

Club Maccabee **Handbook Samples**

For

Year Two : *Redemption*

תורה \ Torah

(Exodus through Deuteronomy)

Acknowledgements

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In this Handbook we quote from several versions of the Scriptures: New American Standard Bible (NASB), New International Version (NIV), The Stone Edition Tanach (Stone), JPS Tanakh (JPS), Jewish New Testament (JNT) and the Soncino Press Pentateuch & Haftorahs (Soncino).

Finally, and most importantly, we thank God for our Messiah Yeshua, by whose death we have received life!

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Table of Contents

Introduction: What is Club Maccabee?	Pages 3
How does Club Maccabee Work?	Pages 4
Club Maccabee Weekly Lessons	Pages 12
LESSON 1 - RESPECTING GOD	
LESSON 2 - A BURNING BUSH	
LESSON 3 - STANDING UP TO A KING	
LESSON 4 - PHARAOH TRIES TO FIGHT GOD	
LESSON 5 - THE LAMB OF GOD	
LESSON 6 - WALKING ON DRY GROUND	
LESSON 7 - BREAD FROM HEAVEN	
LESSON 8 - GOD GIVES HIS TORAH	
LESSON 9 - A CALF THAT BREAKS A COVENANT	
LESSON 10 - SIN & SACRIFICE	
LESSON 11 - LIVE SEPARATE FOR GOD	
LESSON 12 - GOD'S HOLIDAYS	
LESSON 13 - ORGANIZING THE PEOPLE	
LESSON 14 - GOD DOESN'T LIKE COMPLAINING	
LESSON 15 - MOSES LOSES HIS TEMPER	
LESSON 16 - SNAKE PROBLEMS	
LESSON 17 - BALAAM AND HIS TALKING DONKEY	
LESSON 18 - TAKING WHAT GOD GIVES US	
LESSON 19 - LOVING A LOVING GOD	
LESSON 20 - A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP	
Club Maccabee Extras	Pages 53
<i>Holiday Lessons and Special Activities</i>	
Club Maccabee Games	Pages 65
Reproducible Forms, Flyers, and Materials	Pages 69
<i>Song Sheets</i>	
<i>List of Hebrew Words</i>	
<i>Scripture Memory Review Sheets</i>	
<i>Weekly Team Point Chart</i>	
<i>Passover Game Sheet</i>	
<i>Ten Commandments Handout</i>	
<i>Club Maccabee Registration and Medical form</i>	
<i>Club Maccabee Children's Siddur</i>	

Club Maccabee Year Two Sample Lessons

LESSON 6 - WALKING ON DRY GROUND

Scripture:	Exodus 12:33 – 15:21
Theme:	God saves His people!
Memory Verses:	Exodus 14:13 But Moses said to the people, “Have no fear! Stand by, and witness the deliverance which the LORD will work for you today; ...” (JPS) I Tim. 1:15b ...[Messiah Yeshua] came into the world to save sinners... (NASB)
Hebrew Words:	ישועה (ye-shu-ah) salvation עשה (ah-sah) to do (verb)

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Jewish Life: Kindness to Animals (Tzaar Baalei Hayyim)

Props: *Bring in a pet such as a hamster or bird (something small);*

Big Idea to get across – Jewish people have a long tradition of kindness to animals!

Show the pet you have brought to Club. Ask the children about their own pets. Then discuss with them about how some people are cruel to animals and how this is not the sort of thing Jewish people should do (no one should be cruel to animals!). Let them know that Jewish people have a long tradition of showing kindness to animals because animals were created by God and the Torah teaches us to respect them. We respect our animals by:

- 1) Feeding them before we feed ourselves
- 2) Making sure they have clean water and cages
- 3) Not abusing them or hurting them in any way

In the Midrash (Exodus Rabbah) there is a story of Moses and his kindness to animals. “Once when Moses was a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, he tracked a runaway lamb to a pool of water. Seeing that the lamb was exhausted, he placed it on his shoulders and carried it all the way back to the rest of the flock. God, seeing this, declared: “You who have compassion for a lamb shall now be the shepherd of my people Israel” (quoted from **The Third Jewish Catalog**, by Sharon Strassfeld & Michael Strassfeld, page 288)

Lesson 6 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Genesis 12:33 – 15:21

Theme: God saves His people!

Introduction: Set up a chessboard in a “checkmate” situation and/or a checkers board in a situation where one player is about to lose. Ask the children to study the game board(s). Ask, “What is about to happen? What can the losing player do?” Show the children what the next moves are to finish the game. Ask, “How could the loser have stopped this? Can anyone stop a checkmate? Can any Checkers player win when his pieces are about to all be taken? Could God beat a checkmate?”

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky Background with desert overlay, 185
Flannelgraph Figures: S2, S3, S6, 14, 51, 88, 89, 90, 106, 106A, 108, 127, 155, 173, 190, 283

After the firstborn in all Egypt died, except those who had lamb’s blood on the door, Pharaoh finally told the people to leave Egypt. The Egyptian people knew that God had done great miracles and had killed their firstborn sons. They wanted Israel to obey God and leave, so they gave them jewelry and money to help them.

(add 14 with 283 in hand, 51, 88, 89, 106, 106A, 108, 127, 155) The Israelites formed a huge marching column, bringing animals and wagons with their belongings. Their line was very wide and very long because there were two million of them. They had to leave in a hurry and mainly had only flat, unleavened bread to eat. God told the Israelites to celebrate Passover every year.

After the Israelites had left and gotten away from Egypt, God told them to camp on the edge of the Sea of Reeds. God knew that Pharaoh would think Israel was trapped and chase them with his army. God had decided to kill Pharaoh’s army because they had sinned by making Israel into slaves.

God knew what he was doing, because he is all powerful and knows everything. God

led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. *(add 173)* But the Israelites were afraid when they saw Pharaoh’s army approaching. How could they escape? *(remove the desert overlay, 185, all people; add S2, S3, S6, 14 with 283 in hand, 51, 89, 90, 106, 173)*

The water was on one side and they could not cross. On the other side was the Egyptian army. They seemed to be trapped! God had a plan all along. He told Moses to raise his staff. When Moses did, the waters split in half, with a wall of water on one side, dry ground in the middle, and a wall of water on the other side. No one ever saw a miracle like it! *(add 190)*

When the Israelites were on the other side, the Egyptians were still chasing them through the parted waters. God caused the water to fall down and drown the Egyptian armies. No one had ever seen an army drowned like that.

When the Israelites got to the other side, they danced and sang to God, thanking and praising him.

Challenge:

Whose side would you want to be on when the sea was parted? Whose side will you be on when you meet God face to face? How did the Israelites get on God’s side? How can you know you are on God’s side?

LESSON 7 - BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Scripture:	Exodus 15:22 – 18:27		
Theme:	God gives us everything we need!		
Memory Verses:	Exodus 16:35 And the Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to ... the land of Canaan. (JPS)		
	Matthew 6:33 But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (NIV)		
Hebrew Words:	אָכַל	(ah-kal)	to eat (verb)
	בָּא	(bah)	to come (verb)

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Jewish Life: Kosher

Props: Bring some food containers that are kosher (they should have either the OU, K or come from a clearly Kosher manufacturer.

Big Idea to get across – God has asked Jewish people to eat differently than others.

Ask the children what they know about “Kosher”. Hand out the kosher items you brought so they can see that many of the items are common like cereals, soups, desserts. Tell the children that “Kosher” literally means “proper, right, pleasing”. The rules for Kosher eating come from the Torah in Leviticus 11:1-45. Besides these Biblical rules, there have developed many Jewish Laws regarding Kosher such as the Jewish tradition of not eating milk with meat; this is a very old Kosher Law that predates Messiah Yeshua in the First Century. Name brand potato chips or cereal with a kosher approved symbol (such as OU or K) are really not substantially different than the same bag without the symbol. The difference is that a special Rabbi inspects the place where the Kosher food is made to make sure it conforms to Jewish Kosher Law. If it does he approves the food to have the special Kosher symbol. Kosher meat typically is more expensive than non-kosher meat because the animals have to be healthier, and as learned last week in the lesson on kindness to animals, they need to be raised properly and then killed in a special way by a Jewish butcher called a *Shochet*.

(Recommended Book: **The First Jewish Catalog**, by Siegel, Strassfeld & Strassfeld)

Lesson 7 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Exodus 15:22 – 18:27

Theme: God gives us everything we need!

Introduction: Bring grocery items from the store and the receipt from your purchase. Have the kids guess the cost of common grocery items. Help them figure out how much it would cost to feed a family of four for one day and for one week. Ask, “Does that seem like a lot of money to you? How do your parents get that money? Is it hard to get enough money for a house and food and clothes?”

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Scene 1: Blue Ocean/Sky Background with S2, S4, S15, 185
Scene 2: Blue Ocean/Sky Background with desert overlay, S19, 185, 207, 208

Flannelgraph Figures: 14, 18, 52, 74, 79, 88, 101, 106A, 108, 144, 193, 252

The desert where the Israelites marched was a barren wasteland. There was almost no water or food—except some lizards and cacti! How would two million people get what they needed?

Some of the people didn’t have a clue yet about God. He had just parted a sea so they could walk through on dry land. Yet then the people saw the desert, some of them didn’t get it. They complained, “What will we drink?”

If God can part a sea, he can make water in a desert—especially since he created water!

When the people camped that night, there was a poisonous pond nearby. (*add 14, 79, 88, 106A, 108*) But God did a miracle through Moses. He threw in a piece of wood and then the water wasn’t poisonous anymore. (*add 193*)

Don’t try this at home. Wood doesn’t turn poison into water. Everyone knows that. God just wanted to show them

he could do the impossible. (*remove everything; switch to Scene 2*)

But some of the Israelites still didn’t get the picture. (*add 18, 52, 108*) After they all had plenty to drink, they looked around and saw that the only food were some lizards and cacti. “We had great food in Egypt!” some of them complained. They seemed to forget that while they were in Egypt they were slaves—even slaves with good food are still slaves!

Even though they didn’t deserve his help, God wasn’t going to let them starve. He made some quail fly into the camp where the Israelites could trap them. (*add 144*)

Then a dew covered the ground the next morning. When it dried up, little white flakes covered the ground. (*add 74, 101, 252*) The Israelites gathered it into baskets and they didn’t know what to call it, so they called it “whatcha-ma-call-it” which in Hebrew is “manna”. God gave them everything they needed, because God can do anything.

Challenge:

If your parents work to make money, how does God help provide food? Is there anything you need that God can’t provide? Is there a difference between getting what you want and what you need? Have you ever grumbled about not getting things? Have you ever wanted something you didn’t have money for and God provided it anyway?

LESSON 8 - GOD GIVES HIS TORAH

Scripture:	Exodus 19:1 – 23:3		
Theme:	God’s rules are good for us!		
Memory Verses:	Exodus 19:5a Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples... (JPS)		
	I John 5:3	This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, (NIV)	
Hebrew Words:	עַתָּה	(ah-tah)	now (adverb)
	עַם	(awm)	people

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Mitzvot: The Ten Commandments

Props: Have a copy for each child of the Ten Commandments handout found at the back of this Handbook

Big Idea to get across – God gave His Commandments to the Jewish People to help them live for Him.

There is a Hebrew word called “Mitzvot” (commandments or good deeds). Jewish people many times speak of “doing the mitzvot”, doing good deeds. These mitzvot are God’s commandments found in the Scripture. In this next section we will be looking at various mitzvot found in the Torah that the children should be introduced to.

The Ten Commandments of God are the primary “Mitzvot” of the Torah. Jewish tradition teaches that all of the Torah can be found in the Ten Commandments. These Ten Commandments, which were originally written on the two stone tablets that Moses received at Mount Sinai, are the most commonly known set of religious law known in the world. Go over the handout with the children. You can offer a special award for those who are willing to memorize them. Jewish people used to recite the Ten Commandments each day during prayers at the Temple in Jerusalem. This is no longer done today.

Note: The listing of the Ten Commandments as we have included them follows the Jewish traditional rendering.

Lesson 8 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Exodus 19:1 – 23:3

Theme: God’s rules are good for us!

Introduction: Prepare beforehand some blank “tablets of the law” from poster board or cardboard. In front of the children, write the first four commandments on one tablet. Explain very briefly what they mean. Say, “These four are our responsibility toward God.” On the second, write the other six and briefly explain. Say, “These are our six duties toward other people.”

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky Background with Desert overlay
Flannelgraph Figures: 14, 15, 88, 89, 89B, 97B, 106, 108, 109, 119, 172, 173, 184, 197, 281A

Very few people ever hear God’s voice. When they do, they are usually afraid. God is mighty and holy. The people of Israel came to a mountain called Sinai to hear from God. (*add 15, 88, 89, 89B, 97B, 106, 108, 109, 119, 197*) The cloud of God’s glory rested on the top of the mountain. (*add 173*) There was lightning and a fire that burned in the air and never stopped. There was an earthquake, just a small one—but it scared the people. Then a trumpet—a shofar—started blowing, but no man was blowing it.

Then God spoke ten sayings to Moses, (*switch 173 to 172; add 184*) called the Ten Commandments. He said that no other god was to be worshipped, no idols made, no misusing of God’s name, and that the Shabbat day was to be a day of rest. He told people to honor their parents, not to murder, commit adultery, steal, lie in court, or want things that belonged to other people.

All of this frightened the people. God’s presence was awesome and powerful. They asked Moses to talk to God and tell them what God said, because they were afraid to listen to his voice directly. (*switch 15 to 14*)

Then God told Moses more things. He wanted the Israelites to know his ways and his teachings. The teachings of God are not like rules to keep us from having fun. They are a better way to live.

It is not good for us to worship idols or believe in other gods, because there is only one God. God made rules about slaves so the people wouldn’t force people into slavery. He taught them how to make laws about injuries, stealing, and marriage. He gave the people holy days and we now call them “holidays”.

After giving the people his teachings, he promised to lead them into the Promised Land himself, in the form of an angel. God would lead the people by his teaching and by his presence.

The first ten sayings that God gave were written down on two stone tablets. They were the most important laws, the ones that stood for all the rest. The other laws were written down later on many other tablets. Eventually they were all written in Scripture, God’s teaching for us. (*put 281A in the hand of 15*)

Challenge:

Have the children memorize the ten commandments: no other gods, no idols, don’t misuse the Lord’s name, keep Shabbat, honor your parents, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t commit adultery, don’t lie in court, and don’t want what other people have.

LESSON 9 - A CALF THAT BREAKS A COVENANT

Scripture:	Exodus 31:18 – 34:35		
Theme:	God wants us to choose Him above everything else!		
Memory Verses:	Exodus 32:26a Moses stood up ... and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come here!”... (JPS)		
	I John 5:21	Dear children, keep yourselves from idols. (NIV)	
Hebrew Words:	עָמַד	(ah-mad)	to stand (verb)
	שַׁעַר	(sha-ar)	gate

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Mitzvot: The 613 Commandments of God

Props: We recommend that you give the children a partial list of the commandments. This is available on line at a variety of sources. Do a search on “613 Mitzvot”. You can then compile the list as you want.

Big Idea to get across – Jewish tradition has developed a list of Mitzvot.

The Ten Commandments of God are the most well known “Mitzvot” of the Torah. Jewish tradition teaches that all of the Torah can be found in the Ten Commandments. Besides these “Ten Commandments”, Jewish tradition has identified 613 specific mitzvot that Jews are supposed to observe. In the Talmud, Rabbi Simlai stated: 613 mitzvot were given to Moses on Mount Sinai; 365 are prohibitive commandments corresponding to the number of days in the solar year; and 248 performative commandments which correspond to the number of organs and limbs of the human body.” Makkot 23b

There are actually differing opinions as to what the 613 Mitzvot are (the list varies between Rabbinical authorities). The number “613”, as we read in the above quote from the Talmud, does not change. They are divided into two groups listed below with **three examples** of each:

- a. 365 which are considered negative, things not to do
 - Not believing in any other God
 - Not to make images for the purpose of worship
 - Not to make an idol (even for others) to worship
- b. 248 which are considered positive things which we are to do
 - Believing in God
 - The Unity of God
 - Loving God

Help the children understand that Jewish tradition has developed ways to help us follow God. As Rabbinic Judaism has unfortunately gone to extreme measures to build the mitzvot into a path for salvation, we don’t want to encourage this kind of observance in the children. Its important only that the children know that the number “613” is the “official list” of Mitzvot according to Jewish tradition.

Lesson 9 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Exodus 31:18 – 34:35

Theme: God wants us to choose Him above everything else!

Introduction: Tell the children to form a group. Place a rope or string in a circle around the children. Say, “This string is the edge of an island you are stranded on. If you could have any one of these things on the island with you, which one would you pick.” (Offer them a choice of a comic book, a \$20 bill, a picture of a sports/music/movie star, or a Bible). Ask, “Why would you pick that?” Explain what an idol is (anything that people love more than God). Ask, “Do you think any of these things could be idols for some people?”

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky Background with Desert overlay, 185
Flannelgraph Figures: 15, 35, 59, 88, 89, 106, 106A, 108, 172, 184, 197, 219, 281A, 282

Moses sure was gone a long time! He went up on the mountain to talk with God and get more teachings from him. (*add 172, 184, 197*) But a lot of the people didn't think he would ever come down. They had seen Moses go into the glory cloud. Maybe he died in there, some of them figured. Or maybe God had taken him up into heaven and wouldn't give him back.

“Hey, when we were in Egypt there were always gods of metal and stone to pray to. If we don't have Moses, we'd better get us a god!”

So, while Moses was talking to the God who loved them and brought them out of Egypt, the Israelites planned to make an idol. They came every day crying and complaining about it to Aaron, until he finally gave in. (*add 35, 59, 89*) He told them to give him gold rings and earrings that he could melt and make into an idol.

When Aaron made the golden calf, some people thought it was Israel's God and

some thought it was a new god. Either way, God doesn't like idols. (*add 88, 106, 106A, 108, 219*)

So Moses came down the mountain. (*add 15 with 281A in hand*) God wanted to destroy the Israelites and Moses was angry too. (*switch 281A to 282*) He broke the tablets of the law on the ground because the people weren't following them.

Moses ground up the golden calf into powder and put it into the water. He made the Israelites drink the water. Then he cried out, “Whoever is for the Lord, come to me.” The men of the tribe of Levi came to him. Moses commanded them to kill the people who had been worshipping the idol and they did.

The next day, after thousands of Israelites had died, Moses prayed for the rest of them, that God would not destroy them. He also asked that God still be with them with them as they travel to the Land of Canaan. Moses even asked to see God's glory. God answered Moses' prayer.

Challenge:

Do any of you worship idols? There are other kinds of idols besides statues of gods. Anything that keeps us from following God can be an idol. What are some things people love more than God? Ask God to help you make him #1 in your life.