

Learning and Living Torah

A Message to Parents

Please note:

Learning and Living Torah is in the process of development. What is available on this website is a “beta version.” This means that it is on-going, and not yet a completed project. If you see problems with the content, mistakes or typographical errors, or if you have suggestions for improving the program, please contact us at info@torahfamily.com.

Purpose

Families that are beginning the pursuit of Torah often find that it is not easy to grow and learn together. While there are many excellent Torah study programs available, it is difficult to find multi-level materials that all focus on the same truths at the same time. The purpose of *Learning and Living Torah* is to provide a continuity in family Torah study, facilitating family discussions and practical instruction in a way that can include the entire family, from parents and teenagers to little ones. To accomplish this, the program is divided into three levels of difficulty: Level 1 (ages 4-8), Level 2 (ages 9-12), and Level 3 (bar mitzvah to adult). Age suggestions are approximate—some children will learn better at a more advanced level, while others will learn more at a simpler level.

Learning and Living Torah is designed to take the student beyond the study of mere facts to practical application of mitzvot. Since all three levels focus on the same mitzvah and truth about God each day, the program provides opportunities for families to discuss and reinforce appropriate application together. Torah truths are studied in the light of the rest of the scripture, including teachings of Yeshua and His apostles.

The role of parents in this process is important. While every effort has been made to keep the material age-appropriate, there will be some things that are too easy or too difficult for your child. Stay involved enough with what your child is doing to know when it is appropriate to make adjustments. Always look ahead a few days to make sure that you have the right materials for weekly projects (Levels 2 and 3), craft projects (Level 1), and Torah projects (Level 2). Most importantly, be sure to involve your child in family discussions on the Torah portion and the things currently being studied. Family discussion is vital. Young children especially need to see real-life examples and concrete demonstrations of abstract concepts. Give your children opportunities to share with the rest of the family what they have learned and insights they have gained.

Format of the Program

All three levels provide guided study for 5 days of each week (Monday through Friday). Levels 2 and 3 include study project suggestions for Sunday. Study projects are designed to help students prepare information to share with the rest of the family at the Shabbat table or other study and discussion time on Shabbat. Save your child’s projects in a file or other safe place for repeated reference in future years when studying the same parashot.

Study for each parasha begins on the Sunday preceding. For example, if Shemot is assigned to

Required daily study time varies for each level. Level 1 will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Levels 2 and 3 will take 30 minutes for most students.

Level 1

The daily activities of Level 1 include the creation of “mitzvah cards.” To store the cards, provide your child with a pocket folder. Each time the folder fills up, you can transfer the cards to another container or start a new folder. The purpose of the cards is review, review, review. Each week, offer a special Shabbat treat for children who can identify each of that week’s mitzvot by the picture. Occasionally, take out the cards from previous weeks and see if your child can remember them.

Level 2

Each day, Level 2 students are instructed to complete a “Torah Project.” The purpose of these projects is to re-inforce the mitzvot described in each day’s study. Some of these projects will be private in nature, so it may not be appropriate to require your child to show his projects to you. However, it will help him to be consistent in completing them if you remind and encourage him.

Level 3

Some students will appreciate more than 30 minutes allotted to their study time in order to allow for thought, prayer, and an occasional rabbit trail.