-prayer-meaningful/>