



Quick Multi-Age Torah Lesson: Ishmael and Isaac; Sarah and Hagar

Submitted by: *Sara Abrams*

Subject Area: Torah/Talmud/Values

Target Age Group(s): 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade

Materials: Paper, Pencil, Question sheet for each student

Books: Jewish Children's Bible: Genesis

Abstract:

Students will learn the story of Ishmael and Isaac, think critically about jealousy, rivalry, and inheritance and ask themselves what is the solution when two people want the same thing? Students will understand that our Biblical history parallels modern events (Arabs and Jews in conflict) and imagine themselves in the place of these characters.

Essential Questions:

- Who are Isaac, Ishmael, Sarah, and Hagar?
- How are they related?
- How are they alike and different?
- What is the relationship of Sarah and Hagar?
- Was this a just solution to banish Hagar?
- Can they think of other solutions?
- What do you think of Abraham's role in this conflict?

Procedure:

Students will come in and sit on floor. The Teacher will explain that today we will be reading sections of the Torah with a small group. Each student is supposed to participate because they will be sharing ideas with the class. Teacher will say: Sometimes we find ourselves in great conflict, wanting the same thing that someone else does. It is very important to try to understand every perspective, even if we can not agree with the other person; we must try to understand them to reach a certain peace.



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Students will be split up into 5 groups (Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael)
Students will read the passage to themselves (from copies pages of the book).
Students will this discuss and write down how they think their character felt towards the others

Questions for the Biblical Characters' Groups:

What are you (your character) happy about?
What are you sad about?
How will this event affect your future?
Did you act correctly all of the time?
What could you have done better?
If you were harsh with the others, why?
Would you pick a different solution if you could?

Students will present their thoughts to the other group.

Closure:

Together we will brainstorm the similarities and differences of Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael. We will think of solutions for the situation. Was it right that Hagar was banished? Was it right for Abram to take another wife?