

KS2 Unit 3 - Lesson 2: Judaism – The Torah

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 how the Torah is used 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:

- On the Shabbat Jews attend the synagogue, where they worship G-d. Doing this develops a sense of community.
- The reading of the Torah is central to the service: during the service there will be readings from the Torah.
- In the synagogue the Torah (Sefer Torah) is written on parchment, which are written by hand with a special ink. The importance of the scrolls is shown by the way they are:
 - Never touched by human hands- a special pointer is used (called a 'yad')
 - Each scroll has a mantle (cover)
 - Once they have been used they are returned to the Ark
 - There is an ever-burning lamp outside the Ark to show G-d is always present
- Know the Torah is written in Hebrew.
- Raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the importance and respect Jews give to the Torah.
- Attempt to support their answers using reasons and/or information

Resources: Miniature Torah scroll,

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

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zctb4j6>

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

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

Vocabulary: kippah, tallit, yad, Torah scroll.

INTRODUCTION

Show the class a miniature Torah scroll. This is written in Hebrew, which Jewish people have to learn to read so that they can read from and understand 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 at a video of synagogue worship. There is a ten minute synagogue tour on truetube

www.truetube.co.uk/film/holy-cribs-synagogue

This 3-minute BBC introduction to Judaism has a good look inside a synagogue.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zctb4j6>

You can find of the 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?

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?