



Shanah
Tovah!



Rosh Hashanah Service Companion

3rd-7th Graders: Complete this packet during the service and give it to Emily when Rabbi Hersh invites you outside after the Shofar is blown. If you are streaming the service, take a picture of your completed packets and email it to emily@testl.org for a special prize.

What is the name of the Hebrew month that just began?

- A) Elul
- C) Tishrei
- B) Kislev
- D) Adar

Which year are we beginning in the Hebrew calendar?

57 _____

On Rosh Hashanah, we use a special prayer book called a Machzor. What else is different about today that separates it from all the other services you've attended at TE?

The traditional greeting on Rosh Hashanah is "Happy New Year" or "Shanah Tovah," which literally means "A Good Year." Count how many times you hear someone wish a "Shanah Tovah" from the bima.

How many times do we rise during the service?

How many times do we say "Amen" during the service?

Page 59-74

The Rosh Hashanah morning service begins with two sections of the service that are probably familiar to you, the Shema and its Blessings, (which includes the Barechu, Shema, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha and others), then the Amidah or "Standing Prayer." These prayers are part of every service throughout the year.

Why do you think the rabbis included some familiar prayers on such a special day?

Page 75: Avinu Malkeinu

Avinu Malkeinu is one of the special prayers you'll only hear on the High Holy Days. Avinu means "Our Parent" and Malkeinu means "Our Ruler (or King or Queen)." It describes two ways people might relate to God, the intimate relationship of a parent and the powerful awe of a ruler. Avinu Malkeinu is a list of requests we ask of God in the coming year.



Which 3 of these requests from page 75 are most important to you?



What does the melody of Avinu Malkeinu sound like to you?

- A) Soothing
- C) Mournful
- B) Joyful
- D) Something else

Page 77-95: Torah Service

How many Torahs do you count in the Ark? _____

During the Torah service, teens and adults are called to the Torah for an "Aliyah," which literally means "to go up." Some people read or chant from the Torah in Hebrew, others chant the blessing before and after reading Torah.



Do you want to read Torah on the High Holy Days when you become a teen? Why or why not?

The Torah portion we read on Rosh Hashanah morning is a challenging one. It can be troubling to some and requires interpretation. It is a story sometimes called "the binding of Isaac." In it, God asks Abraham to take his son Isaac up a mountain and sacrifice him (at the time of the Torah, animal sacrifice was part of Jewish ritual. It is no longer part of Judaism and hasn't been for thousands of years. Human sacrifice was never part of Judaism beyond this one Torah portion).

Abraham obeys, loads up his donkey, and starts climbing the mountain with Isaac. Abraham builds an altar (table) and ties Isaac down to it. Just as Abraham lifts the knife to slay his son, a messenger from God tells Abraham to stop and to sacrifice a ram in the nearby bushes instead. Because Abraham passes this test from God, God makes a promise to Abraham that God will bless him and all his descendants (his children and their children and so on until our own generation and beyond).

What are 3 emotions you think Abraham feels during this story?



Page 96-98: Haftarah Service

Haftarah is the book of the Prophets and is sometimes called “Nevi’im.” It is the second part of the Hebrew Bible (Torah is the first) and is read on Shabbat and holiday mornings immediately after the reading of Torah. The haftarah portion is selected because it relates to the Torah portion somehow. Sometimes the connection is obvious, sometimes the connection is harder to find.

The Haftarah portion for Rosh Hashanah morning is from the prophet Isaiah. In this speech, Isaiah encourages the people to give up their wicked ways and return to God. In the last paragraph, Isaiah describes the good things that will happen when the people do as he has asked.

Name one of these predictions:

Page 99-106: Sounding of the Shofar

The shofar is traditionally made from a ram’s horn. Why do you think they chose a ram? Hint: look back at the Torah portion!

The shofar is like an alarm clock, waking us up and reminding us of the goals we have set for the new year. When you hear the shofar blast this Rosh Hashanah, what are two goals you’d like to accomplish this year?

