

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in collaboration with **The PJ Library - Jewish Bedtime Stories & Songs for Families** brings you this special supplement to the **Foundations of Jewish Family Living**. It is our hope that the ideas and themes, books, and videos will help you take the conversation from your Foundations classes back home to share with your children.

The PJ Library program supports families in their Jewish journey by sending Jewish-content books and music on a monthly basis to children from age six months to five, six, seven, or eight years old, depending on the community. Created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, The PJ Library is a national program implemented by local communities.

The selections here are suggested by Vivian Newman of The PJ Library professional staff. You can find more information about each of these books and about The PJ Library at their website: www.PJLibrary.org.



Open up discussion with your children on many of the values presented here in the **Foundations of Jewish Family Living** by clicking on one of the many **Shalom Sesame** video clips linked to our website.

Go to www.fmams.org.il and choose the **Foundations** tab from the main menu on our home page. There you will be directed to the Shalom Sesame Video Clips page where you can view specially chosen clips that relate to these **Foundations** lessons.

Produced by Sesame Workshop, the non-profit creator of Sesame Street around the world, Shalom Sesame offers children and families an introduction to Jewish life and Israel through video, games, and resources for parents and educators. The series includes twelve episodes on DVD, a website and a broad range of community outreach initiatives. For more information about Shalom Sesame, and to view more of their video clips, go to their website at www.shalomsesame.org.



Lesson 7: Protecting our Eden – *Tikkun Olam*

Themes and Major Ideas

- The world is a gift to humankind. We must not ruin or destroy the world.
- *Tikkun Olam* refers to the practice of caring for the world for future generations.
- Jews should strive to be a light unto the nations and should demonstrate to others how to help save the world's environment.
- *Bal Tashchit* refers to the Torah commandment of “not wasting” (This commandment stems from the Torah's prohibition against cutting down fruit trees during times of war).

Topics for Discussion with Children

- It is our God-given job to take care of the world.
- As *Tu biShevat*, the “birthday” or “new year of the trees” approaches, it is important for us to be thankful for all that trees do for us, and for us to take care of both the trees and the world around us.
- The Torah teaches us the commandment of *Bal Tashchit*. Reusing and recycling are ways that all of us can fulfill this mitzvah.



www.shalomsesame.org

Watch Avigail Grows a Tree. Avigail plants a small tree in honor of *Tu biShevat* and is fearful that it won't grow.

Also: Planting a Tree. A young girl in Turkey plants a tree with her grandfather illustrates the concept of generations providing for generations yet to come.

Ages 2-5

Dear Tree by Dora Weber

Through clear, interesting illustrations, this book shows the many benefits which trees bestow upon us, and models different ways in which we can take care of and express our gratitude towards the trees.

Joseph Had Little Overcoat by Simms Tabak.

Emphasizes the need to recycle and reuse. Rather than discard his beloved overcoat, Joseph continually recycles it. He skillfully reshapes and reuses it until not a stitch remains of the original coat.

Ages 3-6

Something from Nothing by Phoebe Gilman.

A story which illustrates the many benefits of recycling. Joseph's grandfather helps young Joseph find ways to continually recycle and reuse his wonderful baby blanket. Each time Joseph's grandfather cuts and refashions the blanket; the family of mice who live underneath Joseph's house pick up the scraps of material and use them to create some new additions to their home.

Sammy Spider's First Day of School by Sylvia Rouss.

A Sammy Spider story which teaches about respect for animals and emphasizes the necessity of protecting all living creatures. When Sammy accompanies Josh to school, he plays happily in the classroom until his presence is discovered by several of Josh's classmates. A few frightened classmates demand that someone step on the spider, but Josh reminds his classmates that we must never hurt any of God's creatures.

Ages 6-12

The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba by Sheldon Oberman.

A beautiful legend that speaks of the necessity of caring for and respecting all living creatures. Hoping to impress and demonstrate his cleverness to the Queen of Sheba, King Solomon promises to build her a palace made of bird beaks. Although all of the birds are willing to give their beaks to Solomon, one small bird, the hoopoe, reminds Solomon of how important a beak is to a bird and how devastated the birds will be without their beaks. Thanks to the riddles which the hoopoe poses to Solomon, Solomon realizes that even though he is a powerful king, he must never misuse his power and hurt other creature.