

# Foundations of Torah

PARENT-TEACHER EDITION

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## Overview of a Weekly Lesson:

Each Torah portion's lesson includes the following information for the parent-teacher:

Lesson Overview Teacher's Notes	This page is helpful for the teacher's notebook, to see the entire week's plan at a glance.
	Overview Chart Memory Verse Bible Drills Prayer Requests & Answers to Prayer
Torah Discussion & Activities	These pages include possible discussion questions, with possible answers and further discussion topics, as well as optional activities you may wish to include during the week.  <b>Please note that your answers may disagree with ours.</b> This is okay! The answers are only intended to be discussion <i>starters</i> .
	Other Activities: Coloring Pages for Younger Children Occasional Optional Internet Links for More Activities Internet Links Worksheets for Older Children, Young Adults (and even Parents!)

## **Note on Sacred Names:**

We use the letters *YHWH* throughout this book to refer to the Creator of the Universe, our Heavenly Father. His name in Hebrew is spelled יהוה. In your English Bible, His name is translated as “the LORD.” A common pronunciation is “Ye-ho-VAH” or “YAH-way.”

We also refer to Jesus by His Hebrew name *Yeshua* (pronounced “ye-SHOO-ah”). You may wish to teach your children that His name in Hebrew means “YHWH saves” (Matthew 1:21).

We often use the word *Messiah* in place of the word Christ. Both mean “anointed one” and refer to the prophesied King and redeemer of Israel.

## **The Golden Rule of Interpretation:**

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate otherwise.”  
— D.L. Cooper

## How to Use This Curriculum:

We'd like to show you what a typical study of the weekly Torah portion looks like in our home.

1. First, if we haven't already done so, we **start our day with prayer**.
2. Now we work on **learning the week's memory verse**. You can read some of our methods below.
3. Dad, Mom, or an older student, then **reads the day's Torah portion aloud**. You may use the Bible translation of your choice.
4. Often we will suggest **discussion questions and activities** for you to do. Please feel free to add to or subtract from our suggestions, depending on the needs and interests of your family, always listening to the leading of the Spirit.
5. Twice each week, we like to have a "**Bible Drill**." This is a game in which children race each other to find passages of Scripture in their own Bibles. We urge you to play this game often so your children will gain the essential skill of finding passages in God's Word quickly! You might want to wait until your children are old enough to read fairly well on their own (typically 2nd or 3rd grade). At this age, we purchase a good-quality Bible for our children, one which lies flat when opened.

### How to Have a Bible Drill:

- **Have each child raise his Bible in the air**, totally extending his arm. (It's only fair.) Have him hold his Bible by the back binding, with no fingers poking into the pages to keep his place for him.
- **The teacher announces the reference** to be found (for instance, "Genesis 1:1").
- **The children then repeat the reference orally**, so that the teacher is sure everyone knows where to go and is listening.
- **The teacher shouts, "Go!"**
- At this point, each child pulls his Bible down and **begins searching** for the Scripture reference as quickly as possible.
- **The first child to find the reference stands**. He then reads it out loud.

If one child always wins, simply because he is older, take heart! The less-experienced children will quickly improve with frequent practice and a good dose of healthy competition. However, you can add parents to the game in the evenings for extra spice!

6. At the end of each week, our notes suggest that your children **write in their journals**. Our children each have a spiral or 3-ring notebook that is their Bible Journal. Once a week, they review what they've learned that week by telling about it in their journal. Young ones might draw a picture and have Mom write about it below. They might copy their memory verse. Older ones might tell what they've learned in their private Bible reading or copywork time. This journal will not only provide a record of their education; it will also become a priceless treasure that helps to cement God's truth in their hearts.

7. **Please be open to the Holy Spirit as you work through His Torah portions.** Always be ready to discuss important concepts with your children and answer their questions. We have added notes and teaching ideas for some of the lessons but not all. (Note: these are all optional and will vary in difficulty). If you come up with additional learning ideas, record them so that you'll remember them next time you cover this material. Ask YHWH to make His Torah meaningful to each of your children.

## Hints for Memorizing Scripture:

Our tips for memorizing verses each day are based on the following principles:

- **It's easier to memorize a verse if you know what it means.** That's why we spend the first day of each week talking about what the verse means. Your children will illustrate the verse also, so you'll know from their pictures if they truly understand it.
- **It's easier to memorize a verse if the verse is meaningful to you.** Your job as a parent is to help your children relate the verse to their own lives. What promise does it make, what advice should they follow, what sin will it help them overcome? Try to talk about the verse at other times during the day, too. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply it to all of your lives.
- **It's easier to memorize a verse if you use many of your senses to learn it.** We use our eyes when we look at a verse visual, we use our arms and legs when we make up motions, we use our ears when we hear each other saying it together, and occasionally a verse is just the right kind to taste or smell something.
- **It's easier to memorize a verse if you repeat it many, many times.** That's why you should make it your goal to have everyone say the verse out loud at least *five times* each day. We'll help you come up with ways to keep it from being boring, but you can always try shouting, whispering, singing, standing, marching, lying down, writing, drawing, telling it to Dad, and calling Grandma.
- It's easier to memorize a verse if you say it with a "sing-songy" voice. Kids love this! For instance, try saying this verse, emphasizing the *italicized* words:

Psalm *One-nine-teen* Eleven  
Thy *word* have I *hid* in my *heart*,  
That *I* might not *sin* against *thee*.  
Psalm *One-nine-teen* Eleven

Each day, recite the verse (including reference) as a group five times. As the week progresses, allow the children to say it more and more without dependence on your voice, until they can say it independently by the end of the week.

If you're learning an extended passage of Scripture over many weeks, try to say the entire passage you've learned thus far at least once a day. For instance, if you're learning Deuteronomy 6:4-9 but you're only on verse 7 this week, you would review verses 4-7 once a day.

Before the week starts, take a moment to write the verse (using a Sharpie marker) on a spiral-bound set of 3×5 index cards. You will use this set of verses to review in coming weeks.

As a general rule, we'll stick to the following schedule:

**Day 1 – Discuss what a verse means and illustrate it.** Give your children sheets of paper, and ask them to illustrate the verse. Later, you can use these drawings to review verses you've already memorized. (Insert these papers into plastic sheet protectors and place in a notebook.)

**Day 2 – Copy the verse.** For young writers, give them the copywork sheet we have provided. Preschool children will not write the verse, but you may want to have them point to letters or numbers in the verse. Older children may copy the verse directly from their Bible into a notebook.

**Day 3 – Make up motions.** Obviously, some verses will be easier to come up with motions for than others, but you’ll be surprised how creative your kids can be! You’ll probably notice that they will use motions when they say it the rest of the week as well. That’s fine. Note: If it seems impossible to come up with motions, try stomping your feet in rhythm, clapping, or marching around the kitchen table as you say it – anything to get you up and moving!

**Day 4 – Today is a good day for contests,** since by now your kids should have nearly memorized the verse. “Everyone with blue eyes, say the verse,” “Everyone wearing green, say the verse,” boys against girls, younger versus older, etc.

**Day 5 – Today, have each child say it individually.** After saying the verse several times as a group, I often start with the oldest child so that the youngest ones can hear it a few more times. I also “help” the younger ones more than I do the older ones, whom I expect to say it perfectly. You may wish to have a “verse recital” on Erev Shabbat, where the kids can show Dad how well they’ve learned their verse. You could also exhibit their drawings and writings. Make it memorable!

All of the above hints are helpful for other types of memorization as well, such as the Books of the Bible, or memory work in other subjects.

## B'reisheet | בְּרֵאשִׁית | "In the Beginning"

(Genesis 1:1 - 6:8)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Prayer Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Memory Verse	<input type="checkbox"/> Discuss memory verse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Motions	<input type="checkbox"/> Contests	<input type="checkbox"/> Test
Read and Discuss the Parashah	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1:1-2:3	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2:4-3:24	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 5:1-6:8	<input type="checkbox"/> Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5 - 43:10
Bible Drill		<input type="checkbox"/> Bible drill		<input type="checkbox"/> Bible drill	
Homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrate memory verse	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy memory verse			<input type="checkbox"/> Journals

### Teacher's Notes:

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:3 (WEB) – "By faith, we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which are visible."

Bible Drills:

#### Tuesday – The Word is...

- Psalm 119:105
- Ephesians 5:26
- John 1:14
- Hebrews 4:12
- James 1:25

#### Thursday – The Word is...

- John 15:3
- Jeremiah 23:29
- Ephesians 6:17
- Jeremiah 20:9
- Revelation 19:13

Prayer Requests this Week:

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Answers to Prayer:

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## **B'reisheet – Answers & Activities**

### **Day 1 – Genesis 1:1-2:3**

1. According to Genesis 1:3, YHWH created the world by His Word: “And God said.” In John 1:1-3, we learn that God created the world by the Word. In John 1:9-10, we learn that the “Light” made the world. This Light is Yeshua (see John 1:14). In Hebrews 11:3, we learn that the worlds were “framed” (created) by the word of God.
2. To be made in the image of God means that we can make things like He can (although we can't create out of nothing or with His power and might). We are “creative” like He is! Also, we are made as “male and female” (Genesis 5:2) and able to reproduce children, and we have dominion over His creation (Psalm 8). Genesis 1:27 and 1 Corinthians 11:7 both seem to say that man was made in God's image but that the woman was made in the image of man, just as children are made in the image of their parents. We look just like them!
3. ended - Strong's H3615, *kalab*: to accomplish, to end, to complete.  
rested - Strong's H7673, *shabath*: to cease, to repose (rest).

### **Day 2 – Genesis 2:4-3:24**

1. Adam - Strong's H120, adam: ruddy (red), from the ground.
2. Eve - Strong's #2332, chavah: life-giver.
3. According to Genesis 1:28, God told man to be fruitful and multiply (have children) and to fill the earth. Man was also to subdue the earth and have dominion over the fish, the birds, and every living thing. According to Genesis 2:15, man was put into the garden to dress it (work in it to make it beautiful) and keep (guard) it.
4. 1 John 2:16 lists these three temptations: (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life. In Matthew 4:4, 7, and 10, Yeshua defeated temptation by quoting Scripture (“it is written”). Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to put on the whole armor of God, and one of those pieces is the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (verse 17).

### **Day 3 – Genesis 4**

1. According to Hebrews 11:4, Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice, which showed he was righteous. We can only assume that Abel followed YHWH's instructions, where Cain did not.
2. Genesis 4:1 – first shepherd  
Genesis 4:1 – first farmer  
Genesis 4:17 – first city builder  
Genesis 4:20 – first tent dweller  
Genesis 4:20 – first cattle farmer  
Genesis 4:21 – first maker of musical instruments  
Genesis 4:22 – first forger of brass and iron
3. It is often a reference to worshipping YHWH with sacrifices and to worship Him alone, as compared to worshipping other gods. Compare to 1 Kings 18:24; Psalm 116:17; Joel 2:32, and Zephaniah 3:9.

#### Day 4 – Genesis 5:1-6:8

1. Adam - Strong's H120, ruddy (red), from the ground.  
Seth - Strong's H8352, appointed, substitution.  
Enos - Strong's H583, mortal, man, son of man.  
Cainan - Strong's H7018, possession, dwelling place.  
Mahalale'el - Strong's H4111, praise of God.  
Jared - Strong's H3382, descent.  
Enoch - Strong's H2585, dedicated, teacher.  
Methuselah - Strong's H4968, man of a dart, or “his death shall bring.”  
Lamech - Strong's H3929, powerful, despairing.  
Noah - Strong's H5146, rest, comfort.  
Shem - Strong's H8035, name.  
Ham - Strong's H2526, hot.  
Japheth - Strong's H3315, opened.  
(See also *Genesis: Finding Our Roots*, by Ruth Beechick, pp. 49-51.)
2. If we compare Genesis 5:24 to Genesis 6:9 and Genesis 17:1, we see that those who “walk with God” are described as perfect. The word *perfect* means whole-hearted. You might want to look up Amos 3:3.
3. You might want to look up the Hebrew word translated as “grace” (Strong's H2580, favor, acceptance). In Hebrews 11:6-7, we read that Noah had faith and that he believed God enough to be moved with fear and prepare an ark to save his family.

#### Day 5 – Isaiah 42:5-43:10

1. In this Haftarah portion, we see many ways that YHWH is powerful enough to create our world and also to restore the world that has been damaged by sin. There are many things listed which only God can do! We also see His preservation of His people during times of judgment. Do you see any other things?
2. Isaiah 42:5  
Isaiah 42:15  
Isaiah 43:1  
Isaiah 43:7

#### Other Activities:

Coloring pages:

- [http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/1092595/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/1092595/jewish/Coloring-Pages.htm)
- <http://www.aisht.com/tp/pak/cp/53031582.html>

Worksheets (just choose one):

- [http://www.onetorahforall.com/childrens%20parasha/B'reshit%20\(Children's%20Parsha\).pdf](http://www.onetorahforall.com/childrens%20parasha/B'reshit%20(Children's%20Parsha).pdf)
- <http://www.onetorahforall.com/children08/childrens%20B'reshit.pdf>
- <http://www.onetorahforall.com/childrensparasha2010/B'reshit%20-%20Children's%20Torah%20Portion.pdf>
- [http://www.hoshanarabbah.org/pdfs/te/te\\_breisheet.pdf](http://www.hoshanarabbah.org/pdfs/te/te_breisheet.pdf)
- <http://www.restorationoftorah.org/torah-portions-english>

## “On Day One”

by Melody Waring (to the tune of “This Old Man”)

On day one,  
Yahweh made light,  
He made day and He made night.  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day two,  
Yahweh made Heaven,  
Made it as a place for livin’.  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day three,  
Yahweh made earth  
With some trees and plants and herbs.  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day four,  
He made the sun,  
Stars and moon for sparkly fun.  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day five,  
Yahweh made fish,  
Birds and whales with tails that swish.  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day six,  
Yahweh made critters,  
You and me and things that jitters,  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

On day seven,  
Yahweh said, “Rest  
‘Cause I love you, and it’s best!”  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

Some people  
Seem to think  
Yahweh did not make everything, but  
With a knick-knack paddy-whack only Yah alone  
Could make me such a perfect home.

Source: <http://torahschool.wordpress.com/2011/10/08/breisheet-%D7%A8%D7%A9%D7%AA-in-the-beginning-2/>



By faith, we understand  
that the universe has been framed  
by the word of God,  
so that what is seen  
has not been made  
out of things which are visible.

(Hebrews 11:3)

Draw pictures to illustrate this week's verse.

**By faith, we understand  
that the universe has been framed  
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out of things which are visible.  
(Hebrews 11:3)**

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been made out of things  
which are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

The page contains 15 sets of horizontal lines for writing. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dotted midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

