

Topic: 6th Grade Jewish History

Lesson 2: Biblical History 1 – Judges and Kings

Enduring Understanding: Shared history ties and the values that we gain from it tie us together as a Jewish people.

Guiding Questions:

- What makes the period of Judges and Kings unique in Jewish history?
- What lessons can we gain from this time period?
- How are judges and kings remembered in our holy texts?
- What are the qualities of a leader?

9:15-9:20 Welcome

9:20-9:45 Ice Breakers

9:45-10:00 Class Brit

10:00-10:10 Review Last week

10:10-10:20 Shofar lesson from the Rabbi

10:20-11:20 Kings Activity (5mins explanation, 20/25minutes skit planning, and rest of time for performance)

11:15-11:30 Outdoor time/Break

11:30-11:45 wrap up

- I. Welcome
- II. Ice Breakers:
- III. Class brit
  - A. Work together to create a class covenant and set expectations for classroom behavior and respect
- IV. Review last week-
  - A. Who were some of the people discussed?
  - B. What kind of qualities did we come up with?
  - C. Last week created definitions of leadership and defined what some good and bad leaders and traits are. Use this as segue into the period of Kings and how, as we study the three kings of Israel, we should look for the good and bad characteristics within the texts about them.
- V. Kings activity <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/190092?editor=1>
  - A. Intro: When Israel became a nation, first it was ruled by judges, then the people decided they wanted a King. Israel was one United Kingdom and the period of Kings did not last very long- it only lasted for 3 kings, let's learn about them!
  - B. Have the kids divide into 3 groups, popcorn read selections about one king then each group should put together a skit about the portion they read. If they prefer, rather than a skit, they can put together a rap, song or drawings to explain the skit they read. key points are listed in the summaries below.

1. A madrichim will go with each group to help facilitate and see if there are any words that the kids don't know.
- C. King Saul
1. I Samuel 15:1-28 (skipping a few lines throughout)
  2. Summary: Saul is anointed King by Samuel who was the last judge of Israel. G-d tells Saul to attack enemies, the Amelkites, and leave nothing behind. Saul keeps some of the fine animals, though, thus disobeying G-d. G-d expresses disappointment in Saul
  3. Discussion questions/important points:
    - a) How do we own up to our own mistakes?
    - b) Who decides what's right and wrong?
    - c) In what ways do we not recognize our own power at times as Saul did not feel very confident in being King?
- D. King David
1. I Samuel 17:38-45, 48-51
  2. Summary: David is young and small (not yet King) and there is a mighty Philistine, named Goliath, that no one can defeat. David goes to fight him without armor or large weapons, only with some sticks and a slingshot. They insult each other, fight, and the small David, who will one day be king, defeats
  3. Discussion questions/important points:
    - a) Why is the story of an under dog or unexpected hero important?
    - b) How important is might and strength in a leader (physical or metaphorical strength)?
- E. King Solomon
1. I Kings 3:7-28
  2. Summary: King Solomon is the son of King David, he is very young and G-d declares him King in a dream. When Solomon is King 2 women come to with a dispute, both claim a baby is theirs and King Solomon says he will cut them in two and each mother will have half of the baby. One agrees and the other says to give the baby to the other woman whole, King Solomon declares this woman to be the mother as a true mother would rather her child be alive
    - a) Note- these could easily be 2 skits or if the kids are not into it, you can focus on just one
  3. Discussion questions/important points:
    - a) What kind of people seem fit to be rulers/in charge?
    - b) How do we handle difficult disputes?
    - c) Explain: There were only these three kings in our history, then, as a people, the Israelites elected judges to serve as the community leaders instead.
      - (1) Why might that be?
      - (2) How do these two styles of leadership reflect our modern day world?

VI. Wrap-up

- A. Next week- we will cover the 1st temple period
- B. Early Shana Tova and what are everyone's Rosh Hashanah plans?