KITAH VAV (6TH GRADE)
The Modern Jewish Experience: an Exploration of Jewish Leadership

Topics: Torah stories (Deuteronomy, Prophets/Judges), holidays, Hebrew reading, Tefillah, Holocaust History, Israeli History, leadership development

Tefillah: Torah Service, including: Aliyah blessings, Ein Kamocha, Av Harachamim, V’yhi Binsoah Ha’aron, Ki Mitzion, Shema, L’cha Adonai, Y’haleleu, Hodu, Etz Chaim Hi; Holiday songs and prayers

Big Ideas:
- We have many models of leadership, both good and bad, in the Torah, from whom we can learn.
- The Holocaust, the worst Jewish oppression in modern times, must never be forgotten.
- Zionism and Medinat Yisrael (The State of Israel) gives Jews from all over the world a homeland, ideally free from anti-Semitic oppression, and a chance to reconnect with our shared and diverse pasts.
- Reading Hebrew allows us to participate in synagogues and be part of the Jewish community all over the world.
- Praying in community is an important way Jews connect to God.

Essential Questions:
- What makes a good Jewish leader? How can you become a good Jewish leader?
- How do we keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in our hearts, minds, and global consciousness?
- How does Israel protect us from anti-Semitism? Does it work?
- How do I best communicate with God?

Objectives:
Students will learn how to...
- Ask thoughtful questions about Torah stories and characters.
- Make connections between Torah, holidays, history and Israel.
- Make personal connections between their lives and Torah, holidays, history and Israel.
- Read Hebrew and to follow along in the siddur (prayer book).

Students will understand...
- The major stories of Sefer BaMidbar (Numbers), Sefer D’varim (Deuteronomy), and selected Prophets/Judges--including the character traits, basic plots, connections to Israel, and mitzvot that we can apply to our own lives.
- The characteristics that our leaders demonstrated during times of challenge as we study 5 (8) Jewish holidays.
- The historical connections to Medinat Yisrael.
- That the Holocaust must never be forgotten and that we must take lessons from it to prevent hatred, bigotry, and oppression when we see it.
- That praying together, in Hebrew, is one way we communicate with God.

**Students will believe that...**
- We read the Torah every year because we can always learn new ideas or be reminded of old ones.
- The leaders we learn about in the Torah and Prophets give us models of how we can be Jewish leaders.
- Jewish holidays are personally meaningful to us because....
- We have ancient, Biblical connections to Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel), and we have a need for a safe Jewish homeland in modern times.
- The Holocaust was the worst oppression to happen to Jews in living memory, and we must do all that we can to keep its stories and lessons alive.
- They can have a connection with God.