

Religious School Teacher Orientation

Lesson on Content and Engagement in Lesson Planning

August 10, 2025

Time allotted: 45 minutes

Enduring Understanding:

Temple's Religious School teachers are continuing to craft their skills as they engage and teach our students Judaics and Hebrew.

Objectives:

- The Temple Religious School teachers will explore how content can be taught in an engaging mode for different learning styles.

Materials:

- Parashat Eikev
- Note cards
- pens/pencils
- White board with markers
- Post its - enough stacks with a group of three to have their own color

Teacher prep:

- The word *Eikev* is written on a white board or big poster board at the start of the lesson.
- Three poster papers around the room. One labeled, "Wealth". One labeled, "Land". One labeled, "Generations".

Activity 1: *5 minutes*

Opening activity -

- On a note card, ask the teachers to define the word "Eikev" (located on the front board). Tell them they cannot use their phones. They should write either a few words or a sentence to define the word.

- When finished, collect all the note cards, and Rabbi will read the definitions to the entire group.
- What does Eikev actually mean? It means consequence in terms of a reward. It is also our Torah portion this week, which we will be looking at to help us explore how Jewish content can be taught in different engaging and learning styles.

Activity 2: 25 minutes

- SAY: This Torah portion, *Eikev*, is appropriately named “consequence” or a “reward of” because God lists out all of the rewards the Jewish people will be given when they obey God’s commandments. In the Torah, there are three types of rewards the Jewish people are given when they follow God’s commandments. They are - wealth, land, and numerous generations.
 - *Write the three rewards on the white board under Eikev.*
- ASK: What are three occasions that remind us of these three rewards found in our Torah?
 - Abraham promised generations of the amount of grains of sand on Earth and stars in the sky
 - Moses looking out at the Land of Israel, knowing the Israelites will be entering.
 - Jacob gaining possessions and people throughout his journey throughout the Land of Israel, while running away from his brother Esau.
- SAY: Between yourselves, make groups of three people. In your group, you all will be finders. However, decide between the three of you who will be a scribe and who will be a runner. As finders, read through the Eikev English text and pick out what phrase pertains to a reward of wealth, a reward of land, and a reward of multiple generations. The scribe will write down the verse number on a post it. The runner will be asked to take the post it and put it on the poster sheet hanging in the room that pertains to that verse’s reward.
 - *There are three poster paper hanging around the room. Each should be titled either, Wealth, Land, or Generations.*

This is a competition! So each group will have their own colored post its. The group with the most amount of post its that are correct, deemed by the Rabbi, will win!

- Rabbi will check out all of the posters and the verses to make sure they are correct. The team with the most amount of post its that are correct will win! They will win bragging rights.

Activity 3 - Reflections: 15 minutes

- SAY: We just learned that God provides three rewards to the Jewish people if they follow God’s commandments. They are wealth, land, and numerous generations.

When thinking about this new school year, what are three rewards you hope your students will gain after a year of Religious School in your classroom? Write them down on a note card.

- *Write question on board.*
- *Invite everyone to share.*