

# crossroads

a messianic b'nei mitzvah program

by **Judy Rich**

## Teacher's Guide

This **Teacher's Guide** to the Crossroads B'nei Mitzvah Program is copyright © January 2020 by Judy Rich

All rights reserved. The author gives permission for this **Teacher's Guide** to be printed for the personal class use of any teacher and/or parent who is facilitating a student's journey through the Crossroads program.

Messianic Kids - [messianickids.com](http://messianickids.com)

First Edition

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Tree of Life Version. Copyright © 2015 by the Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Designed by Judy Rich.*

*Photography Credits: [stock.adobe.com](http://stock.adobe.com) and [istockphoto.com](http://istockphoto.com), used by permission.*

# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Welcome .....	1
Program Overview .....	2
Timeline to Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah .....	3
To Parents & Teachers .....	4
Mentorship .....	5
My Immersion .....	6
My Mitzvah Project .....	7
Preparing for My Drash .....	8

## Unit One – The Basics of Messianic Judaism

Lesson 1: The Beginning of Your Journey .....	10
Lesson 2: God Our Father – His Character & Attributes .....	11
Lesson 3: Yeshua Our Messiah – The Word Made Flesh .....	12
Lesson 4: The Spirit of God – The Firstfruits of His Kingdom .....	13
Lesson 5: The Holy Scriptures – Our Solid Foundation .....	15
Lesson 6: Children of God – Our Relationship with HaShem .....	16

## Unit Two – Messianic Judaism and Me

Lesson 7: Created for a Purpose – Why Am I Here?.....	18
Lesson 8: Our Calling as Disciples – Torah & Gospel Matters .....	19
Lesson 9: Jew and Gentile – Unique & United .....	21
Lesson 10: The Olive Tree – Judaism & Christianity .....	23
Lesson 11: A Modern Ancient Faith - The Story of Messianic Judaism .....	24
Lesson 12: God Meeting with Us – His Appointed Times .....	25

## Unit Three – Making My Faith My Own

Lesson 13: Designed with Intention – Embracing Your Identity .....	26
Lesson 14: Immersion – Public Affirmation of Your Faith .....	27
Lesson 15: Prayer – Communicating with Your Creator .....	28
Lesson 16: Study – Transforming Your Mind .....	29
Lesson 17: Stewardship – Godly Use of Your Resources .....	30
Lesson 18: Integrity – Consistent Godly Action .....	31

## Appendix

Glossary .....	32
Parent Resources .....	34
Time to Celebrate! .....	36

# Welcome!

Welcome to the **Crossroads** B'nei Mitzvah Program! This program is designed to come alongside parents and Messianic faith communities as they help their youth transition from childhood to young adulthood. It is designed to culminate in a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony on the Shabbat following your child's 13th birthday, or whatever point after that you see fit.

The term "bar/bat mitzvah" simply means "son/daughter of the commandment" and more than a ceremony, it means that the individual having the ceremony has chosen to take on the responsibility of the commandments of God. The student who desires to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is choosing to publicly declare his faith in God and submission to His Word for the rest of his life. In keeping with Jewish heritage, we view this coming-of-age as a change of status for the student – no longer will he or she be viewed as a child, but as a young adult.

In the **Crossroads** program, the act of preparing for and becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah means:

- Affirming a desire to live a life of faith in and surrender to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and discipleship to our Master, Yeshua the Messiah, regardless of whether you were raised Jewish or Gentile
- Taking responsibility for one's own spiritual health and growth
- Entering into a settled sense of identity as a young man or woman of God with a clear sense of purpose in godly living
- Celebrating that choice and achievement surrounded by community

Our program is intended to be a type of "threefold cord [which] is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12) and has 3 main components:

1. Class and curriculum in your faith community with peers and teacher
2. Follow-up conversations and direction at home with parents
3. Mentorship with another godly adult in your community (see p. v)

In the Jewish community, children spend a year preparing for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This program will take 18 weeks, and we strongly suggest children spend at least 6 months in purposeful learning and growth before their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

We are excited that your students are taking this step in their relationship with God!

***This teacher's guide will walk you through each step of this program. I have tried to be as thorough as I can be with it. It contains answers to all of the Scripture fill-ins and other ideas to help aid your teaching. If you have any feedback about the teacher's guide, I would love to hear it. Please email me at [purchases@messianickids.com](mailto:purchases@messianickids.com).***

Shalom!



Judy Rich

# Program Overview

**Crossroads** integrates many different aspects of spiritual education, including:

**Lessons about God, Identity, and Godly Living:** The core of the *Crossroads* B'nei Mitzvah program will be a series of 18 lessons about God, our identity as believers in Messiah, and various aspects of godly living.

**Topics for Home and Mentorship Discussion:** We will also include various topics for parents and mentors to discuss with students. These kinds of deep conversations are powerful in helping youth form their convictions.

**Scripture Memory:** Each lesson includes required Scripture passages for memory that parents or teachers will need to sign off on. Verses are provided in the Tree of Life version, but you can adjust that for your student if desired.

**Public Immersion:** Scripture shows us the importance of being publicly immersed (baptized) as a sign of our identification with Messiah Yeshua. This is strongly recommended to go along with the program. It is our belief that if a young person isn't ready to be immersed, they are not ready to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**Scripture Reading:** Included is a Scripture reading chart. Students are expected to read through the Torah and the Gospels in the 6-12 months leading up to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**A Mitzvah Project:** As in most Jewish communities, part of this program is the completion of some kind of major project that helps others and shines the light of Messiah to your community.

**Preparing to Read from the Torah and Give the Drash:** The Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony will look different in each congregation, but typically the climax is the reading of the Torah and giving of the *drash* in a Shabbat morning service. Ideas for incorporating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service are in the appendix.

**Basic Hebrew Education:** Learning to read Hebrew is a major part of a traditional preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This is to enable the young adult to read from the Torah scroll in service. Hebrew education is outside the scope of the *Crossroads* program, but we highly recommend congregations incorporate this if possible. Resources for this are listed in the appendix.

**Intro to Jewish and Messianic History:** Most Jewish communities incorporate some amount of learning about the history of Judaism and Jewish identity. As Messianic Judaism is both a product of Judaism and Christianity, we recommend studying the history of both faiths. Resources for this are listed in the appendix.

# Timeline to Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah

## 6-12 months prior (process typically begun around 12th birthday)

- Begin Bible reading (see p. x in the *Crossroads* book)
- Establish a mentor
- Begin learning Hebrew

## 4-6 months prior

- Begin the *Crossroads* lessons with your cohort
- Begin studying Jewish/Christian/Messianic history (there is one lesson about this in the program, but doing more will increase your understanding)
- Choose your ceremony date
- Send save-the-dates (if desired)
- Begin planning your Mitzvah Project (see p. vi)

## 3 months prior

- Stay on track with this program, including lessons, Scripture reading, and memorization
- Send invitations
- Public immersion

## 1-2 months prior

- Plan any surrounding events (Erev Shabbat dinner, after-service lunch, Havdalah reception, etc.)
- Meet with your congregational leader to discuss your parsha and drash (have filled out p. viii-ix in the *Crossroads* book)
- Complete Mitzvah Project (see p. vi-vii in the *Crossroads* book)

## 2-4 weeks prior

- Meet with your congregational leader to discuss the order of service and each person's role
- Wrap up any remaining lessons or homework
- Provide digital photo and/or slideshow of student
- Make any last plans for décor, food, guests, etc.

***More details for all of these things are located throughout the Crossroads book. Some are also elaborated on in this Teacher's Guide. Parents and teachers are encouraged to read the Crossroads book prior to beginning the course.***

# To Parents & Teachers

The **Crossroads** program is designed especially for use in a congregational setting, but it can be adapted to be used at home by parents as well when needed.

Mentorship is an important part of **Crossroads**. If you are using this program at home, it is even more critical to set up at least one mentor for your child, so that he or she is getting feedback from other adults in his or her life.

For use in a congregation, we recommend setting up “cohort” groups - a group of young people who are close to the same age and going through the program together. If you have a large group, you could break the group up by girls and guys or by age. While the traditional age for this program is 12-13, it is common for youth who are a bit older to want to go through this process if they joined a Messianic congregation later in their childhood. We don't recommend it younger than 12.

Classes can be taught by a dedicated teacher or by the parents of the young people involved. Any dedicated adult can teach through this program - the format is open-and-go, needing only a Bible to go along with it. We encourage teachers to share their own personal stories and make this as applicable as possible to the students you are teaching.

The **Crossroads** course is intended for both Jewish and Gentile youth. Most Messianic communities have both Jewish and Gentile families, and we encourage communities to tailor this program to best meet their needs.

This core 18-lesson discipleship course is meant to be one element (albeit, a critical one) of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation year. As explained on page ii, outside of these 18 lessons, we strongly encourage congregations and families to incorporate a Mizvah Project, Hebrew education, Jewish and Christian history education, and more. All of these elements together will combine to form a meaningful and impactful year for your student.

Best wishes for a wonderful year!

*All Scripture references are in the Tree of Life Version, which you can learn more about at [tlubiblesociety.org](http://tlubiblesociety.org).*

*If you have a student without a TLV version Bible, they will likely be able to figure out the missing words from a different translation. The biggest goal is to become more familiar with their Bible - there is no “perfect” translation of Scripture.*

# Mentorship

A powerful tool in developing young adults as leaders is mentorship. You as the parents are the ultimate mentor, but it is also valuable to have another adult outside your family to mentor your student as they transition into young adulthood. This person isn't there to take your place as the parents, but to give another trusted source of godly wisdom, encouragement, and insight.

Each B'nei Mitzvah student should, along with his or her parents, choose a mentor adult to walk alongside him or her through this journey. Our hope is that a deep relationship will develop that will be a source of life for the student for years to come, even long after this season of transition is over.

We suggest that you together choose someone who displays godly character and wisdom. The mentor should be the same gender as your child, as part of the goal is to display godly manhood/womanhood for your child to aspire to and work through issues that are gender-specific.

Here are some questions to consider when looking for a mentor:

- Do I look up to this person?
- Does it seem like I'll get along with this person?
- Is this person engaged in the local community?
- Does this person display a life of integrity?
- Does this person display a passion for the Lord?
- Is this person willing to commit to helping me grow spiritually and practically?

Each of the 18 lessons have a series of questions at the end of it for students to go through with their parents and mentor. Of course, the student can also ask for wisdom in any other area of life, but these guided questions are made to help the student progress through the program and through a directed course of discipleship.

We suggest that each family set up a weekly time for the student and mentor to meet together to go over these questions and build relationship.

Enjoy this journey and the relationships you build along the way!

# My Immersion

Lesson 14 is all about immersion - what it is and why it is important for disciples of Yeshua. As part of your journey to becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, we believe it is valuable to be immersed in water. This is an outward sign of your decision to be a disciple of Messiah and of the rebirth that occurs when we give our lives to Him.

If you are a part of a congregation or synagogue, they likely already have a system in place for how they do immersion. But if not, or if you are doing this as a family without a faith community, here are some ideas:

This is the traditional Jewish blessing for immersion:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הַטְּבִילָה  
*Baruch atah ADONAI, Eloheinu Melech ha olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu al ha tevilah.*  
Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commands us concerning immersion.

Asking a few questions helps ensure that the person being immersed understands the weightiness of what he/she is doing. Here are some questions you can use:

*Have you repented from sin and dead works, and renounced all evil?*

*Do you have confidence of God's salvation through the atonement of Yeshua the Messiah alone?*

*Do you surrender yourself to Yeshua the Messiah and commit yourself to be his disciple, following after him and walking in his ways?*

When the student affirms these questions, the following (or something like it) can be recited before the person goes underwater. In Christianity, it is common for the person to be dunked under and brought back up by someone; in Judaism the person undergoing immersion bends their knees and dunks themselves. Either way is acceptable and meaningful.

*Because of your repentance from dead works, confession of faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through our Master, Yeshua the Messiah, and your commitment to follow him in discipleship, I now immerse you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

In Messianic Judaism, we immerse in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Ruach haKodesh*) because this is what is directly instructed to us by Yeshua shortly before His ascension. (See Matthew 28:19)

We also see in Scripture the importance of laying hands on people in prayer. Laying hands on the student who was immersed can be a powerful time for the family and/or community.

The *Shehecheyanu* is a traditional prayer that is recited at holidays and other special times in our lives and is appropriate for an immersion as well:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁהַחַיְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה  
*Baruch atah ADONAI, Eloheinu Melech ha olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.*  
Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

# My Mitzvah Project

In most Jewish communities, part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year is the completion of a “Mitzvah Project.”

As you may know, the concept of *Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World* - is a core value of Judaism and is held to as a major responsibility of the Jewish people. Jew or Gentile, our Father has given us a mandate **to care for this world that He has created and the people in it** - this is an integral part of what it means to be a follower of Messiah Yeshua.

And so, part of this program is the completion of some kind of major project that helps others and shines the light of Messiah to the greater community around your student(s).

On pages vi and vii of the **Crossroads** book, there is a worksheet for your students to fill out as they work on their Mitzvah Project. Students can do the project individually or together, but either way it should be a challenging endeavor for them.

If you are helping a student decide what to do for his/her Mitzvah Project, consider:

- What am I good at?
- What do I like doing?
- How much time do I have until my Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
- What kind of needs are there in my community?

Ideas might include fundraising for an important cause, making blankets or winter hats for cancer patients or homeless kids, volunteering in a nursing home, collecting donations for those in need, cooking meals for single mothers... The list could go on and on.

We recommend that you take time throughout the 18 week class to help walk your students through this process, help troubleshoot any difficulties, and celebrate with them as they complete it.

# Preparing for My Midrash

The climax of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year is when the student is called to the Torah in front of the congregation, typically on a Shabbat.

This event looks different in each community, but often includes:

- Carrying the Torah scroll in the procession around the sanctuary
- Reading from the Torah scroll in Hebrew
- Reciting liturgical prayers
- Giving a midrash (a short teaching based on the weekly Torah portion)

Hebrew education is outside the scope of the **Crossroads** program. However, there are many excellent resources and curricula. We have a few listed in the glossary, and there are many more. If this is going to be part of your student's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you will need to add that element to your classes.

But even if your congregation doesn't have a Torah scroll, or if your student isn't interested in learning Hebrew, or if you're a parent having an at-home Bar/Bat Mitzvah for your child, we still strongly recommend having your student give a *midrash* (also called a *drash* or *d'var Torah*) on the Torah portion for that Shabbat.

Having your student go through the process of studying the week's portion and forming a short lesson from it is a great way to apply what they're learning during their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year and share it with your community. It is also a stretch outside their comfort zone, which is important for this journey.

On pages viii and ix of the **Crossroads** book, there is a worksheet to walk your students through the process of writing their *drash*.

We recommend that you take time throughout the 18 week class to check in with your students to see how this process is going for them and help troubleshoot any difficulties.

# The Lessons

The rest of the Teacher's Guide is comprised of each lesson, with the Scripture memory passage for each one and the fill-in answers for all of the Scriptures in each lesson.

- » We strongly encourage you as the parent or teacher to elaborate on the lesson as you feel led, as you know your class personally and know what they might gain more benefit from. We also encourage you to share your own personal stories and make this as applicable as possible to the students you are teaching. Learning from the wisdom of others is a big part of what makes this program unique and impactful.
- » Each week your students will have an assigned Scripture memory passage. They need to work on memorizing this over the course of the week. You can decide if you want to have the parents responsible for listening to the memory work and signing it off before the next lesson or if you are going to do it in class.
- » These verses are given here in the Tree of Life Version, but as the teacher you can allow your students to use a different version if they prefer. Printable flashcards for practicing are available in the TLV and ESV versions at [www.messianickids.com/crossroads](http://www.messianickids.com/crossroads).
- » The **In His Word** fill-ins are all from the TLV also. If your students don't have that version, they can fill in the best fit from whatever version they do have. Feel free to help them figure it out if need be. Most of the blanks will be fairly obvious regardless of what version of the Bible the student uses.
- » The **Talk About It** sections are a chance to get your students to discuss what they're learning. Getting them talking about it is another way to help process the information and will help them remember it better. Your class may be a bit shy in the beginning, but keep encouraging the conversation and they will eventually open up more!

Have fun and be blessed as you partake on this adventure together!

# Lesson 1

## The Beginning of Your Journey

*This first lesson is intentionally shorter than the rest.  
This is to give the class time to get to know each other and the Crossroads program.*

### Scripture Memory

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house; and yet it did not fall, for its foundation had been built on the rock.”

*Matthew 7:24-25*

This course utilizes a few elements in the lessons in addition to the written text. These are: **Scripture Memory** (above, to be done at home), **In His Word** (places to look up Scripture and fill in the missing words), **Talk About It** (discussion questions), and **Walk With the Wise** (questions for parents and mentors).

While you as the teacher *could* read every lesson to your students, we recommend having them take turns reading the lesson aloud. This way they will be more invested in the lesson and more likely to remember it well.

As you progress through the lesson, we suggest that you add your own input and thoughts to what is written in the book. As you share from your heart, especially your own stories and journey, your students will learn from your wisdom and insight, and grow to trust you as a godly adult in their lives.

### In His Word

**Deuteronomy 32:4** “The ROCK – blameless is His work. Indeed, all His ways are JUST. God of FAITHFULNESS without iniquity, RIGHTEOUS and UPRIGHT is He.”

**Psalms 62:3(2)** “He alone is my ROCK and my SALVATION, my FORTRESS – I will never be MOVED.”

**Proverbs 9:10** “The FEAR of ADONAI is the beginning of WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of the Holy One is UNDERSTANDING.”

*At the end of each lesson is a section called Dig Deeper. This is a list of resources that have to do with the lesson's topic. These are not required reading for the course, but merely a list of helps if needed.*

# Lesson 2

## God Our Father

### His Character & Attributes

#### Scripture Memory

“Then ADONAI passed before him, and proclaimed, ‘ADONAI, ADONAI, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, <sup>7</sup>showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.’”

*Exodus 34:6-7*

#### In His Word

**Isaiah 64:7(8)** “But now, ADONAI, You are our FATHER. We are the clay and You are our POTTER, we are all the work of Your hand.”

**James 1:17** “Every good GIFT and every PERFECT gift is from ABOVE, coming down from the Father of LIGHTS, with whom there is no VARIATION or SHIFTING shadow.”

**Jeremiah 9:23(24)** “But let one who boasts boast in this: that he UNDERSTANDS and knows Me. For I am ADONAI who exercises LOVINGKINDNESS, JUSTICE and righteousness on earth. For in these things I DELIGHT.”

**Micah 7:18-20** “Who is a God like You, PARDONING iniquity, OVERLOOKING transgression, for the remnant of His heritage? He will not RETAIN His anger forever, because He DELIGHTS in mercy. <sup>19</sup>He will again have COMPASSION on us. He will subdue our iniquities, and You will CAST all our sins into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup>You will extend TRUTH to Jacob, MERCY to Abraham, that You swore to our ancestors from the days of old.”

*You will see the word HaShem used in place of God in various places in this book. Both mean the same, but some of your students may be more familiar with one term over the other.*

# Lesson 3

## Yeshua the Messiah

### The Word Made Flesh

#### Scripture Memory

“In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and apart from Him nothing was made that has come into being. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it...<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

*John 1:1-5, 14*

#### In His Word

**Colossians 1:15-20** “He is the IMAGE of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For BY HIM all things were created—in HEAVEN and on earth, the seen and the UNSEEN, whether thrones or angelic powers or rulers or AUTHORITIES. All was created THROUGH Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>He EXISTS before everything, and in Him all HOLDS together. <sup>18</sup>He is the HEAD of the body, His community. He is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN from the dead—so that He might come to have FIRST place in ALL things. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all His FULLNESS dwell in Him <sup>20</sup>and through Him to RECONCILE all things to Himself, making PEACE through the blood of His CROSS—whether things on earth or things in heaven!”

**Hebrews 13:8** “Yeshua the MESSIAH is the SAME yesterday, TODAY, and FOREVER.”

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make DISCIPLES of all nations, IMMERSING them in the name of the FATHER and the SON and the RUACH HA-RODESH, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe ALL I have COMMANDED you. And remember! I am with you ALWAYS, even to the END of the age.”

**Hebrews 1:2-3** “In these last days He has SPOKEN to us through a Son, whom He APPOINTED heir of all things and THROUGH whom He CREATED the universe. <sup>3</sup>This Son is the radiance of His GLORY and the IMPRINT of His being, UPHOLDING all things by His powerful WORD. When He had made PURIFICATION for our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

# Lesson 4

## The Spirit of God

### The Firstfruits of His Kingdom

#### Scripture Memory

“But to each person is given the manifestation of the Ruach for the benefit of all. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Ruach a word of wisdom, to another a word of knowledge according to the same Ruach, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Ruach, to another gifts of healings by the one Ruach, <sup>10</sup>to another workings of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Ruach activates all these things, distributing to each person individually as He wills.”

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

#### In His Word

**Genesis 1:2** “Now the EARTH was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the RUACH ELOHIM was HOVERING upon the surface of the water.”

**Psalms 104:30** “You send forth Your Ruach — they are CREATED, and You RENEW the face of the earth.”

**Acts 2:38-39** “Peter said to them, “REPENT, and let each of you be IMMERSED in the name of MESSIAH Yeshua for the REMOVAL of your sins, and you will receive the GIFT of the RUACH HA-KODESH. <sup>39</sup>For the PROMISE is for you and your children, and for ALL who are far away — as MANY as Adonai our God CALLS to Himself.”

**John 14:16-18** “I will ask the FATHER, and He will GIVE you another HELPER so He may be WITH you forever — <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of TRUTH, whom the world CANNOT receive, because it does not behold Him or KNOW Him. You know Him, because He ABIDES with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not ABANDON you as orphans; I will COME to you.”

**Luke 11:13** “If you then, being evil, know how to give GOOD gifts to your CHILDREN, how much more will your HEAVENLY Father give the RUACH HA-KODESH to those who ASK Him!”

**Ezekiel 36:27** “I will put My RUACH within you. Then I will CAUSE you to WALK in My laws, so you will keep My RULINGS and do them.”

*This lesson is continued on the next page...*

## In His Word

**Acts 10:44b-46a** “The RUACH HA-KODESH fell on all those hearing the message. <sup>45</sup>All the circumcised BELIEVERS who came with Peter were astonished, because the GIFT of the Ruach ha-Kodesh had been POURED out even on the GENTILES. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in TONGUES and magnifying God.”

**Acts 19:6** “And when Paul laid HANDS upon them, the RUACH HA-KODESH came UPON them, and they began speaking in tongues and PROPHECYING.”

**John 16:7** “But I tell you the truth, it is to your ADVANTAGE that I go away! For if I do not go away, the HELPER will not come to you; but if I GO, I will SEND Him to you.”

This was a packed lesson. As with all of the lessons, we encourage congregations to teach according to their beliefs. Throughout the Messianic movement there are varying beliefs on the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

This book was written from the perspective that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are present and active today, and that the Ruach HaKodesh functioning in our lives today is the most “Messianic” thing there is. He is the One sent by our Messiah as the firstfruits and a down-payment on the Messianic Era.

However, if your community/family teaches differently, we encourage you to discuss this with your students. Helping them understand that there are different ideas about various topics in Scripture is a beneficial thing. And even more important, showing that we can have unity in the body along with our diversity is a beautiful and powerful witness to the power of God!

# Lesson 5

## The Holy Scriptures

### Our Solid Foundation

#### Scripture Memory

“All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the person belonging to God may be capable, fully equipped for every good deed.”

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

#### In His Word

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “Above all understand this: no PROPHECY of Scripture comes about from a person’s own INTERPRETATION.<sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever brought forth by HUMAN WILL; rather, people spoke from GOD as they were moved by the RUACH HA-KODESH.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** “For this reason, we also thank God constantly that when you RECEIVED the word of God which you HEARD from us, you accepted it not as the word of MEN, but as it truly is—the WORD of God, which does its WORK in you who BELIEVE.”

**Deuteronomy 4:6** “You must KEEP and DO them, for it is your WISDOM and understanding in the eyes of the PEOPLES, who will hear all these STATUES and say, ‘Surely this GREAT nation is a wise and UNDERSTANDING people.’”

**Psalms 1:1-3** “HAPPY is the one who has not WALKED in the advice of the WICKED, nor stood in the way of SINNERS, nor sat in the seat of scoffers.<sup>2</sup> But his DELIGHT is in the TORAH of ADONAI, and on His Torah he MEDITATES day and night.<sup>3</sup> He will be like a PLANTED tree over streams of WATER, producing its FRUIT during its season. Its LEAF never droops—but in all he does, he SUCCEEDS.”

**Matthew 5:18-19** “Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth PASS AWAY, not the SMALLEST letter or serif shall ever pass away from the TORAH until all things come to pass.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever BREAKS one of the least of these COMMANDMENTS, and TEACHES others the same, shall be called LEAST in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever KEEPS and teaches them, this one shall be called GREAT in the KINGDOM of heaven.”

**Deuteronomy 4:2** “You must not ADD to the WORD that I am commanding you or TAKE away from it—in order to KEEP the MITZVOT of ADONAI your God that I am COMMANDING you.”

# Lesson 6

## Children of God

### Our Relationship with HaShem

#### Scripture Memory

“I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them. <sup>28</sup>Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people and I will be your God.”

*Ezekiel 36:26-28*

#### In His Word

**Romans 10:9-10** “For if you CONFESS with your MOUTH that Yeshua is LORD, and BELIEVE in your HEART that God raised Him from the DEAD, you will be SAVED. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart it is BELIEVED for RIGHTEOUSNESS, and with the mouth it is CONFESSED for SALVATION.”

**Ephesians 2:8-10** “For by GRACE you have been SAVED through FAITH. And this is not from yourselves— it is the GIFT of God. <sup>9</sup>It is not based on DEEDS, so that no one may BOAST. <sup>10</sup>For we are His WORKMANSHIP — created in Messiah Yeshua for good DEEDS, which God PREPARED beforehand so we might WALK in them.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if anyone is in MESSIAH, he is a new CREATION. The old things have PASSED away; behold, ALL things have become NEW.”

**James 2:14,26** “What GOOD is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has FAITH, but does not have WORKS? Can such faith SAVE him? <sup>26</sup>For just as the BODY without the spirit is DEAD, so also FAITH without WORKS is DEAD.”

**Philippians 2:12b-13** “WORK OUT your SALVATION with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup>For the One WORKING in you is God — both to WILL and to work for His GOOD pleasure.”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have SINNED and fall SHORT of the glory of God.”

**Romans 6:23** “For sin’s payment is DEATH, but God’s gracious GIFT is eternal LIFE in Messiah YESHUA our Lord.”

**John 14:15** “If you LOVE Me, you will keep My COMMANDMENTS.”

## In His Word

**Hebrews 10:4** “It is IMPOSSIBLE for the BLOOD of bulls and goats to TAKE AWAY sins.”

**Genesis 12:1-2** “Then Adonai said to ABRAM, ‘Get going out from your land, and from your relatives, and from your FATHER’S house, to the LAND that I will SHOW you. <sup>2</sup>My heart’s desire is to MAKE you into a great NATION, to BLESS you, to make your name great so that you may BE a blessing.”

**Exodus 19:5-6a** “Now then, if you LISTEN closely to My voice, and KEEP My covenant, then you will be My own TREASURE from among all PEOPLE, for all the earth is Mine. <sup>6</sup>So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of ROHANIM and a HOLY nation.”

**Jeremiah 31:30-33** “Behold, days are coming’ — it is a declaration of ADONAI — ‘when I will make a new COVENANT with the house of ISRAEL and with the house of Judah — <sup>31</sup>not LIKE the covenant I made with their FATHERS in the day I took them by the HAND to bring them OUT of the land of EGYPT. For they BROKE My covenant, though I was a HUSBAND to them.’ It is a declaration of ADONAI. ‘But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel AFTER those days’ — it is a declaration of ADONAI — ‘I will put My TORAH within them. Yes, I will WRITE it on their HEART. I will be their GOD and they will be My PEOPLE. <sup>33</sup>No longer will each TEACH his neighbor or each his BROTHER, saying: ‘KNOW ADONAI,’ for they will ALL KNOW Me, from the least of them to the GREATEST.’ It is a declaration of ADONAI. ‘For I will FORGIVE their INIQUITY, their sin I will REMEMBER no more.”

It is critical that your students understand salvation and have begun their relationships with the Lord. If this lesson moved too quickly for any of your students, or there are questions left unanswered, we strongly recommend you take some extra time to discuss these things.

Acts 16:30-31 says, “He said, ‘What must I do to be saved?’ They said, ‘Put your trust in the Lord Yeshua and you will be saved.” And Acts 4:12 says, “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved!” These are strong words, and this is the most important step each of us must make.

The beautiful and wonderful thing is that we don’t need to worry about earning our salvation - it is a free gift that we need only believe in and receive.

But please don’t assume your students have already made this decision. It may be a good idea to also speak with the parents to ensure that this step has been made before progressing any further into the program.

This is the last lesson in unit one. The next set of lessons gets more into Messianic Judaism and some unique things that we consider foundational and important, such as the roles of Jews and Gentiles, and the history of how Messianic Judaism has developed.

# Lesson 7

## Created for a Purpose

### To Know God and Make Him Known

#### Scripture Memory

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

*Matthew 5:14-16*

#### In His Word

**Genesis 1:26a** “Then God said, ‘Let US make man in Our IMAGE, after Our LIKENESS!’”

**Jeremiah 31:2(3)** “From AFAR ADONAI appeared to me. ‘Yes, I have LOVED you with an EVERLASTING love. Therefore I have DRAWN you with LOVINGKINDNESS.’”

**Zephaniah 3:17** “ADONAI your God is in your MIDST – a mighty Savior! He will DELIGHT over you with joy. He will QUIET you with His love. He will DANCE for joy over you with singing.”

**1 John 4:20** “If anyone says, “I LOVE God,” and HATES his brother, he is a LIAR. For the one who does not love his BROTHER, whom he has SEEN, cannot love GOD, whom he has NOT seen.”

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His WORKMANSHIP –created in Messiah Yeshua for GOOD DEEDS, which God PREPARED beforehand so we might WALK in THEM.”

**Genesis 1:28** “God BLESSED them and God said to them, “Be FRUITFUL and multiply, fill the land, and CONQUER it.”

**Micah 6:8** “He has told you, humanity, what is GOOD, and what ADONAI is SEEKING from you: Only to practice JUSTICE, to love MERCY, and to walk HUMBLY with your God.”

**James 1:27** “PURE and undefiled RELIGION before our God and Father is this: to care for ORPHANS and WIDOWS in their distress, and to keep oneself UNSTAINED by the world.”

**Isaiah 43:6b-7** “Bring My SONS from far and My DAUGHTERS from the ENDS of the earth. <sup>7</sup>EVERYONE who is called by My Name, whom I CREATED for My GLORY.”

# Lesson 8

## Our Calling as Disciples

### Torah & Gospel Matters

#### Scripture Memory

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or serif shall ever pass away from the Torah until all things come to pass. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

*Matthew 5:17-19*

#### In His Word

**1 John 2:5b-6** “We RNOW that we are IN Him by this — <sup>6</sup>whoever claims to ABIDE in Him must WALK just as He WALKED.”

**Matthew 11:28-30** “Come to Me, all who are WEARY and burdened, and I will give you REST. <sup>29</sup>Take My YOKE upon you and LEARN from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find REST for your SOULS. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is EASY and My burden is LIGHT.”

- What is the Gospel message taught by John (Yochanan), Yeshua, and his disciples? REPENT for the RINGDOM of HEAVEN is NEAR/AT HAND.

**Matthew 28:19-20a** “GO therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, IMMERSING them in the name of the Father and the SON and the Ruach ha-Kodesh, <sup>20</sup>TEACHING them to OBSERVE all I have commanded you.”

**John 14:15** “If you LOVE Me, you will keep My COMMANDMENTS .”

**Matthew 22:35-40** “And TESTING Him, one of them, a lawyer, asked, <sup>36</sup> ‘Teacher, which is the GREATEST commandment in the Torah?’ <sup>37</sup>And He said to him, ‘You shall LOVE ADONAI your God with all your HEART, and with all your SOUL, and with all your MIND.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest COMMANDMENT. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your NEIGHBOR as YOURSELF.’ <sup>40</sup>The entire Torah and the Prophets HANG on these TWO commandments.”

*This lesson is continued on the next page...*

## In His Word

**Deuteronomy 30:11-14** “For this MITZVAH that I am commanding you today is not too DIFFICULT for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup>It is not in the HEAVENS, that you should say, ‘Who will go UP for us to the heavens and GET it for us, and have us HEAR it so we may DO it?’ <sup>13</sup>Nor is it across the SEA, that you should say, ‘Who will CROSS over for us to the other SIDE of the sea and get it for us, and have us hear it so we MAY do it?’ <sup>14</sup>No, the WORD is very NEAR to you – in your MOUTH and in your HEART, to do it.”

**Matthew 23:23** “Woe to you, TORAH scholars and Pharisees, HYPOCRITES! You tithe mint and dill and cumin, yet you have neglected the WEIGHTIER matters of Torah – JUSTICE and MERCY and FAITHFULNESS. It is necessary to do these things without NEGLECTING the OTHERS.”

**Micah 6:8** “He has told you, humanity, what is GOOD, and what ADONAI is SEEKING from you: Only to practice JUSTICE, to love MERCY, and to walk HUMBLY with your GOD.”

# Lesson 9

## Jew & Gentile

### Unique & United

#### Scripture Memory

For through Him we both have access to the Father by the same Ruach. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. <sup>20</sup>You have been built on the foundation made up of the emissaries and prophets, with Messiah Yeshua Himself being the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In Him the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In Him, you also are being built together into God's dwelling place in the Ruach."

*Ephesians 2:18-22*

#### In His Word

**Ephesians 2:18-22** "For through Him we BOTH have access to the the Father by the same RUACH. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer STRANGERS and foreigners, but you are FELLOW citizens with GOD'S people and members of God's household. <sup>20</sup>You have been built on the FOUNDATION made up of the emissaries and prophets, with Messiah Yeshua Himself being the CORNERSTONE. <sup>21</sup>In Him the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In Him, you also are being BUILT together into God's DWELLING place in the Ruach."

**1 Corinthians 7:17-18** "Only, as the LORD has ASSIGNED to each one, as God has CALLED each, let him WALK in this way. I give this rule in all of Messiah's communities. <sup>18</sup> Was anyone called when he ALREADY had been circumcised? Let him not make himself UNCIRCUMCISED. Has anyone been CALLED while uncircumcised? Let him not allow himself to be CIRCUMCISED."

**Jeremiah 31:34-36** "Thus says ADONAI, who gives the sun as a light by day and the FIXED order of the moon and the stars as a light by night, who STIRS up the sea so its waves roar, ADONAI-Tzva'ot is His Name: <sup>35</sup>'Only if this fixed order DEPARTS from before Me' - it is a declaration of ADONAI - 'then also might Israel's offspring CEASE from being a NATION before Me - for all time.' <sup>36</sup>Thus says ADONAI: 'Only if heaven above can be MEASURED and the foundations of the EARTH searched out beneath, then also I will CAST off the OFFSPRING of Israel - for all they have done.' It is a declaration of ADONAI."

*This lesson is continued on the next page...*

## In His Word

**Exodus 19:6** “So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of ROHANIM and a HOLY nation.”

**1 Peter 2:9** “But you are a CHOSEN people, a royal PRIESTHOOD, a holy nation, a PEOPLE for God’s own POSESSION, so that you may PROCLAIM the praises of the One who CALLED you out of DARKNESS into His marvelous LIGHT.”

**Zechariah 8:23** “Thus says ADONAI-Tzva’ot, “In those days it will come to pass that TEN men from every language of the NATIONS will grasp the CORNER of the garment of a JEW saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that GOD is WITH you.’”

**Romans 11:17-18** “But if some of the branches were \_\_\_\_\_ off and you – being a \_\_\_\_\_ olive – were \_\_\_\_\_ in among them and became a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the olive tree with its richness, <sup>18</sup>do not \_\_\_\_\_ against the branches. But if you do boast, it is not \_\_\_\_\_ who support the root but the root \_\_\_\_\_ you.”

**Acts 15:16-17** “After this I will return and REBUILD the fallen tabernacle of DAVID. I will rebuild its ruins and I will RESTORE it, <sup>17</sup>so that the rest of HUMANITY may seek the Lord—namely all the Gentiles who are CALLED by My name—says ADONAI.”

**Acts 15:19-21** “Therefore, I judge not to TROUBLE those from among the GENTILES who are turning to God – <sup>20</sup>but to write to them to ABSTAIN from the contamination of IDOLS, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from BLOOD. <sup>21</sup>For MOSES from ancient generations has had in every CITY those who PROCLAIM him, since he is READ in all the synagogues every SHABBAT.”

# Lesson 10

## The Olive Tree

### Our Relationship with Judaism & Christianity

#### Scripture Memory

Bless those who persecute you—bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own eyes. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil; give thought to what is good in the eyes of all people. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in shalom with all people.”

*Romans 12:14-18*

#### In His Word

**Ephesians 3:6** “This mystery is that the GENTILES are joint HEIRS and fellow MEMBERS of the same BODY and co-sharers of the PROMISE in Messiah Yeshua through the GOOD News.”

**Ephesians 2:12-14a** “At that time you were SEPARATE from Messiah, EXCLUDED from the commonwealth of ISRAEL and strangers to the COVENANTS of promise, having no HOPE and without GOD in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Messiah YESHUA, you who once were FAR off have been brought NEAR by the blood of the Messiah. <sup>14</sup>For He is our SHALOM, the One who MADE the two into ONE and broke down the middle wall of SEPARATION.”

**Romans 11:16-18** “If the FIRSTFRUIT is holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is HOLY, so are the BRANCHES. <sup>17</sup>But if some of the branches were BROKEN off and you — being a WILD olive — were GRAFTED in among them and became a PARTAKER of the root of the olive tree with its RICHNESS, <sup>18</sup>do not BOAST against the BRANCHES. But if you do boast, it is not YOU who support the root but the ROOT supports you.”

**Galatians 5:22-23** “But the FRUIT of the RUACH is LOVE, joy, peace, PATIENCE, kindness, GOODNESS, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>GENTLENESS, and self-control—AGAINST such things there is no LAW.”

# Lesson 11

## A Modern Ancient Faith

### The Story of Messianic Judaism

#### Scripture Memory

It will come to pass in the last days that the mountain of ADONAI's House will stand firm as head of the mountains and will be exalted above the hills. So all nations will flow to it. <sup>3</sup>Then many peoples will go and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of ADONAI, to the House of the God of Jacob! Then He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For Torah will go forth from Zion and the word of ADONAI from Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>Come house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of ADONAI.

*Isaiah 2:2-3, 5*

#### In His Word

**Matthew 28:18-20** "And Yeshua came up to them and spoke to them, saying, "All AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make DISCIPLES of all NATIONS, immersing them in the name of the FATHER and the Son and the Ruach ha-Kodesh, <sup>20</sup>TEACHING them to OBSERVE all I have COMMANDED you. And remember! I am WITH you always, even to the end of the age."

**Matthew 24:15-18** "So when you see 'the ABOMINATION of desolation,' which was spoken of through DANIEL the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup>then those in JUDEA must flee to the MOUNTAINS. <sup>17</sup>The one on the roof must not go down to TAKE what is in his HOUSE, <sup>18</sup>and the one in the FIELD must not turn BACK to get his coat."

**Isaiah 9:6** "Of the INCREASE of His government and SHALOM there will be NO end – on the THRONE of David and over His RINGDOM– to establish it and uphold it through JUSTICE and righteousness from now until FOREVERMORE."

**Isaiah 11:9b-10** "For the earth will be FULL of the KNOWLEDGE of ADONAI, as the waters COVER the sea. <sup>10</sup>It will also come about in that day that the ROOT of Jesse will STAND as a BANNER for the peoples. The NATIONS will SEEK for Him, and His resting place will be GLORIOUS."

# Lesson 12

## God Meeting with Us

### The Appointed Times of HaShem

#### Scripture Memory

Also the foreigners who join themselves to ADONAI, to minister to Him, and to love the Name of ADONAI, and to be His servants — all who keep from profaning Shabbat, and hold fast to My covenant — <sup>7</sup>these I will bring to My holy mountain, and let them rejoice in My House of Prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar. For My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations.

*Isaiah 56:6-7*

#### In His Word

**Leviticus 23:1-2** “Then ADONAI spoke to Moses saying: <sup>2</sup>‘SPEAK to Bnei-Yisrael, and tell them: These are the APPOINTED moadim of ADONAI, which you are to PROCLAIM to be HOLY convocations — My MOADIM.’”

**Isaiah 66:23** “And it will come to pass, that from one NEW MOON to another, and from one SHABBAT to another, ALL flesh will come to BOW down BEFORE Me,’ says ADONAI.”

This lesson goes over each of the Biblical feasts. If your class would like to dig deeper into this topic, you can read the description *HaShem* gave for all of the feasts in Leviticus 23.

This is the last lesson in unit two. The last set of lessons brings all of what we’ve learned into personal application with spiritual disciplines like prayer and study, as well as elements of a godly lifestyle like stewardship and integrity.

# Lesson 13

## Designed with Intention

### Embracing Your Identity

#### Scripture Memory

For You have created my conscience. You knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works—and my soul knows that very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw me when I was unformed, and in Your book were written the days that were formed—when not one of them had come to be.”

*Psalm 139:13-16*

#### In His Word

**Psalm 139:13-16** “For You have created my CONSCIENCE. You knit me together in my MOTHER'S womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise You, for I am awesomely, WONDERFULLY made! Wonderful are Your works—and my SOUL knows that very well. <sup>15</sup>My FRAME was not hidden from You when I was MADE in the SECRET place, when I was WOVEN together in the DEPTHS of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your EYES saw me when I was UNFORMED, and in Your book were WRITTEN the days that were FORMED—when not ONE of them had come to be.”

**Genesis 1:27** “God created HUMANKIND in His IMAGE, in the image of GOD He created him, MALE and FEMALE He created them.”

**Galatians 3:26-28** “For you are all SONS of God through trusting in Messiah YESHUA. <sup>27</sup>For all of you who were IMMERSED in Messiah have CLOTHED yourselves with Messiah. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is NEITHER slave nor free, there is neither MALE nor FEMALE—for you are all ONE in Messiah Yeshua.”

# Lesson 14

## Immersion

### Public Affirmation of Your Faith

#### Scripture Memory

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>May it never be! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Or do you not know that all of us who were immersed into Messiah Yeshua were immersed into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried together with Him through immersion into death—in order that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

*Romans 6:1-4*

#### In His Word

**Matthew 3:11** “As for me, I IMMERSE you in water for REPENTANCE. But the One coming AFTER me is mightier than I am; I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will immerse you in the RUACH HA-RODESH and FIRE.”

**Acts 2:38a** “REPENT, and let each of you be IMMERSED in the NAME of Messiah Yeshua for the REMOVAL of your SINS.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if anyone is in MESSIAH, he is a new CREATION. The old things have passed AWAY; behold, all things have become NEW.”

**Romans 6:3-4** “Do you not know that ALL of us who were immersed into Messiah Yeshua were IMMERSED into His DEATH? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were BURIED together with Him through immersion into death—in order that just as MESSIAH was RAISED from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might WALK in NEWNESS of life.”

One of the suggested requirements for the *Crossroads* B’nei Mitzvah Program is that each student undergoes immersion. As a public affirmation of one’s faith, it is our belief that if a student is not ready for this step, they are not yet ready to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah either. If you have students who have not yet been immersed, this is a great time to discuss taking this step and considering if they are ready to complete the B’nei Mitzvah program. More ideas for immersion are in the *Crossroads* introduction on p. x.

# Lesson 15

## Prayer

### Communicating with Your Creator

#### Scripture Memory

Therefore, pray in this way: 'Our Father in heaven, sanctified be Your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.'"

*Matthew 6:9-13*

#### In His Word

**Matthew 6:6** "But you, when you PRAY, go into your INNER room; and when you have SHUT your door, pray to your FATHER who is in secret. And your Father, who sees in SECRET, shall reward you."

**Romans 12:2** "Do not be CONFORMED to this WORLD but be transformed by the RENEWING of your MIND, so that you may DISCERN what is the WILL of God..."

**Acts 2:42** "They were DEVOTING themselves to the teaching of the emissaries and to FELLOWSHIP, to breaking BREAD and to *the* PRAYERS."

\*The word *the* before *prayers* is present in the Greek but doesn't always get translated into English.

# Lesson 16

## Study

### Renewing Your Mind

#### Scripture Memory

My son, if you accept my words and treasure my mitzvot within you, <sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom, inclining your heart to discernment, <sup>3</sup>yes, if you call out for insight, lifting up your voice for discernment, <sup>4</sup>if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup>then you will know the fear of ADONAI and discover the knowledge of God.”

*Proverbs 2:1-5*

#### In His Word

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Make every EFFORT to present yourself before God as tried and true, as an UNASHAMED worker cutting a STRAIGHT path with the WORD of truth.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the WORD of God is LIVING and ACTIVE and sharper than any two-edged SWORD—piercing right through to a separation of SOUL and SPIRIT, joints and marrow, and able to judge the THOUGHTS and INTENTIONS of the heart.”

**Joshua 1:8** “This book of the TORAH should not DEPART from your MOUTH — you are to MEDITATE on it day and night, so that you may be careful to DO everything WRITTEN in it. For then you will make your WAYS prosperous and then you will be SUCCESSFUL.”

**Romans 15:4** “For whatever was WRITTEN before was written for our INSTRUCTION, so that through patience and the ENCOURAGEMENT of the Scriptures we might have HOPE.”

# Lesson 17

## Stewardship

### Godly Use of Our Resources

#### Scripture Memory

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above—where Messiah is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Focus your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in God... <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, work at it from the soul, as for the Lord and not for people. <sup>24</sup>Or you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as a reward. It is to the Lord Messiah you are giving service.”

*Colossians 3:1-3,23-24*

#### In His Word

**Psalm 24:1** “The earth is ADONAI’S and all that FILLS it – the WORLD, and those dwelling on it.”

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18** “You may say in your heart, ‘MY power and the MIGHT of my HAND has made me this wealth.’ <sup>18</sup>Rather you are to REMEMBER ADONAI your God, for it is He who GIVES you POWER to make WEALTH, in order to ESTABLISH His covenant that He SWORE to your fathers—as it is this day.”

**Matthew 25:21** “His master said to him, ‘WELL done, GOOD and faithful SERVANT! You were FAITHFUL with a LITTLE, so I’ll put you in charge of MUCH. Enter into your master’s JOY!’”

**Luke 12:34** “For where your TREASURE is, there will your HEART be also.”

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8** “The point is this: whoever sows SPARINGLY shall also REAP sparingly, and whoever SOWS bountifully shall also reap BOUNTIFULLY. <sup>7</sup>Let each one GIVE as he has decided in his HEART, not GRUDGINGLY or under compulsion – for God loves a CHEERFUL giver. <sup>8</sup>And GOD is able to make all GRACE overflow to you, so that by ALWAYS having enough of EVERYTHING, you may overflow in every GOOD work.”

# Lesson 18

## Integrity

### Consistent Godly Action

#### Scripture Memory

Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything — but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable — if there is any virtue and if there is anything worthy of praise — dwell on these things.”

*Philippians 4:5-8*

#### In His Word

**Romans 12:18** “If possible, so far as it DEPENDS on you, LIVE in SHALOM with ALL people.”

**Luke 6:42b** “First take the BEAM out of your OWN eye, and then you will see CLEARLY the SPECK in your brother’s eye, to TAKE it out.”

**Colossians 3:13** “...BEARING with one another and FORGIVING each other, if anyone has a GRIEVANCE against another. Just as the Lord PARDONED you, so also you must PARDON others.”

**Proverbs 19:1** “Better to be POOR, walking with INTEGRITY, than be a FOOL whose lips are CORRUPT.”

**Philippians 4:13** “I can do ALL things through MESSIAH who strengthens me.”

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Do not be DECEIVED! ‘BAD company CORRUPTS good MORALS.”

**Proverbs 27:17** “As iron SHARPENS iron, so a PERSON sharpens the COUNTENANCE of his FRIEND.”

# Glossary

This is a list of words from these lessons that your students may not be familiar with. Many of them come from a Hebrew or Greek word, and are transliterated in the lesson. Transliterated words are written in English letters in the way they are pronounced in their original language.

Apocrypha = a set of 14 books, not considered canonical, included in the Septuagint and the Vulgate as part of the Old Testament, but usually omitted from Protestant editions of the Bible.

*Amidah* (עֲמִידָה) = the standing prayer - one of the oldest known and central prayers in Judaism, recited in the daily prayer times.

*b'rit* (בְּרִית) = covenant.

*challah* (חֻלָּה) = a rich bread containing eggs, usually braided, typically made for Shabbat.

*chametz* (חֻמֵץ) = a food not allowed during Pesach, made with leaven or a leavening agent.

convocation = an assembly or gathering together.

*diaspora* = the body of Jewish people living outside the land of Israel.

*Didiche* (διδάχρη) = a short book, believed to have written by the apostles or their own disciples during the first or second century CE, specifically to Gentiles.

*drash* = a shortened version of *midrash*.

*d'var Torah* = another term used to refer to a *midrash*, often one of a short length.

*erev Shabbat* (עֶרֶב שַׁבָּת) = the evening beginning Shabbat.

*Gentile* = someone from any of the nations of the world who is not Jewish by blood. Not synonymous with pagan or unbeliever.

*HaShem* (הַשֵּׁם) = literally, The Name - a common circumlocution used for God.

*Havdalah* (הַבְּדִלָּה) = the ceremony closing Shabbat after the sun goes down.

*kiddush* (קִידוּשׁ) = the blessing to God given over wine at the beginning of a holy day.

*kohen/kohanim* (כֹּהֵן) = priest/priests (also spelled *cohen/cohanim*).

*kedoshim* (קְדוֹשִׁים) = holy ones.

*matzah/matzot* (מַצָּה) = unleavened crackers, used especially during Pesach.

*mazel tov* (מִזְל טוֹב) = congratulations.

*midrash* (מִדְרָשׁ) = a exegetical teaching from the Torah, typically from the weekly Torah portion, usually given weekly in a synagoue.

*mikvah/mikva'ot* (מִקְוָה) = a pool used for immersion in Jewish settings.

*mitzuah/mitzuot* (מִצְוָה) = good deed or commandment.

*mo'ed/mo'edim* (מוֹעֵד) = appointed time(s) or holiday(s).

*Mashiach* (מָשִׁיחַ) = Anointed One or Messiah (also spelled *Moshiach*).

Nazarenes = the first name given to the sect of Judaism that followed Yeshua. The name comes from the fact that Yeshua was from Nazareth.

omer (עֹמֶר) = literally, a sheaf - a dry measure of grain, but is used to refer to the counting that happens daily from Pesach to Shavuot.

Pesach (פֶּסַח) = Passover.

Rosh Hashanah (רֵאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה) = literally, The Head of the Year, or New Year's Day.

Ruach HaKodesh (רוּחַ הַקֹּדֶשׁ) = the Holy Spirit.

Septuagint = the oldest Greek version of the *Tanak*, translated by 70 or 72 Jewish scholars in the third century BCE.

Shabbat (שַׁבָּת) = Sabbath, the seventh day of the week.

Shavuot (שָׁבוּעוֹת) = the Feast of Weeks.

Sh'ma (שְׁמַע) = also spelled *Shema*, the most foundational prayer in Judaism, recited three times a day in liturgical prayers, from Deuteronomy 6:4.

Shemini Atzeret (שְׁמִינִי עֲצֵרֶת) = the Eighth Day of Assembly, immediately following *Sukkot*.

shlichim (שְׁלִיחִים) = literally, sent ones, or Apostles.

siddur (סִדּוּר) = a book of Jewish liturgical prayers.

sukkah (סֻכָּה) = a temporary shelter set up for the holiday of *Sukkot*.

*Sukkot* (סֻכּוֹת) = the Feast of Tabernacles.

tallit (טְלִית) = a Jewish prayer shawl.

*Talmud* (תַּלְמוּד) = the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend comprising the *Mishnah* and the *Gemara*. There are two versions of the *Talmud*: the Babylonian *Talmud* (which dates from the 5th century CE but includes earlier material) and the earlier *Jerusalem Talmud*.

*Tanak* (תַּנַּךְ) = an acronym referring to the Jewish Scriptures/Old Testament. The *Tanak* was compiled by Jewish scholars long before the days of Yeshua and consists of three parts – the *Torah* (תּוֹרָה), the Prophets (*Nevi'im* נְבִיאִים), and the Writings (*Ketuvim* כְּתוּבִים). Also written as *Tanack*, *Tanakh*, and T'N'K.

*Targum* (תַּרְגוּם) = a translation or paraphrase in Aramaic of a book or part of the *Tanak*.

*tefillin* (תְּפִלִּין) = phylacteries. A pair of small, black, leather cubes containing a piece of parchment inscribed with specific verses from the *Torah* and attached with straps to the left arm and the forehead during weekday morning prayers.

tithe = the tenth part of income set apart as an offering to God.

*Torah* (תּוֹרָה) = literally, teaching - the first five books of the Scriptures, given to Moses at Mount Sinai.

Trinity = a term created in early Christianity to refer to the plural unity or triune nature of God, eternally present as the Father, the Son (Yeshua) and the Holy Spirit, all functioning as one entity but with distinct roles.

*tzedakah* (צְדָקָה) = literally means “justice” or “righteousness”, but usually used to refer to charitable giving.

*tzitzit* (צִיצִית) = the fringes formerly worn at the corners of the outer garment and now worn at the four corners of the tallit.

*Yom Teruah* (יוֹם תְּרוּעָה) = the Day of Blowing, the original name given by God to Rosh Hashanah.

*Yom Kippur* (יוֹם כִּיפּוּר) = the Day of Atonement.

# Parent Resources

This section is resources, mostly intended for parents and/or teachers. Books and other resources listed here come from a variety of perspectives: Jewish, mainstream Christian, and Messianic. There is wisdom and knowledge to be gained from them, but you are encouraged to use discernment as you decide what to incorporate for your own family and/or congregation. There are also resources listed at the end of each lesson regarding the topics taught in the Crossroads course.

## Resources - Coming of Age

*Man Maker Project: Boys are Born. Men are Made.*, by Chris Bruno

*A Voice Becoming: A Yearlong Mother-Daughter Journey into Passionate, Purposed Living*, by Beth Bruno

*Do Hard Things*, by Alex & Brett Harris (highly recommended for students as well)

*Why I Didn't Rebel*, by Rebecca Gregoire Lindenbach

*Reclaiming Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a Spiritual Rite of Passage*, by Rabbi Goldie Milgram

*Suddenly They're 13 or the Art of Hugging a Cactus*, by David & Claudia Arp

*101 Things You Should Do Before You Graduate* and *101 Things You Should Do Before Your Kids Leave Home*, both by David Bordon & Tom Winters

*Passport 2 Purity*, by Dennis & Barabara Rainey (this is a parent-child program)

*Raising a Modern-Day Knight*, by Robert Lewis

*Raising a Modern-Day Princess*, by Pam Farrel & Doreen Hanna

## Resources - Bible Study

*Unrolling the Scroll*, by D. Thomas Lancaster (commentary on the Torah)

*Chronicles of the Messiah*, by D. Thomas Lancaster (commentary on the Gospels)

*The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion*, by Rabbi Shai Held

The *Walk!* series through the Torah, by Jeffrey Feinburg, PhD

A *Messianic Commentary* series, by Messianic Jewish Publishers - this series includes books on Matthew, James, Revelation, Ephesians, Jude, Proverbs, and more.

*The Complete Jewish Study Bible*, and *The Complete New Testament Commentary*, by David Stern, PhD

*Transformed by Truth: Why and How to Study the Bible for Yourself as a Teen*, by Katherine Forster  
*HaYesod, The Foundation*, by First Fruits of Zion (a 10-week video curriculum)

## Resources - Hebrew Learning

### Elementary-Level Learning:

*Shalom Uvrachah* and others from Behrman House: <https://behrmanhouse.com>

*Akhlah* Online Hebrew Lessons: <https://www.akhlah.com/jewish-traditions/jewish-hebrew-curriculum>

*Aleph Champ* Hebrew Curriculum: <https://alephchamp.com>

### Upper-Level Learning:

*Biblical Hebrew* and *Biblical Hebrew 2*: <https://www.alefpress.org>

*Chaverim B'Ivrit* and others from Behrman House: <https://behrmanhouse.com>

*The First Hebrew Primer*, by Ethelyn Simon

### Trope/Cantillation Learning:

Trope Trainer, by Kinnor Software: <https://www.kinnor.com>

Learn Trope: <http://learntrope.com/>

## Resources - Jewish & Christian History

*Born a Jew, Die a Jew*, by Yohanna Chernoff - a memoir of the beginnings of Messianic Judaism in the United States

The *Messianic Luminaries* series published by First Fruits of Zion: <https://ffoz.com/vine-of-david/messianic-luminaries/>

*Jewish History - The Big Picture*, by Gila Gevirtz

*Introduction to Jewish History* and *Journey through Jewish History*, both by Seymour Rossel

*That They May Be One: A Brief Review of Church Restoration Movements and Their Connection to the Jewish People*, by Daniel C. Juster

*L'Chaim! To Jewish Life in America*, by Susan Goldman Rubin

*\*Please Note: Effort has been made to review the resources listed here, but we encourage all parents and teachers to review any materials given to students. These resources come from a variety of sources - Jewish, Christian, and Messianic - and reflect a variety of worldviews, which may or may not resemble your own.*

# Time to Celebrate!

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a big deal! There is a lot of time and energy invested in the preparation for this special event in a young adult's life. And as such, it should be celebrated!

We encourage each family and/or congregation to craft a celebration that works best for them. In a modern Jewish community, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration is often a huge expense for the family and can even be similar to a wedding in its grandeur. And though we encourage you to mark this occasion with some kind of celebration, there's no particular expectation for what that *should* look like.

Some ideas for how you *could* celebrate your Bar/Bat Mitzvah include:

- Sending printed invitations for the event.
- Erev Shabbat dinner hosted at your home for family and close friends. Bar Mitzvah boys lead the blessings for the first time, and Bat Mitzvah girls light the Shabbat candles.
- Luncheon after your congregation's Shabbat service. This could be potluck or catered, fancy or simple.
- Havdalah Party at your home or other suitable location. Kick back, celebrate, toast the new young adult, share fun stories, play music and dance, etc...
- An at-home ceremony, if you don't have a congregation, with family and friends gathered together. You can incorporate many of the elements that would be present in a congregation's ceremony.
- A bar/bat mitzvah certificate signed by the student's parents and/or leaders in your congregation.

Remember, though, that this is just an example! You are free to customize this as you feel best fits your community, family, and child.

Mazel Tov!

# A Sample Ceremony

If you attend an established Messianic congregation, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony that happens within the service is probably already set for you. But if you are a younger Messianic congregation, or a family without a congregation, here are some ideas on how you can craft a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony:

- Student helps lead liturgical blessings during the service or gathering.
- Student reads the Torah portion in Hebrew. This is traditionally done from a Torah scroll but could also be read from a Hebrew *Chumash/Tanak*. If Hebrew education isn't part of your B'nei Mitzvah year or your congregation's Torah service, this could be read in English.
- Student gives the *Midrash*. This is a short teaching based on the Torah portion for the week. An outline for preparing this is provided in the introduction.
- Student shares his or her testimony of salvation.
- Student's parents share about their son or daughter.
- Congregation or family/friends gather around the student, lay hands on, and pray for the student as he or she enters this next phase of life.
- A short slideshow of the student's life is shown.

# Gentile Ceremonies

If you a Messianic Gentile family, you may be wondering how to approach the B'nei Mitzvah process with your child. There are different thoughts on this topic, and we have talked to different people, Jew and Gentile, about how they navigate this.

Some choose to use a different term with a Gentile student, such as "Bar/Bat Avraham" or "Bar/Bat B'rit" in order to maintain distinction between Jew and Gentile in their community.

Others believe that it is acceptable to use the term "Bar/Bat Mitzvah" for a Gentile student, as they are also choosing to submit themselves to the authority of God's word, even if that relationship does look a bit different to them than it would if they were Jewish.

The most important thing either way is that the process is taken seriously either way, and that a Gentile isn't "pretending" to be Jewish, but rather taking a serious step in their faith journey that is reflected in their decision to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.