

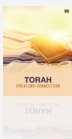
## TEXT-BASED TORAH SESSIONS



### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH

What does being Jewish mean to you? Why is the Torah so central to Judaism? Learn to answer these questions through the material presented in this session. The session asks teens to think about their Jewish identity and what it means to them.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/mFznGiz6IT/what-does-it-mean-to-be-jewish/>



### TORAH - CREATING CONNECTION

A session on the value of learning Torah and the many ways it impacts us as individuals and as a nation.

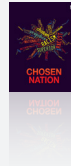
<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/eAOfDMsc70/torah-creating-connection/>



### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This is a session that looks at the importance and meaning of Jewish names. What does your name mean? How can it affect your life? Use this session to discuss how our names can play a part of who we are.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/s3c0MQ6LhT/whats-in-a-name/>



### THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

The Jewish Nation is described as "Chosen". What does that mean? Is it racist? Use this session to take a look at three approaches to understanding this difficult concept. The three approaches are: responsibility, diversity and being firstborn.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/JhtcZFHwsp/the-jewish-people---the-chosen-nation/>



### THE TORAH IS LIKE AN ONION

This session is designed to display the depth and layers that can be revealed in the study of Torah. Teens are introduced to the benefits of a multifaceted approach to a problem and to the study of Torah.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/i7Uf9L6O3E/torah-is-like-an-onion/>

## ACTIVITIES



### AMERICAN IDOL

Dvar Torah Workshop – This competition engages teens to use texts to create their own Divrei Torah. This is an interactive session that works well in small groups. Teens will be able to present their own Torah thoughts

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/0YmdUnuKdj/american-idol-dvar-torah-workshop/>



### AMELIA BEDELIA AND ORAL TORAH

This is an interactive session - teens will act out idioms in a literal way; later advisors will do the same with mitzvos. The session illustrates the importance of the Oral Law, and how without it - everything is misunderstood.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/Up4kROTyGr/amelia-bedelia-and-the-oral-law/>



### JEWISH FUTURES GAME

A discussion-based activity that facilitates teens to think about their future. Opens up conversations about commitment, practice, and sustainability of Jewish tradition and culture.

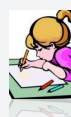
<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/aWDceS2jyN/jewish-futures-game/>



### THE LAST JEW MUSEUM

Advisors create a museum of Jewish history, acting out a scripted scene of a curator in a museum. The advisors take the teens through a museum of Jewish artifacts, pretending that the year is 2124, and there is only one Jew left in the world. This journey will create some excellent discussion opportunities.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/fviFpe5dR5/the-last-jew-program/>



### DRAW A JEW

This is an interactive session to make teens think about some of their own Jewish stereotypes. Can someone be more Jewish than someone else? Use this program to explore these questions in an interactive way.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/BpIOT6WrD8/draw-a-jew/>

## ARTICLES & IMAGES



### THE LAST JEW

A fictitious article set in 2124 – a Jew writing about Jewish history, as the last Jew left on earth. He explains how Judaism faded away. This article will create an excellent discussion and will motivate teens to think about how they can contribute to keeping Judaism alive.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/dCXVW5zF12/the-last-jew/>



### CONCERNING THE JEWS

Mark Twain's Famous essay will give teens an outsider's positive perspective. Read the essay and think about Twain's observations. What is the secret to our immortality?

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/grHUwuyqKJ/concerning-the-jews/>



### DALAI LAMA MEETS JEWS

What is the technique that Jews use to survive when they are dispersed around the world? The Dalai Lama met Jews from 4 branches of Judaism to ask this question. Read the article and see what they said. What do you think is the success of Jewish survival?

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/TwgfjncEdv/dalai-lama-meets-jews/>



### DEAR SON

This is a letter from a father to his son. He tells him how important it is to marry Jewish. Read through this heartfelt letter and use the discussion questions to create a dialogue about the issue of intermarriage.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/DJQE904Jqb/dear-son/>



### THE CHIMNEY SWEEP QUESTION - LEARNING TALMUD

A conversation between a rabbi and a potential student describing what it is like to learn Torah using an example of two chimney sweeps.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/fDwqRjnuCJ/chimney-sweep-learning-gemara/>



### DEBATING INTERMARRIAGE

This article asks some provocative questions about the trials of intermarriage. Read through this article with the discussion questions and open a conversation with the teens about intermarriage.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/kixIK3Z5p5/debating-intermarriage,-and-jewish-survival/>

## VIDEOS



### KOREAN TV CREW VISITS PONOVEZH YESHIVA

Why would Koreans want to visit a Yeshiva? This clip from Israeli news shows a Korean TV crew visiting one of the world's most prestigious Yeshivas. What is the secret to such a high percentage of Jewish Nobel Prize winners? "Talmudic study," conclude the Koreans.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/bWuQ15Mqly/korean-tv-crew-visits-ponevezh-yeshiva/>



### SAM YOUNG – KOREAN AMBASSADOR ON TALMUD

In this clip, Sam Young, Korean Ambassador to Israel, explains what he has learned from Israeli culture and Jewish Talmudic study. He expresses his admiration for Jewish success and how Koreans want to learn from it.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/vxiLeEty6/korean-ambassador-talks-about-the-talmud/>



### WHAT HAS JEWISH MARRIAGE TAUGHT SOCIETY?

Chief Rabbi Lord Dr. Jonathan Sacks addresses the British House of Lords and explains the importance of marriage and how it impacts society as a whole

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/Sd8K8wPfly/what-has-jewish-marriage-taught-society/>



### BLIND DEVOTION

An emotional video about love and care. A wife goes blind but doesn't want help from her husband - he helps her without her knowing. A great parable for how God acts with us.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/EVI9RDfRGv/blind-devotion/>



### VEHI SHE'AMDA

What is the greatest miracle of all? Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein of South Africa explains that witnessing Jewish survival today is a greater miracle than the splitting of the sea.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/SSUOI9qXy3/vehi-sheamda:-the-miracle-of-jewish-survival/>



### WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Watch this clip from Spiderman to start a discussion about the concept of responsibility. This clip and discussion questions work very well with the text session entitled: "Chosen Nation"

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/7YK3EIRGk/with-great-power-comes-great-responsibility/>



### THE CHIMNEY SWEEP AND THE TALMUD

This clip illustrates the approach to the study of Talmud. The clip shows two study partners grappling with a non-Talmudic riddle. Use the suggested instructions and questions with the clip get a real taste of a Talmudic argument.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/fDwqRjnuCJ/chimney-sweep-learning-gemara/>



### THE TRIUMPH OF JEWISH SURVIVAL

This moving clip is a celebration of the triumph of Jewish survival throughout exile and turbulent times, in the last two thousand years. Watch this clip and be inspired both on a personal and national level.

<https://staff.ncsy.org/education/material/QSj8Hy70jY/the-triumph-of-jewish-survival/>