

Fundamentals of Judaism

Session

1

Introduction/G-d/Mitzvot

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 1-36
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 256, 257, 265, 268, 272
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 14-21 (Intro)

Terms and Concepts

- Monotheism
- Names of G-d
- Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey
- Shemus
- Brit
- Kedusha
- Kehilah
- Mitzvah
- Ben Adam LeMakom
- Ben Adam LeHavero
- Ahavat HaShem
- Yirat Shamaim
- 613 Mitzvot
- Kivud Av VaEm
- Midrash



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2

Jewish Texts/Mitzvot II

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 73-84
Jewish Literacy	Chapter 1
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 118-129; 158-173
Hand Out	"Is the Bible True?" by Rabbi Jacob Chinitz

Terms and Concepts

- Hebrew
- Tanach / T"NK
- Torah
- Nivi'im
- Ketuvim
- Chumash
- Talmud
- Mishnah
- Drasha
- Written Torah / Torah SheBichtav
- Oral Torah / Torah SheBalpeh
- Halakha
- Shulchan Aruch
- Midrash
- Ezra the Scribe
- MeTargemun
- Talmud Torah
- Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam
- Rodef Shalom
- Tukkun Olam



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3

Jewish Forms of Prayer

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 201-210; 218-226
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 347 - 352
Hand Out	I Samuel Ch. 1

Terms and Concepts

- Korban / Sacrifice / *Karov*
- The Temple
- Cohen / Levy / Yisrael
- Rabbinic Judaism
- Kevah vs. Kavannah
- Siddur
- Shacharit
- Mincha
- Mariv
- Bracha
- Amidah
- Kritat HaTorah
- Musaf
- Alainu
- Oneg
- Daven
- Devar Torah
- Minyan
- Alyiah
- Nusach
- Trop
- Kepah
- Tallit
- Tephillin



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4

Synagogue Life

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 210-218; 247-252
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 337-352
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 74-83 (Hospitality)

Terms and Concepts

- Bet Kenneset
- Bet Midrash
- Bet Tefilah
- Rabbi
- Chazzan/Cantor
- Shaliach Tzibbur
- Gabbi
- Sefer Torah
- Yad
- Bimah
- Aron HaKodesh
- Parochet
- Ner Tamid
- Shulchan
- Ba'al Koray
- Mizrach
- Mezzuah
- Tzedaka Box/Puske
- Sefarim
- Judaica
- Shalom Bayit
- Haknasat Orchim



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5

Shabbat

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 127-130
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 320-323
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 130-147
Shabbat Book	All (<i>Bring book to class</i>)
Hand Out	"Every Jew, Every Week"

Terms and Concepts

- Minucha
- Malacha
- 39 prohibited mekakhot
- Challah
- .Seudat Mitzvah
- Zmirot
- Leaneg
- Seudat Shilsheet
- Havdalah
- Shabbat Shalom
- Savuah Tov
- Shamor v'Zachor



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6

Mitzvot III: Modernity

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 106-113
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 109, 248-255
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 22-31 (Jewish Law)
Hand Outs	Introduction to <i>A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice</i> "Jewish Law" from <i>Emet Ve-Emunah</i> "Converts Mourning the Death of Close Relatives" by Rabbi Joel Rembaum

Terms and Concepts

- Mitzvah
- Halakhah
- Emet
- Emunah
- Posek
- Committee on Jewish Law and Standards
- Shulkah Arukh
- Tzivui
- Shelah/She'elot
- Teshvah/Tehsuvot
- mara d'atra
- machlocot l'shem shamyim
- lo b'shamyim hee



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Kashrut

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 256-268
Jewish Literacy	Chapter 336
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 84-95 (Kashrut)

Terms and Concepts

- Kosher
- treif/ treifa
- Heksher
- Hasgacha
- Shomer/Mashgiach
- mekadesh
- Fleshic
- Michick
- Parve
- Shecita
- Shocet
- Glatt Kosher
- Chalav Yisroel
- Marit Eyein
- simchat mitzvah



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Jewish History

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 357-374
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 64-132 (<i>Please choose some sections within this range that interests you. Don't read it all.</i>)
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 148-157 (Gossip)
Hand Out	"Jewish History: A Brief Outline" From <i>Conversion to Judaism: A Guidebook</i> by Lawrence J. Epstein (Jason Aronson, 1994)

Terms and Concepts

- Chosen People
- Anti-Semitism
- Or L'Goyim
- Eretz Yisrael
- The Temple
- Galut
- Pharisees/Saducees/ Essenes
- Crusades
- Pogroms
- Moranos
- Kristalnacht
- Zionism



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Life Cycle I

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 285-295
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 324-334
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 96-107 (Kivud Av v'Em)
Hand Out	"The Messianic Idea" from <i>The Book of Jewish Belief</i> by Louis Jacobs

Terms and Concepts

- Bris/Brit milah
- simchat bat
- mohel
- sandek
- pidyon haBen
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Confirmation
- Messiah
- Messianic Age
- Kivud Av v'Em



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10

Life Cycle II

Reading Assignments	
Living Judaism	pp. 295-322
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 324-334
Hand Out	"The World Beyond the Grave" By Rabbi Maurice Lamm

Terms and Concepts

- **Kiddushin**
- Kesef/Shtar/ Binah
- Erusin
- Nissuin
- Kettuba
- Huppah
- Auf Ruf
- Ayidim
- Yichud
- Get
- **Aninut**
- Kavod HaMet
- Shivah
- Kaddish Yatom
- Sheloshim
- Yartziet
- Avel
- Met
- Chevra Kadisha
- Tachrichim
- Shmirah
- Levyah
- Kriah
- Hespel
- Keruvah
- Chesed Shel Emet
- Yizkor
- Tchilat HaMatim



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11

Holidays I

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 147-57
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 296- 303
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 50-61 (Bal Tashchit)

Terms and Concepts

- Regalim
- Sukkot
- Passover
- Shavuot
- Sukkah
- Lulav
- Arba'ah minim
- Etrog
- Smini Azeret
- Khol Ha'Moed
- Hannukah
- Hannukiah
- Shamesh
- Piersuma d'nisa
- Increasing in Holiness
- Dreidel / Seveevon
- Nes Gadol Hayah Sham
- Latkes
- Sufganiot
- December Dilemma
- Chag Le'elyanot
- Bal Tashchit



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Holidays II

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 158-182
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 304-319
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 108-117 (Captives)

Terms and Concepts

- Purim
- Ta'anit Ester
- megilla / Megillat Ester
- graggor
- hamentashen / oznei Haman
- Mishloach Manot /
- Mattatot l'evyonim
- Puirm carnival
- Passover / Peshach
- Hametz
- Bedikat Hametz
- Yitziat Mitzraim
- Ma'ot Hitim
- Haggadah
- Plagues
- Seder plate
- L'shana Habaya B'Yerusalim (Ha'Biriah)
- Sefiriat HaOmer
- Lag B'omer
- Shavuot
- Bikkurim
- Ruth
- Tikkun Lel Shavuot
- Pidyon Sh'vuyim



Some Critical Dates in Jewish History

- ca.1900 BCE
- ca. 1250 BCE
- ca.1200 BCE
- ca.1200-1030 BCE
- 950 BCE
- 586 BCE
- ca.520 BCE
- 450 BCE
- 140 BCE
- 63 CE
- 70 CE
- 312 CE
- 359 CE
- 1066 CE
- 1096 CE
- 1290 CE
- 1492 CE
- 1790 CE
- ca. 1818 CE
- 1853 CE
- 1881-84; 1903-06; 1918-20 CE
- 1902 CE
- 1938 CE
- 1939-45 CE
- 1948 CE



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Time / High Holidays

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 114-126; 139-146
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 296-300
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 186-195 (Teshuvah)

Terms and Concepts

- erev
- motza'ay
- chag
- yom tov
- Chol HaMoed
- Yamim Noraim
- tashlikh
- shofar
- machzor
- Teshuvah
- Yamim Noraim
- Leshana Tova Teeataivu
- ta'anit
- chet/ Al chet
- Yizkor
- kittle
- Yom HaDin
- Yom HaZikaron
- Yom Truah



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14

Shoah

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 181-194
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 185-206

Terms and Concepts

- Antisemitism
- Shoah/Holocaust
- “Christ Killer”
- blood libel
- Protocols of the Elders of Zion
- Henry Ford
- Adolf Hitler
- Mein Kampf
- Yom HaShoah
- Never Again
- Concentration camps
- Yellow star/ pink triangle
- State of Israel
- hester panim
- assimilation
- Neo-Nazis
- Skinheads
- Hakarat HaTov



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Israel

Reading Assignments

Living Judaism	pp. 323-355
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 133-184
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 34-49 (Zionism)

Terms and Concepts:

- Spiritual Zionism
- Political Zionism
- Judean
- Alyiah/ Alyiot
- Shoah/ Final Solution
- Palestinian
- World Zionist Congress
- Balfor Deceleration
- British Mandate
- Chiam Weitzman
- Jewish Agency
- *Struma*
- *Exodus*
- UN Partition Plan
- Deir Yagin
- David Ben Gurion
- May 14, 1948 @ 4 p.m.



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16

Conversion/Modern Issues

Reading Assignments	
Living Judaism	pp. 51-71, 274-284
Jewish Literacy	Chapters 207-231
It's A Mitzvah	pp. 218-220
Hand Outs	"Ethnicity is not Judaism" by David Essex. Reform Judaism (Summer 2002) "The Ideal Conservative Jew" by Rabbi Jerome Epstein. USCJ Website "Orthodox Feminism in the Next Century" by Blu Greenberg. Sh'ma (January 2000) "Questions for an Unfinished Revolution" by Tamara Cohen. Sh'ma (January 2000)

Terms and Concepts

- Evri
- Jew/Yehuda
- matrilineal descent
- patrilineal descent
- "Who is a Jew"
- Kohen
- Levi
- Yisrael
- Kol Yisrael Eurvin ze la'ze
- Orthodox
- Conservative
- Reform
- Reconstructionist
- Lubavitch
- Askenzik
- Sefardic
- ger tzedek

