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El Shaddai Ministries

How This Curriculum is Designed

Vision of this Curriculum

**To encapsulate and condense prominent points of each week's Torah Portion (God's Teaching/Law), Haftarah (Prophets and Writings) and Brit Chadashah (New Testament) so they can be read and understood in just a few minutes by the young and young at heart

**To help each reader incorporate the Word they are reading into their lives

**To help each reader see how the Bible is connected from cover to cover - It is not two separate books.

**To introduce Hebrew words and understandings into each lesson and build Hebrew vocabulary.

Mission Statement

Our prayer is that the readers of this curriculum will be active participants in the process of relating the Word of God to their own lives. To assist in this process, questions are peppered throughout the "Story" to encourage all to apply and personalize the Word. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we hope each reader will be encouraged that they can read, understand and see how the Bible relates to their lives. With this purpose in mind, the Biblical text is used on the Work Pages.

Hebrew words and definitions are included in the lessons along with Hebrew writing practice to expand Hebrew vocabulary. In keeping the original language of the Bible in mind, hopefully, the Word will be seen through the Israeli-centric, Middle Eastern culture in which it was written. It is a thoroughly Jewish book.

The ultimate goal of this curriculum is to keep all involved, discovering the wonders of His Word, and that His Word will create a thirst in each one both to love Him and to walk in His ways!

Teacher's Lesson Flow Pages

You will notice that the various components making up the Teachers' Lesson Flow pages are laid out in a circle. We've adopted this circular way of teaching and thinking as it is the biblical way of teaching and thinking. In Greek thinking, time is laid out like a straight line, and events are checked off as they happen, as though they are finished and will never happen again.

But the biblical way of thinking about time is depicted in [Isaiah 46:9 and 10](#) where it states:

**“Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times things that are not yet done;
saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure;”**

The Lord declaring in Isaiah that to understand the end, it is necessary to go back to the beginning! Time is not a flat line, but rather circular in nature. Events are connected like the minutes on a clock that begin at 12:00, then second by second, or event by event during the hour, the long clock hand circles back to the beginning point at the same time moving forward one hour – each second and event connected to the previous one.

**“As Yeshua (Jesus) said, “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also
the coming of the Son of Man be.” Matthew 24:37**

Again, we see this concept of going back to what was – in the days of Noah, - to see what will be in the future – at the Lord’s return! The circular relation of time and events is portrayed.

It was with this concept in mind that the **Teacher’s Lesson Flow** Pages were designed.

1. We begin with **Praise to our God** on the **Praise Page** as the Word says:
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” Psalm 100.
 - A. During this year, the students will learn **7 Hebrew Praise Words** and their meanings and significance. We begin in Genesis with the Hebrew word “Hallel”. If you take the Hebrew letters of the word “Hallel” individually, they mean “Behold! the tongue, the tongue is made for praise.” To practice praising the LORD, we have the children speak out their praise and provide a space where the children can write their praise.
 - B. We read and briefly discuss one of the **Fruit of the Spirit** using the definition provided. That specific Fruit of the Spirit can be included as it comes up in discussion regarding the lesson and as it applies to the lives of the children. To help the children apply the Fruit of the Spirit we ask questions and discuss how they will use this at home, school, during play time and with their family this week. Another way to approach learning the Fruit of Spirit is to ask how it feels or what happens when you don’t have this Fruit of the Spirit functioning in your life.

- C. Then the **Life Verse** is read and a song or a game can be used to practice the verse 2 or 3 times. Use any familiar “nursery rhyme song tunes” inserting the words to the Bible verse. You can also write the words of the verse on the board, have the children say all the words, then erase 1 to 3 words each time they say it, until all the words are gone and they can still say the verse.
2. We then move on to a **Hebrew writing lesson**. More thorough directions are given regarding these lessons on the Teacher’s Special Instructions pages prior to each lesson.
3. **The Story**: At this point the story is read. The story is a compilation of the **Torah portion (God’s Teachings / Law)**, the **Haftarah (Prophets and Writings)** and the **Brit Chadashah (New Testament)** which are woven together in story form. Seeing how the three areas of Scripture are connected is always exciting. It takes approximately 5 minutes to read the story. You can use great flexibility in the reading of the story. You can stop at any point and discuss what the story is about, asking questions like:

*Are the people in the story doing what God has said to do?

*What are possible consequences for the actions of the people? Etc.

The questions are endless and help keep the kids drawn into the story. You may want to have them act out a scene, or maybe they could do a pantomime as the story is being read.

Give the children words to listen for as the story is read, and when they hear these word, they should STAND! Children’s bodies are made to move. Physical involvement is a good thing. With physical involvement they can also practice self-control by following directions and only doing as they have been directed. Be sure to commend those following the directions given. For instance, the team following direction gets extra points on the board or extra turn or ??? You can be creative with this!

Be as creative as you would like while keeping the children involved with the story and the characters in the stories. You will note that the script also has questions woven into the story as concepts unfold.

4. Lesson Pages

- A. When you get to the quoted Scriptures in the Children's Lesson Pages, it is always important to compare the Word with the answers that were given during the story time. Of course, making any clarifications in a positive way. Only the Word contains the truth, and our great desire is to train the children **to always go to God's Word for the truth**, regardless of how good an answer may sound or who may have given the answer.
- B. Moving into the **Children's Work Pages**, we begin with the **Torah Portion (God's Teachings / Law)**. The main points covered in the lesson are listed
- C. Following the Torah portion and connected to it is the **Haftarah (Prophets and Writings)**. The connecting points are listed that will be addressed.
- D. The teaching concludes with the **Brit Chadashah (New Testament)**. Again, the main points to be covered are listed, and connect with the Torah portion and Haftarah portion.

Covering these three portions of Scripture shows us the *interaction of the Most High God with people* – His love, care, involvement, His correction and blessings are all woven into these stories. And they show how with unique similarities, the Word of God is amazingly woven together. We see the Old Testament and the New Testament are all one book with one message from cover to cover. It is exciting to “connect the dots” and to discover that our God does not change; He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Games/Activities

It is important to keep the children involved in the lessons. *God's Word is not a lecture, it is alive and vibrant – full of action and mystery, battles, angels, victories, losses and love – bursting with true accounts of God interacting with people!* We want to teach this amazing Word with great excitement and enthusiasm. With this in mind, games and activities are included with each lesson both for fun and to re-enforce concepts presented. You will find general games that can be played with any lesson on pages 249-250.

It is the goal of this curriculum to pass on a love for God's Word and with the help of the Holy Spirit to create a desire in each child to keep coming back for more. With this goal in mind, we encourage you to weave games, skits, songs, flagging and various other activities into your lessons. In other words, HAVE FUN!

The more involvement the children have in the lessons, the more they will learn and love the Word!

Why We Include Hebrew

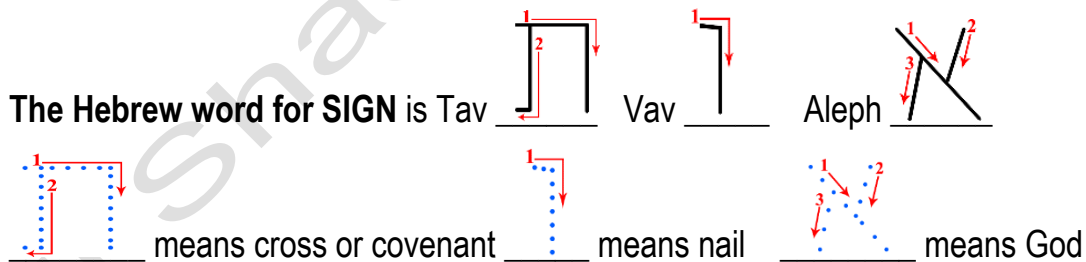
Moses used Hebrew to write the first five books of the Bible. The prophets

wrote their revelations from God in Hebrew! Hebrew is the original language of the Bible! If you want the purest meaning of a text, it is always best to read a book in the original language as every translation, regardless of how carefully it is done, will vary somewhat from the original. Why is that the case? Because words and cultures in which they are spoken will carry meaning that simply cannot be adequately conveyed in another language. In this curriculum, we go back to Hebrew to look at some of the Hebrew names of God and some of the original words used in the stories to give depth of understanding and shed light on the original words and meanings.

Hebrew helps us understand the Bible from the Hebraic, Middle Eastern perspectives and Jewish culture in which it was written. Without this understanding, we can veer off and assign understandings that were not intended. Certainly, God's Word endures to every generation and is for all people, and at the same time, it is a thoroughly Jewish book and needs to be understood through this lens. When we attempt to understand this Book through a Western/Greek mindset, problems can arise. Hebrew helps steer us in the direction of the original intention.

*Every letter in Hebrew is **alive** and **loaded with meanings!** Unlike English, Hebrew letters not only make a sound, but they represent various "pictures"!*

Each letter represents several pictures, and even one, 3 letter word can relate a story or concept. Let me give you an example.



when you combine the meanings of each of these letters, you see the **SIGN** would be **God nailed to the cross!!** Isn't that incredible?!! The good news in one three letter Hebrew word!

English translations of the Bible quote Jesus (Yeshua) as saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega..... Alpha and Omega represent the Greek translation and refer to the first and last letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

But in Hebrew, the letters Alpha and Omega would be Aleph and Tav!

Aleph and Tav are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Yeshua is saying – *I am the living Word* – every letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet *comes alive in Him*. Every word consisting of the Hebrew alphabet from the Aleph to the Tav *is about Him – The Word that is alive!* (John1:1, 1:14)

Your enthusiasm for learning this language will rub off on the children you teach. You will be encouraged and love seeing their joy in learning the language of the Bible.

God bless you as you teach the next generation of God’s children.

Welcome to this marvelous adventure!

Information for Teaching and Learning Hebrew

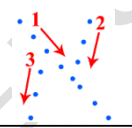
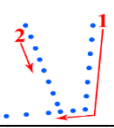
When you begin the adventure of learning Hebrew, it is important to realize that

Hebrew is rich, dynamic and alive with meaning. The Hebrew Aleph-bet differs

greatly from the English alpha-bet. In English, every letter represents a sound or possibly even two or three sounds. In English, letters only represent sounds. In English, there are consonants and vowels.

As in English, every letter of the Hebrew Aleph-bet makes a sound. The sound it makes is the first sound of its name. There are a few letters that can make two sounds. The sound changes of these letters will be the result of a “dot” located within or on top of the letter. However, in Hebrew there are no vowels. A system of vowel points is used to indicate the vowel sound that may accompany any letter.

Out of the 22 letter Hebrew Aleph-bet, there are 2 silent letters:

aleph  and ayin . These letters’ sounds will vary according to the vowel points as used in individual words. As single letters though, they make no sound.

This curriculum does not address vowel points, but the word will be transliterated in the margin for your convenience. The transliteration will be the English pronunciation of the Hebrew word.

Every Hebrew letter also has a numerical value. You will find the list of the letters and their numerical value in Appendix A page 234-238 and will be applied to specific lessons.

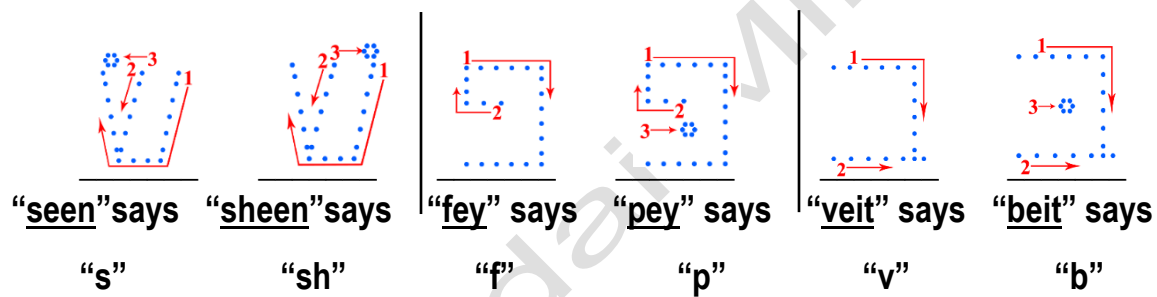
Every Hebrew letter has a variety of pictures and meanings that it can represent. A three letter word can have a specific meaning and have a sentence to a paragraph in additional meaning within the three letters. This will be demonstrated throughout this curriculum. Basic picture meanings are listed on page 234-238.

If the Hebrew writing pages are used consistently, a recognition of the words used from week to week will occur. The children begin to recognize them quite quickly.

A Little More About Hebrew

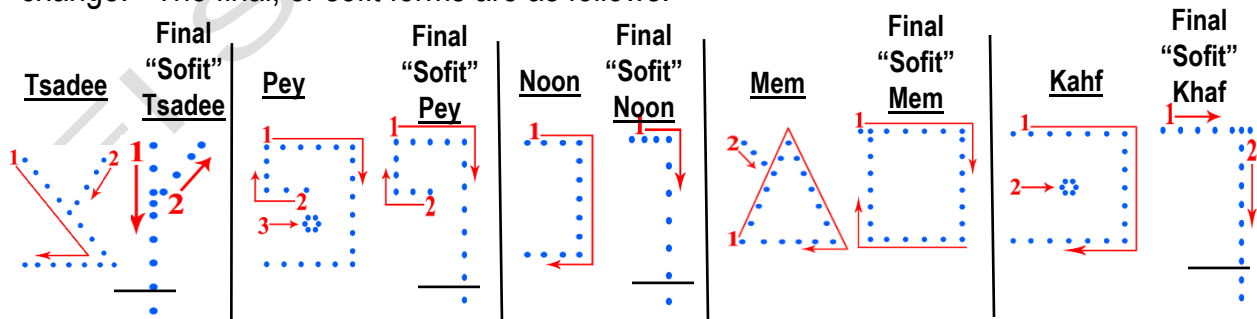
It is good to be aware that there are a few letters in Hebrew that look very similar, but they make different sounds. So recognizing the minor differences is very important.

The following are letters that have sound changes because of a "dot":



You can see that the above letters change sounds according to the position of the dot in or above the letter.

There are no “capital” letters in Hebrew, but five letters have a different “Final Form” referred to as the Sofit form. This means they are the last letter in a word, their form will change. The final, or sofit forms are as follows:



Knowing the “dots” change the sound a letter makes and recognizing the final forms of the above letters is a big step in beginning to understand Hebrew.

For beginners in Hebrew we teach the Hebrew letter, it's corresponding number and the matching commandment. The following pages show the connections. You can practice these in a number of ways.

1. Practice saying the letters and numbers out loud.
 - a. Boys say the Hebrew letter name and girls say the corresponding number.
 - b. Together, they say the commandment that goes with the number and letter.
2. Sing the 10 Commandment Song
3. Cut the separate components of the “10 Word” page into its separate components: letters, numbers and commandments. Mix all the above parts and have contests with teams or with individuals. The first ones to arrange the parts correctly, win.
3. Fill in the missing names on the “10 Word” page.
4. Practice all the letters on the Aleph-Bet Activity Page and learn the sound and numerical value of each letter. Be sure to practice the sound each letter makes.

Welcome to this wonderful world of getting to know the holy language!