

Temple Solel Religious School Kindergarten Concepts

Lively Legends Concepts for Kindergarten

Story: Honi Ha-Meagel Sleeps for Seventy Years

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 48

It is important to plant for the benefit of others. In the story, Honi observed an old man planting a tree, knowing he would never be able to enjoy the fruit, but knowing that others in future generations would enjoy the fruit.

Story: King Solomon and the Bee

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 70

All living creatures contribute to society. In the story, King Solomon appreciated the contribution of the little bee that helped him determine which was the real bouquet of flowers.

Story: Three Loaves

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 96

Hospitality is an important Jewish value. In the story, Judith was hospitable to all of the people who came to her door asking for food. She was following in the footsteps of Abraham, who taught us to welcome all guests.

Story: The Treasure

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 112

It is important to share with the poor. In the story, Abba Judah and his wife shared their treasure with students who needed money.

Story: The Stolen Donkey

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 26

It is important to care for animals. In the story, Rabbi Hanina took good care of his donkey, and the donkey knew that his master cared about him.

Story: Two Brothers

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 194

Caring for others is a mitzvah. In the story, two brothers expressed their concern for each other by sharing their grain.

Story: Visiting a Sick Friend

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 208

Visiting the sick is a mitzvah. In the story, the students in Miriam's class visited her when she hurt her leg and could not attend school.

Story: Little Becomes Much

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 140

Returning property to its rightful owner, keeping a promise and not wasting are Jewish values. In the story, Rabbi Pinhas Ben Yair was concerned about making sure that the grain would be

returned to its rightful owners. He kept his promise to the men who left their grain with him. Rabbi Pinhas did not waste any of the grain; nor did he allow it to spoil.

Story: The Good Teacher

Lively Legends, ARE Publishing, page 186

A good teacher and a good listener shows respect for the questions of others, and is helpful when someone wants to learn more. In the story, Hillel answered his students' questions respectfully. Hillel knew that the man who came to his door wanted to learn more about being Jewish, so he directed him toward that information.

Story: Nicanor's Door

Lively Legends, ARE Publication, page 80

Both the First and the Second Holy Temple in Jerusalem were of vital importance to Jews in Israel and throughout the world. Nicanor was a good man who wanted to contribute to the beauty of the Temple by providing it with the most beautiful doors possible. He therefore called together the best craftspeople he could find to enhance the holiest place on earth for Jews. Nicanor saw his project through from beginning to end: he chose the best craftspeople to make the doors, he accompanied the doors on their journey across the sea, and he saw them to their final destination in Jerusalem. The completion of tasks has rewards.

Let's Discover the Synagogue Concepts for Kindergarten

The synagogue is a Bet Tefillah (house of prayer). It is a place to pray. Praying together helps make us one big family.

House of God Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The synagogue is a Bet Midrash (house of learning). It is a place to study Judaism.

"House of God" Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The synagogue is a Bet Knesset (house of gathering). It is a place to celebrate.

"House of God" Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The things we do in the synagogue help us feel close to God

"House of God" Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

In the synagogue, we pray together in the sanctuary.

"A Place to Pray" Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The sanctuary contains a Torah, Ark, Eternal Light and bimah.

"A Place to Pray" Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The Ark or *Aron Hakodesh* stands at the front of the sanctuary. It is the place where the Torah scrolls are kept.

“A Place to Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The Eternal Light or *Ner Tamid* hangs above the Ark. This light never goes out. It reminds us that G_d is forever.

“A Place to Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The *bimah* is a platform in front of the Ark. The rabbi and cantor stand on the bimah when they lead services. The Torah is read on a stand on the bimah. Weddings take place on the bimah.

“A Place to Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

When we pray, we talk to God. Many prayers are recited in Hebrew. Our prayers teach us how to be good to one another. When we help others, we make the world a better place for everyone.

“How We Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

We read the prayers from a prayerbook called a *siddur*.

“How We Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Many adults wear a *tallit* around their shoulders when they pray. A *tallit* is a prayer shawl with fringes on the bottom. The fringes are called *tzitzit*. They are knotted in a special way.

“How We Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Many people cover their heads with a *kippah* when they pray.

“How We Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Tefillin are two black leather boxes with straps attached to them that observant Jews wear during the morning service. Each box has words from the Torah inside. One box is strapped to the head. The other is wrapped around the arm.

“How We Pray” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The Torah contains stories about Jewish people who lived thousands of years ago. In the Torah, we learn how to live a Jewish life according to God’s laws.

“The Torah” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The Torah is made out of parchment. A *sofer* is a person who writes a Torah by hand. The *sofer* uses a feather pen dipped in black ink. Every Torah scroll is written with the same Hebrew words. We read a part from the Torah every week.

“The Torah” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

We dress the Torah as beautifully as we can. The mantle is the cloth that covers the Torah scroll. The breastplate hangs over the Torah mantle. The crown on top of the Torah is called the *keter*. The silver bells on the top of the Torah are called *rimmonim*. A *yad* hangs on the outside of the Torah. It is used to point to each word when the Torah scroll is read.

“How We Dress the Torah” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The rabbi and cantor lead our prayer service. The rabbi teaches and leads the service. The cantor sings the prayers and songs.

“The Rabbi and the Cantor” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

In addition to teaching and leading services, the rabbi and cantor marry couples, name babies, visit the sick and gives advice to people when they have problems.

“The Rabbi and the Cantor” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Jewish people come to the synagogue to study many Jewish subjects. They learn how to celebrate holidays and read Hebrew. They sing Jewish songs and hear stories from the Torah.

“A Place to Learn” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Children attend Religious School at the synagogue. The education director decides what subjects children will study and the teachers teach the classes.

“A Place to Learn” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

The synagogue has a library filled with Jewish books. Reading about Judaism is important to Jewish people.

“A Place to Learn” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Jewish children become Jewish adults at a ceremony called a Bar Mitzvah for boys or a Bat Mitzvah for girls. They become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at age thirteen. A Jewish adult studies Torah, feeds the hungry, celebrates Shabbat, and honors parents. These actions are called *mitzvot* (commandments).

“A Place to Learn” Folder

Let’s Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Jewish students graduate from Religious School at the end of tenth grade. They participate in a ceremony called Confirmation. But Jewish learning does not stop there. Grownups study Judaism throughout their lives.

“A Place to Learn” Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

We celebrate holidays and happy times in the synagogue. The happy times include baby namings, B'nai Mitzvah and weddings.

“A Place to Celebrate” Folder

Let's Discover the Synagogue, Behrman House

Rosh Hashanah Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It marks the “birthday of the world.”
- The words “Rosh Hashanah” literally mean the “Head of the Year.”
- Rosh Hashanah begins on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishri.
- The traditional greeting on Rosh Hashanah is “Shanah Tovah,” which means “Good Year” in Hebrew.
- We celebrate Rosh Hashanah at home with a holiday meal, the lighting of the candles, and blessings.
- We eat a round challah on Rosh Hashanah.. This reminds us that the year has come full circle. The challah is also round because it looks like the crown that kings and queens wear.
- We dip apples in honey for a sweet and happy New Year.
- The shofar is a ram’s horn. The sound of the shofar awakens us to think about our behavior during the past year.
- We send New Year’s cards to family and friends on Rosh Hashanah.
- After services on Rosh Hashanah, we go to a stream, river or ocean. We throw crumbs of bread into the water to symbolize that we are throwing away the bad things we have done. We think about our behavior during the past year, and decide what we want to improve for next year.

Yom Kippur Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- During the week prior to Yom Kippur (between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) we think about how we acted during the past year. Even though we did many good things, we are sorry we did not do more. For ten days, beginning on Rosh Hashanah, we say we are sorry to all the people we have treated unfairly or unkindly. We ask for forgiveness from G-d. This holy day is called Yom Kippur. *Let's Celebrate*, Behrman House, pg.12.
- Adults do not eat or drink anything on Yom Kippur. They feel so sorry for the things they have done wrong that they fast for the whole day. Children don't have to fast on Yom Kippur. But you can try skipping a meal or snack. After the blowing of the shofar (at the closing service of Yom Kippur), family and friends share a "break the fast" meal. This is a happy time where everyone enjoy eating together. It is nice to invite people who might be alone to come to your home to break the fast with your family. On Yom

Kippur, we are full of hope. We know that we can be better people in the new year. And we hope the new year will be good for all people everywhere.
Let's Celebrate, Behrman House, pgs. 14 and 16.

Sukkot Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Sukkot falls on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Tishri. Reform Jews celebrate Sukkot for seven days.
- On Sukkot, we express our thanks for a good harvest and other gifts from God.
- We build a sukkah (a temporary outdoor booth) on Sukkot. The sukkah reminds us of the booths the Israelites built thousands of years ago when they were wandering through the desert to the Promised Land. It also reminds us of the booths the Jewish people built when they were farmers in the field and needed to harvest their crops quickly.
- The roof of the sukkah is made of branches. We must be able to see the stars through the roof of the sukkah.
- We decorate the sukkah to make it look beautiful.
- Jews eat, play, study and sleep in the sukkah.
- We wave the lulav and etrog on Sukkot. The lulav has three parts: the palm branch, the myrtle branch and the willow branch. The etrog looks like a big lemon. It smells sweet. We shake the lulav and etrog in every direction to show that God is everywhere.

Simchat Torah Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Simchat Torah is the day when we complete one reading of the Torah and roll the scroll back to the beginning to start over.
- The words “Simchat Torah” mean “Joy in Torah.”
- The Torah is Judaism’s most important book. It is written on a parchment scroll. It contains the stories of the early Jewish people and includes God’s commandments, which teach us how to live our lives.
- The Hebrew word for the person who creates new Torah scrolls is called a sofer, which means scribe.
- On Simchat Torah, we parade and dance the Torah scrolls during the Simchat Torah services. Each procession with the Torah is called a *hakafah*, a circling. We wave flags and sing songs at services on Simchat Torah.
- It is traditional to stay up and study all night on Simchat Torah!

Shabbat Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Shabbat is a special and important Jewish holiday.
- Shabbat is celebrated every week from sundown on Friday until three stars appear on Saturday night.
- It is written in the Torah that all people, rich and poor, are commanded to rest on Shabbat.
- On Shabbat, we spend time praying, studying and being with our families and friends.
- We prepare for Shabbat by cleaning the house, baking challah, setting a special table and serving a big meal.

- On Friday night, we say blessings over candles, children, wine and challah to welcome the Shabbat.
- God created the world in six days. When God finished creating the world, God was pleased. So God set aside a day to enjoy the world - Shabbat.
- Shabbat is one of the oldest holidays and is the only one mentioned in the Ten Commandments. "Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy." *My Jewish Year*, Behrman House, pg. 59
- Shabbat is a time to think about how we can be better people.
- We say good-bye to Shabbat with a ceremony called Havdalah.

Temple Solel School Chanukah Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Long ago, Jews from all over the land prayed at the one big Holy Temple in Jerusalem. 2,000 years ago, a mean King Antiochus ruled over Israel and would not let the Jews celebrate the holidays at the Holy Temple. King Antiochus and his soldiers defiled the Holy Temple. A Jew named Mattathias formed a Jewish army (the Maccabees) and drove Antiochus out of Jerusalem.
- When Judah Maccabee and his army re-entered the Holy Temple after the battle, they only found enough oil to burn for one day. When they lit the oil, it burned for eight days. We celebrate Chanukah for eight days to remember the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days.
- We eat potato latkes on Chanukah because they are fried in oil and they remind us of the oil that burned for eight days.
- The special menorah we light on Chanukah is called a chanukiah. It holds candles or oil, and has a shamash (helper) to light each night.
- The dreidel game is played on Chanukah. The Hebrew letters on the dreidel are gimmel, nun, shin and hay. They stand for "Nes gadol hayah sham," which means "A great miracle happened there (in Israel)."

Temple Solel School Tu Bishvat Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Tu Bishvat is called "The Birthday of the Trees."
- Tu Bishvat means the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat.
- It is a time to plant trees.
- Trees give us food, shade, wood, shelter, help prevent erosion, improve the climate, make the soil richer, break the wind to stop the spread of desert sand, provide homes for birds/animals and give us clean air.
- When we plant a tree, it is a mitzvah
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Temple Solel School Purim Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- On Purim, we hear the story of how Queen Esther saved the Jewish people. It is written on a scroll called a Megillah.
- Haman, the king's wicked advisor, ordered that all Jews be killed, because they would not bow down to him. Mordechai overheard the plot to kill the Jews and sent word to his cousin,

Queen Esther, warning of Haman's wicked order. Queen Esther risked her life by telling King Ahasuerus of Haman's plot, and telling the King that she was Jewish too. King Ahasuerus order Haman killed instead of the Jews.

- A gragger is a noisemaker we use to drown out Haman's name during the Megillah reading.
- Hamentaschen are three-cornered cookies/cakes that are in the same shape as Haman's hat. We eat hamentaschen on Purim.
- When Esther and Mordechai saved the Jews, they celebrated by sending gifts. Today, we deliver gift baskets to our friends and family on Purim. These gift baskets are called mishloach manot. We also send money to the poor. On Purim, we dress up in costumes and attend a Purim Carnival.

Temple Solel School Passover Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Long ago, a cruel king called Pharaoh ruled the land of Egypt. He made the Jewish people who lived there his slaves. They had to work very hard building cities and palaces for Pharaoh...Pharaoh was especially cruel to Jewish children. One mother, Yocheved, hid her baby in a basket on the riverbank, so Pharaoh wouldn't find him. When Pharaoh's daughter, the princess, came down to the river to bathe, she found the baby and decided to take him home to the palace. Miriam, the baby's sister, saw the princess rescue her brother and asked if she needed a baby nurse. The princess said yes. Miriam told her mother, and so it happened that Yocheved was able to care for her son and teach him about his people. The princess named the baby Moses. In Hebrew, his name means "brought out of the water." Moses could have lived at the Pharaoh's palace forever, but he could not bear to watch the suffering of the Jewish slaves. He left Egypt and became a shepherd in a faraway land. One day when Moses was taking care of his sheep, he saw a burning bush and heard God's voice coming from the bush. God told Moses to go back to Egypt to free the Jewish slaves and take them away from cruel Pharaoh. Moses returned to Egypt. He went to see Pharaoh and told him, "Let my people go!" But Pharaoh refused to listen to him. God was angry with Pharaoh and punished him ten times. These punishments were called plagues...Each punishment frightened Pharaoh, and each time he promised to free the slaves. But he did not keep his word. God brought even more terrible punishments upon the Egyptians. Finally, Pharaoh agreed to let the Jewish slaves go. The people got ready very quickly. They didn't have time to bake the bread for their journey. Instead, they put raw dough on their backs. The sun baked it into hard crackers called matzah. The Jewish people followed Moses. When they got to the sea, God told Moses to hold up his walking stick. When he did, a strong wind parted the sea and the people were able to walk across on dry land. When the people were safely out of Egypt, Moses led them in songs of thanks to God. (*My Very Own Haggadah*, Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., pages 12-20)
- The Passover story is so important that we tell it every year. We want each person to feel as though he or she had actually gone out from Egypt.
- On Passover the whole family comes together for a wonderful feast called a *seder*. At the seder we read the Passover story out loud from a book called the *Haggadah*. *Haggadah* is the Hebrew word for telling.

- On the seder table is a plate with three pieces of matzah. One small piece is hidden. This piece is called the *afikomen*. The child who finds it gets a present.
- On the seder table is a plate with five foods on it: A lamb bone, parsley, bitter herbs, charoset and a roasted egg. These are the symbols of Passover. They help remind us of Passover's many messages. (*Let's Celebrate*, Behrman House, pages 3-14)
- At the end of the Seder a door is opened, in the hope that Elijah, a great prophet, will come and drink the wine that has been poured into a cup for him.

Lag B'Omer Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- Lag B'Omer means "The 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer."
- Lag B'Omer is a joyous spring festival.
- When Israel was ruled by Rome, the Romans would not let the Jews study Torah. Rabbi Akiva, a famous Jewish teacher, hid in a cave in the mountains because he was not allowed to study or teach Torah. His Jewish students went to the caves to study with him. When the Roman soldiers saw them, the students said they were going hunting and having a picnic. Then the soldiers went away and the students were able to study Torah!
- We picnic in the park on Lag B'Omer.

Shavuot Concepts for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade

- God gave us a book that teaches us how to live a Jewish life. This book is called the Torah. It is God's most precious gift to us. On Shavuot, we remember the time when God gave us the Torah. *Let's Discover the Holidays, Celebrating Shavuot, Behrman House*
- The holiday of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. *Read, Learn and Discover, KTAV, pg. 32*
- On Shavuot, the Ten Commandments are read in the synagogue. We hear the story of Ruth too. *Let's Discover the Holidays, Celebrating Shavuot, Behrman House*
- Every Torah has a different cover, [breastplate and crowns]. But the words written inside the Torah are always the same. *Let's Discover the Holidays, Celebrating Shavuot, Behrman House*
- Shavuot is the time of the barley harvest in Israel. Shavuot also celebrates the harvest of the first fruits in Israel. *Read, Learn and Discover, KTAV, pg. 32*
- We eat dairy foods made with milk, cheese and eggs on Shavuot. This reminds us that Torah is like "milk and honey," or health and sweetness.