

KS2 Unit 3, Lesson 1: The Covenant

Context: In this lesson pupils will be introduced to the origins and role of the Torah in Jewish daily life and its significance in the covenant relationship between the Jewish people and God.

Overview:

- Discuss the origins and importance of 'the Law' in Judaism
- Begin to understand the importance of obedience to the Law in Jewish daily life within the context of a covenant relationship with God.

Essential core:

Recall the story of the giving of the 10 commandments to Moses: Moses went up Mt Sinai to receive from G-d the 10 commandments and other commandments which were the rules Jews had to live by. Understand that the Jews made an agreement or covenant with G-d: If Jews agree to obey His commandments; the Jews would be His Chosen people.

Know that the Jewish scriptures are called Tenakh, which are made up of 3 sections: Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim. Know that the Torah is the most important because it tells Jews what God is like and how they should live.

It is important for Jews to study and obey the Law throughout their lives. Raise and suggest answers to relevant questions in response to the idea of being able to put into practice the teachings of the Torah. Attempt to support their answers using reasons and/or information.

Resources: picture of Tenakh scrolls in Ark. play sand (just slightly moist) in a stout tablecloth, a Moses figure (a shepherd or Joseph from a Christmas crib), a small cardboard representation of the two stone tablets of the 10 Commandments

Vocabulary: - Tenakh; Law; Torah; Moses

INTRODUCTION

Show the children a picture of the Tenakh Scrolls in the Ark in a synagogue. Explain that these are the Jewish Holy Books. These are important to Jews as they tell them what God is like and how they should live. The most important of these are the Torah (first five books of the Christian Bible). Jews read these books in Synagogue each Sabbath (Saturday). These are traditionally believed to have been written by Moses.

But why did Moses write them and why are they so important to Jewish people?

STORY:

GOD GIVES THE LAW TO MOSES (Exodus chapters 19&20) GODLY PLAY - you will need play sand (just slightly moist) in a stout tablecloth, a Moses figure (a shepherd or Joseph from a Christmas crib), a small cardboard representation of the two stone tablets of the 10 Commandments. Script attached.

REFLECT:

A covenant is a two-way agreement. God promises to care for the Jews as his chosen people if they worship him alone and obey his laws.

The Ten Commandments in this story are the foundation of many of the laws in our country today. Everyone would agree that it is wrong to steal, murder and tell lies – and that people need days to rest from working. Jewish people believe that the Torah tells them what is right and wrong and they want to do these things because they believe that this is obeying God.

If we are not Jewish, what tells **us** what is right and wrong? Why should we do what is right?

PLENARY & FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

What is "The Torah"? Why is reading and obeying "The Torah" so important to Jewish people?

Do we have 'laws' that we must obey that tell us what is right and wrong?