

CHAI CURRICULUM CORE THEMES & ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS



TORAH תּוֹרָה

Torah is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students. Torah is real in our daily lives: it is with us wherever we are. Developing the skills to study Torah is essential to integrating Torah into our lives.

AVODAH עֲבוּדָה

Avodah is the work we do to find sacred connections to God, community, and self. Engaging in the work of *avodah* can bring order, beauty, meaning, and insight into our lives.

G'MILUT CHASADIM

גְּמִילוּת חֶסֶדִים

We have a responsibility to perform personal acts of *g'milut chasadim* in order to make the world a better and holier place.

Grade 1
Discovering Myself
in the Jewish Story

- What does the Torah have to say to me and my world?

- What is different about Jewish time?
- How can my actions make time sacred?

- How can I become a part of the ongoing Jewish story by performing acts of *g'milut chasadim*?

Grade 2
Introduction: The
Personal Relevance
and Power of Torah,
Avodah, and *G'milut*
Chasadim

- Why is the Torah different from other books?
- How can Torah study help me in my everyday life?

- What can I do to connect to God?
- How do prayer, ceremonies, and celebrations affect my world?

- Why do we do acts of *g'milut chasadim*?
- What difference does it make if we do *g'milut chasadim*?

Grade 3
K'dushah (holiness)

- How can understanding and observing the rules and laws found in the Torah make my life more *kadosh*/holy?

- How can doing the work of *avodah* make my life, the lives of others, and the world more *kadosh*/holy?

- How can *g'milut chasadim* make the world a better, holier place?

Grade 4
Me in My
Community

- What does it mean to be a member of *Am Yisrael*?
- As a member of *Am Yisrael*, what is my connection to *Eretz Yisrael*?

- How does the act of participating in fixed prayer keep my relationship with God, with the Jewish people, and with myself in good shape?

- How do my actions affect the people around me?

Grade 5
Reform Judaism and
the Power of
Community

- How can I as a Reform Jew understand how God wants me to live through the writing of the Prophets?

- What can I learn about what it means to be a Jew through the practice of prayer?

- What does it mean to be a member of the Jewish community?

Grade 6
Revelation – What
Does it Mean in Our
Lives Today?

- What does God's Revelation through our texts have to teach me about my own relationship with God?

- How can my understanding of Revelation strengthen my relationship with God and connect me to the Jewish community?

- How does my involvement in acts of *g'milut chasadim* help me discover and understand God?

Grade 7
Hineini – What Does
it Mean to be a
Responsible Jewish
Adult?

- How do voices of previous generations of Jews help me find myself in the Torah?

- What are the prayers, ceremonies, and practices that define us as Jews?

- How can *middot* (values) lead to *g'milut chasadim*?
- Why are *middot* essential to living as a Reform Jew?