

In a Jewish Home – Living life according to the commandments	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 8
Learning objectives: To discover how Jewish family life is based on the Torah and a believer's relationship with God.		
Themes to discuss: Whose rules govern our lives? What is my code for living? Is self-discipline important? Do we respect the animals we eat? How will I know when I am grown-up? Does anything in our home or school remind us of God? <i>With each of the topics below it is important that pupils have the opportunity to engage with the verses from the scriptures on which the practice is based. Each practice is based on a verse from the Torah, and fulfilling the commandments in these ways shows Jewish love for God in action. One description of Judaism is that it is the religion of "doing the will of God".</i>		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you know what kind of people live in a house? Look at random photographs of house doors – who do you expect to be behind them? Include a photo of a door with mezuzah which marks a Jewish home e.g. http://www.olamgadol.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/Brick%20Lane%20Mezzuzah.jpg Discover together what it is, why it is there, what it contains. Use Google to find some photographs of mezuzahs – you will be amazed at the huge variety of designs – make your own mezuzah cases, with different designs for different rooms in a Jewish home (a devout Jewish family can have a mezuzah on every doorpost in their home, with the exception of the bathroom). <i>Now go on to look around the house:</i> • Mother in the kosher kitchen Look at photographs of kosher kitchens and discover the need to have two sets of utensils etc. Find out the basic rules about not eating milk and meat together and which foods are forbidden e.g. from http://re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/gcsere/revision/judaism/jud3/page11.html . and http://www.4kosher.net/kosherfoods.nxg Go and visit your school kitchen – make a sketch plan of the kitchen and collect a list of the week's menus. Back in the classroom work in small groups to redesign the kitchen as a kosher kitchen, or to redesign the menu to make it kosher. Will the school cook come and see what the children are doing and comment on it? Talk about what foods you would miss if you ate kosher. If possible cook and share some Jewish food! Discuss why Jews are so careful about what they eat. • Father praying the tallit and tefillin which Jewish men wear when they pray are rich with symbolism and of great importance to the worshipper as a visual link to God. Share photographs / video of people at prayer or in the synagogue. Explore their specialness and symbolism, including the way they are worn. What does this all tell us about the relationship between a person 		

and God? Understand these also as a sign that the father has attained religious adulthood and has responsibilities within the congregation....

- **Children preparing for bar mitzvah** Share ideas of when adulthood begins (the legal age for).What do we think are the privileges and responsibilities of adulthood? If possible watch a video of a Bar Mitzvah – what is the young person doing for the first time? How does he probably feel on this occasion and why? How would his family feel? What does the occasion mean to them all? Design a Bar Mitzvah congratulations card to explain some of the specialness and joy of the celebration. .

Websites and resources:

For mezuzah information see http://www.soferonsite.com/mezuzah_facts.htm and <http://yeshuaministries.tripod.com/mezuzah.htm> and http://www.aimeegolant.com/mezuzah_hang.html

Good materials on eating kosher at <http://www.chabad.org/library/howto/wizard.asp?AID=113425> with a step by step guide on making your kitchen kosher at <http://www.chabad.org/library/article.asp?AID=82667> also at <http://www.torah4kids.net/> (go through “nosh”) and <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/judaism/judai1.html>

Bar Mitzvah photos at http://mywebpage.netscape.com/sfdmnr/Danny_Barmitzvah_home.htm see also <http://judaism.about.com/od/abcsofjudaism/p/lifecycle.htm>

