

For grade K/1
 TORAH COURSE
 The Book of Genesis
 Lesson 1: Introduction to Torah

THE DIALOGUE

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR THE CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Torah is a Gift!

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The Torah is a gift to us from Hashem. By studying the Torah, we learn how Hashem wants us to interact in the magnificent world He created for us. By learning the Torah it is as if we are hearing Hashem talk directly to us! **The Torah is a scroll** made from parchment, written in aleph-bet letters. Aleph-bet are the letters we use in Hebrew. **The Torah is filled with stories.** The Torah story spans 2,488 years! Imagine, 2,488 years of stories, of people, of heroes, of villains. Hashem carefully selected particular stories to share with us in His Torah. Each of these stories can teach us so much. **The Torah is filled with Mitzvot.** 613 to be exact. Mitzvot teach us how to treat each other, how to treat the world, how to treat Hashem, and even how to treat ourselves! **If we listen closely to the words of the Torah, we can hear Hashem saying, "Dear people, I created you and I love you. I know how strong and capable you are. I have given you the very important job of filling this world with goodness and holiness. Study the Torah so that you can know how to best accomplish that job."** Wow!

Hashem loves us and trusts us so much! **That is why it is a great mitzvah to study the Torah.** Each morning, when we are ready to begin a new day, we think about this job that Hashem gave us. We think about our responsibility to fill the world with goodness and holiness. We think about how lucky we are that we have the Torah from which to hear Hashem teaching us. So, we recite a bracha (blessing) thanking Hashem for giving us the Torah. The Torah is holy. We dress it in glamorous clothing - a crown, breastplate, pointer, silk, satin or velvet covering - all to show how special and important it is. The Torah is so holy that we keep it in the synagogue, in a special closet called an "Aron Kodesh". We read from the Torah each week, in a special tune. When it is taken out of the Aron Kodesh and brought to the Reader's Table, we stand in respect. We kiss it gently as it makes its way around the shul. The very same words, the very same tune for thousands of years. Since we want to study the Torah, we reprint its words in a book form. The Torah is divided into 5 separate sections, each with a specific overall message.

Let's journey together through the First Book of the Torah!

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Hashem trusts us to fill the world with goodness. What an honor and privilege! How does it feel to be entrusted with such an important job?

The Torah teaches us how to fill the world with goodness. Many times, we learn those lessons from the stories in the Torah. Can you think of a Torah story and a lesson you learned from it?