



Discovering *the treasure within*

Chabad Hebrew School 2008-2009

Welcome

Chabad Hebrew School is taking a new and novel approach to this year's learning curriculum. This year we will be learning a new curriculum entitled "Discovering the Treasure Within."

"Discovering the Treasure Within" is an idea, both intricate and innovative, which will cover the full spectrum of Jewish thought and its implications for every student at every level.

At Chabad, we believe with every fiber of our being, that Judaism offers us a sophisticated spiritual substance that cannot be found elsewhere. Judaism is the blueprint for our days; the road map that we consult as we negotiate the highways and byways of our busy lives.

This hidden treasure has the power to transform our lives for the better, forever, if we but uncover it. Our agenda this year is to peel away the layers bit by bit and reveal the beauty and sanctity inside.

The following guide will help explain our newly enhanced curriculum which will be taught through a multi-sensory, age-appropriate approach.



Contents

Discovering the Treasure Within	
Journey of the Soul	3
Place for the Soul	4
Time for the Soul	5
Expression of the Soul . . .	6
Hebrew Language	
Aleph Champ	7

Journey of the Soul

Overview

What is a soul? The answer may depend upon whom you ask, but in Chabad philosophy, our soul is an innate pre-disposition to goodness and G-dliness inherent in every one of us. This unit will follow the various stages of the soul as it matures and is integrated into a child's life, beginning with birth and through adulthood.

Lesson Plan

Students will know the customs of a *brit milah* (circumcision), and baby naming. They will learn the date and meaning of their Hebrew birthday, as well as the significance of their Hebrew name.

Methodology

Students will research the meaning of their Hebrew names. Crafts projects will integrate their Hebrew names. All students will receive 'birthday certificates' with the date of their Hebrew birthdays and birthdays will be celebrated monthly.



Place for the Soul

Overview

Select places or sites are receptacles of spiritual energy and serve to connect us with our souls. For example, the ancient *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) in the desert, the *Beit Hamikdash* (Holy Temple) in Jerusalem, and their modern counterparts, today's synagogues. Interestingly, the Jewish home is an ideal sacred haven for our souls.

Lesson Plan

Students will learn about the relevance of the ancient and modern holy places in their lives. They will learn how to recreate that spirituality on the home front.

Methodology

Wood-crafting projects will bring the holy places to life as students take home their own 'places for the soul' creations. Students will also learn the layout and structure of the Holy Temple and understand the significance of the *Beit Hamikdash* to our lives today.



Overview

The soul guides us in accessing our heart and expressing our feelings. Prayer is an exercise for the heart. In this unit, *Tefilah* (Jewish prayer) will be understood as a means for the soul to reconnect to its source. The power of song as an expression of the soul will also be explored.

Lesson Plan

Students will understand the meaning and relevance of the basic prayers in the *Siddur* (prayer book). In addition, they will listen to melodies and songs which will enable them to discern the different “voices” and meaning of these compositions.

Methodology

The students will learn traditional Jewish music. Prizes will be awarded to students who score points during prayer services, making it an exciting part of their Hebrew School day.

Overview

Time contains within it spiritual energy and as we traverse the year, we revisit the energy of former days and re-experience those feelings of freedom and forgiveness; empowerment and exile; mourning and merrymaking. We connect with our ancestors and learn from their lives. To our amazement, they often parallel our own.

Lesson Plan

We will learn about the meaning and significance of the mitzvot associated with these special days and what benefit they have on our lives. Throughout the year, students will learn how to recite the *Kiddush* and the *Birchat Hamazon* as well as various blessings and customs associated with these holidays.

Methodology

Students will fashion various Holiday accoutrements. A working clock, depicting ways of creating holiness in time, will be created by the students.

Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people and it connects us to our past. The Hebrew language and prayer unite us with a sacred commonality. Our exclusive Hebrew reading program, Aleph Champ, is a simple yet highly effective tool for helping students to master Hebrew reading.



**Aleph
Champ**

Based on the karate system, the students progress through levels of reading proficiency, after which they receive their 'belt' colors. Our goal is for each student to be a black belt by the completion of Hebrew School.

The Aleph Champ program has its own room which includes a listening center with reading activities, games, writing centers and a low student to teacher ratio.

All of this comes together to make sure that your child achieves success in Hebrew reading in a short time, and most importantly, has a great time throughout.

Our daily Hebrew lessons, as well as all of our classes, will be integrated with our global theme, "Discovering the Treasure Within".

Aleph Champ Reading Program



Chabad Hebrew School