

# CHAI Lesson Overview

## Level 1

(Theme: *Discovering Myself in the Jewish Story*)

### Torah

Lesson # and Title	Topic/Questions to be Addressed
1. Intro to Torah	How is the story of Torah different than other stories I might read, and how is it the same? How is the Book of Genesis like a journey? What do I have in common with the people in the Torah?
2. Creation: Adam and Eve	Who was the first person that God created? Why did God create a second person?
3. Noah	How were each of the animals on the ark unique and what were their unique needs? How is understanding how Noah took care of the unique needs of animals similar to our understanding of how to take care of the unique needs of people?
4 – Abraham and Sarah: <i>Lech Lecha</i>	What are the qualities that Abraham and Sarah possess that would make God think they are worthy to be the founders of Judaism? How can I incorporate Abraham and Sarah's positive qualities into my own life?
5. Rebecca: Woman of Kindness and Courage	Why did Abraham's servant pick Rebecca to be a wife for Isaac? What is special about Rebecca? What did Rebecca do that makes us think she is special?
6. Jacob and Esau	What happened between Jacob and Esau that caused trouble in their family? How do Jacob and Esau provide us a model of accepting people in spite of differences and conflicts we may have with them?
7. Joseph (Alef): Trouble Among Brothers	What did Joseph do that made his brothers jealous? Can we behave in a good way, even when we are feeling bad?

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8. Joseph (Bet): Personal Change and Reconciliation	What happens to Joseph in Egypt? How did Joseph and his brothers change in order for them to forgive each other?
9. Conclusion: The Genesis Journey Map	What were the Genesis stories the class studied this year, and what were their main messages?

## Avodah

Lesson # and Title	Topic/Questions to be Addressed
1. Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur	What are the special concepts and symbols associated with the High Holy Days? How can I be part of the Jewish story by engaging in the process of teshuva?
2. Sukkot	How does Jewish time help us appreciate what God gives us/ our blessings? What actions show God that we appreciate our blessings? Why is <i>hiddur mitzvah</i> important?
3. Simchat Torah	Why is Simchat Torah an important Jewish holiday? How can the Torah make me happy?
4. What is a Blessing?	What is a blessing? When and why do we say blessings?
5. Havdallah	Why is it important to make distinctions or separations in time? What are the ways in which Jews make separations in time?
6. Chanukah	What is the story of Chanukah? What are some of the positive qualities of the Maccabees? How can I be like the Maccabees? How am I a part of the Chanukah story today?
7. Purim	How did Esther and Mordechai's actions show their Jewish pride? How can I show my Jewish pride like Mordechai and Esther? How can my actions today make me part of the unfolding Jewish story?
8. Pesach	What are some of the important messages of the Exodus story? How can I be a part of the Passover story today?
9. Shecheyanu	When are appropriate times to say Shehecheyanu? Why is it important to take note of new things/ first times? How does this blessing help connect me to God and the Jewish community?

## G'milut Chasadim

Lesson # and Title	Topic/Questions to be Addressed
1. Behaving in Special Ways: Introduction to G'milut Chasadim	What are acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> ? Where in the story of the Jewish people can I learn about it?
2. We Can Learn from Bible Heroes	What is a hero? What does a Jewish hero do? What can we learn from the Torah about Jewish heroes? How can I be a hero?
3. Synagogue Helpers Do G'milut Chasadim	Who are some of the helping people in our synagogue community? How do people who help in the synagogue make our world a better place by doing <i>g'milut chasadim</i> ? Why are thank you notes important to send to people?
4. Is Saying Sorry Enough?	Why should we say we're sorry? When should we say we're sorry? Why should we forgive others? When should we forgive others?
5. Tzedakah: A Different Way of Helping	What is <i>tzedakah</i> ? Why should we give <i>tzedakah</i> ? Who can we help by giving <i>tzedakah</i> ?
6. Being Kind with Derech Eretz	What are examples of acts of kindness? How can you behave with kindness? How can you act with <i>Derech Eretz</i> in your life?
7. You Can't Say You Can't Play	How is taking turns an act of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> ? How is including others an act of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> ?
8. Taking Care of the Earth	Why should we take care of the earth? How can we take care of the earth? Who in the story of the Jewish people took care of the earth?
9. I Can Be a G'milut Chasadim Star	What are some of the acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> that we remember experiencing this year? What is my role in making <i>g'milut chasadim</i> a part of our world?

Format