

KS1 Unit 4, Lesson 4: Synagogue

Context: In this lesson pupils will be introduced to the role of the synagogue in Jewish life and worship. Obedience to the commands of the Torah is lived out in the things that happen here.

Overview:

- Look at the ways that Shabbat is celebrated and G-d is worshipped in the Jewish synagogue. What do these things say about what is important to Jewish people?
- What can we learn about the Torah scroll itself?
- Relate these things to obedience to God's laws - Torah.

Essential core:

- Know that the Torah means 'teaching' is the most important part of Jewish scriptures.
- Know that it contains the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible.
- It teaches Jews what God is like and how they should live their lives.
- Understand how special the Torah is for Jews: The Torah is read every week in the synagogue.
- Raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the Jewish teachings on the Torah.

Resources: Miniature Torah scroll, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z834wmn> (7 minutes)

www.truetube.co.uk/film/holy-cribs-synagogue (10 mins)

<http://www.rafimetz.com/rmd/learn/read%20A.html>

<http://reonline.org.uk/specials/jwol> (Shabbat)

Vocabulary: kippah, tallit, yad Torah scroll.

INTRODUCTION

Today David has brought a miniature Torah scroll. He is learning to read Hebrew so that one day he can take his turn and read from the Torah scroll in Synagogue. What questions might the children want to ask? How do you learn Hebrew? Is it hard? Why is it so important?

CELEBRATE:

Look inside a synagogue. Here is a seven-minute video. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z834wmn>

Or this ten-minute video www.truetube.co.uk/film/holy-cribs-synagogue

You can find videos of synagogue worship itself on YouTube.

Go to the Jewish way of Life and see what Jewish people do in Synagogue on Shabbat.

<http://reonline.org.uk/specials/jwol> (Shabbat). Can pupils pretend to be reading from the Torah in

synagogue? **If you have time** go to this Jewish website and see how children learn Hebrew. Can you join in the Hebrew alphabet song? In what ways is Hebrew different from English? Can you write some of the letters? <http://www.rafimetz.com/rmd/learn/read%20A.html>

REFLECT:

Look at how a Torah scroll is hand written by a Jewish scribe. What questions would you like to ask these people?

What does this tell us about what matters most to them?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-23409254>

<http://www.soferstam.co.uk/soferstam-stam.html>

PLENARY 7 FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Draw a picture of a Jewish man reading from the Torah scroll in synagogue wearing a kippah and tallit and using a yad. Write in the names of these things. What else might be in the picture? Why is this so important? What might he be thinking?