

Club Maccabee **Handbook Samples**

For

Year One: *Beginnings* **בראשית \ Bereshit (Genesis)**

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)
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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Club Maccabee Year One Samples

LESSON 1 - CREATION

Scripture:	Genesis 1:1-2:25		
Theme:	God created everything!		
Memory Verses:	Genesis 1:1	In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Soncino)	
	1 Timothy 4:4a	For everything created by God is good... (NASB)	
Hebrew Words:	שָׁמַיִם	(sha-ma-yim)	heaven\sky
	אֶרֶץ	(e-retz)	earth

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Shabbat, A Day Set Apart: Kindling the Shabbat Candles

Props: Shabbat candles and candleholders; Use Children's Siddur for prayers.

What is Shabbat?

It is the seventh day of the week, a day that God set apart from the other days of the week and made special in the first week of creation. It is a day for us to stop and reflect on our lives, to rest and to focus on God.

Why do we keep Shabbat?

Genesis 2:1-3: God created the world in six days. He rested on the seventh day and made it holy. Exodus 20:10: God commands that the Shabbat be kept and that no work is to be done on that day.

How do we prepare for Shabbat and set it apart?

We finish work for the week, clean the house, prepare a special dinner, and put on nice clothes. Shabbat starts with, and is set apart from the week by, the lighting of the candles. Today we will learn the blessing said when the candles are lit:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheynu Melech ha-olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to light the Shabbat candles.

Leaders Note: According to Jewish tradition, it is not appropriate for a person saying a prayer to say "Amen" at the end of their prayer. It is the responsibility of those listening to say "Amen" at the conclusion of someone else's prayer as their affirmation of the prayer they just heard.

Lesson 1 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:25

Theme: God created everything!

Introduction: Ask and discuss: “Have you ever drawn a picture of the trees, flowers, sky, or animals? Can you make a real tree or a real sky? Do you know of any person who can? If we put some paper and markers on the table, do you think the paper and markers could draw pictures of trees and flowers all by themselves? How do you think everything came to be? We don’t have to wonder and guess; God told us exactly how everything was created in the very first book of his Scriptures: Bereshit/Genesis!

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S2, S3, S4, S7, S11, S18, S20
Flannelgraph Figures: 12, 12A, 93, 93A, 123, 124, 125, 135, 138, 139, 140, 141, 143, 145, 146, 151, 158, 160, 167, 174, 175, 176, 178
Other: Flashlight (with good batteries)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. At first the earth did not have a form and everything was dark. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (*turn flashlight on*) He called the light "day" and the darkness "night," and everything was good. An evening and a morning went by, and that was the **first day**.

On the **second day** God separated the water above from the water below and made the sky. (*display blue ocean/sky board*)

On the **third day**, God made the dry land, which He called “earth,” (*add S2, S3*) and He called the waters “seas.” He made plants, trees, and other vegetation on that day too. (*add S4, S7, S18, S20, 178*) Everything God had made was good.

On the **fourth day**, God created the sun, moon, and stars. (*add 174, 175, 176*) The sun was for the daytime, and the moon and stars were for the nighttime.

On the **fifth day**, God made fish and animals to live in the seas and birds to fly in the sky. (*add 138, 139, 140, 141, 143, 145, 146, 151*)

On the **sixth day** God made animals and

crawling things to live on the land. (*place green hillside overlay across background, add 123, 124, 125, 135, 158, 160, 167*) God also made man on the sixth day to rule over the fish, birds, cattle and creeping animals. He made man in His image out of the dust of the ground. He breathed into him the breath of life. God called this first man Adam. (*Add 12, 12A*) Man is a special creation because we are made in God’s image. God put Adam into a beautiful garden where he could eat from all the green plants with seed and all the trees with fruit except for one. God told him that if he ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would die.

God saw that Adam could not find a helper like himself, so He put Adam in a deep sleep and took from part of his side and made a woman. (*add 93, 93A*) The man and woman lived together happily in the garden. All that God created was good.

On the **seventh day**, God rested from all the work He had done, and He blessed the seventh day and made it holy. We call the seventh day Shabbat.

Challenge:

Make sure the children understand that God created everything that exists today. You can also stress to them that originally everything God created was perfect.

LESSON 2 - THE FALL OF MAN

Scripture:	Genesis 3:1-24		
Theme:	Sin separates us from God!		
Memory Verses:	Genesis 3:8b ...and the man and his wife hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (JPS)		
	Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (NASB)		
Hebrew Words:	אָדָם	(a-dam)	man
	עֵץ	(etz)	tree

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Shabbat, A Day Set Apart: Kiddush and Motzi

Props: One whole Challah, enough small pieces of another Challah and Grape Juice in cups for all the children, the Children's Siddur

Review

Shabbat is the day that God set apart from the rest of week for us to rest, think, and focus on Him. Shabbat starts with the lighting of candles as we learned last week.

What are some of the other things we do to make Shabbat different from the other days of the week? (Allow the children time to give several answers.)

A special Shabbat dinner is served Friday night using a special tablecloth (usually white) and special dishes. Special bread called Challah is also served. Traditionally two loaves are served on Shabbat to represent the double portion of manna the Jewish people received in the desert on each Shabbat. We also drink wine or grape juice to remind us of the joy of Shabbat. Today we will learn the Hebrew prayers said before eating bread and drinking wine or grape juice.

Kiddush: The traditional prayer said before drinking any wine or grape juice:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheynu Melech ha-Olam, Borei pri haGafen.

Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

Motzi: The traditional prayer said before eating any kind of bread:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheynu Melech ha-Olam, ha-Motzi lechem min ha-aretz.

Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Have the children try the Challah and grape juice after reciting the appropriate prayers.

Lesson 2 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-24

Theme: Sin separates us from God!

Introduction: Prepare ahead: On an oval shaped piece of paper or poster board write out the word “God”. Tape the sign out of reach on a wall. Write out some common sins (lying, cheating, disobeying parents, hitting siblings, selfishness, not sharing, etc.) on labels and tape them to small but heavy items such as soup cans. For story time: Ask for a volunteer and have him put on an empty backpack. Ask the kids to name some sins, and as they name the ones you have written on the labels, place those items in the backpack. Have the volunteer try to jump up and reach the sign with “God” written on it (**Note: the sign should be high enough for him to not be able to reach it**). Explain that sin keeps us away from God. (Save these labels and sign for Lesson 9.)

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S4, S7, S8-9, S11; add 245 to S7; 180, 180A
Flannelgraph Figures: 12, 12A, 13B, 93, 93A, 93B, 166, 200, 271

When God created the heavens and the earth everything was good. (**add 12, 12A, 93, 93A**) Adam and his wife lived happily in a beautiful garden, and they could talk with God openly and freely. They were also both naked and not ashamed about not wearing clothes. But all that was about to change.

God had told Adam and his wife that they could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that was in the middle of the garden. One day the serpent (**add 166 to S7, remove 12, 12A**) tricked the woman and tried to make her doubt what God had said. The serpent told her that she wouldn't really die if she ate from that tree. She listened to him and ate some of the fruit. Then she gave some to Adam and he ate it too. (**add 12, 12A**) After they ate it they saw that they did not have on any clothes. So they made clothes out of leaves for themselves. (**place 13B on Adam & 93B on Eve**)

Then they heard the sound of the Lord moving in the garden, and “the man and his wife hid from the Lord” (which they never had

done before). The Lord called out, “Where are you?” Adam said, “I heard you and hid because I was naked.” The Lord said, “Who told you you were naked? Did you eat of the tree that I told you not to eat from?” Instead of being honest, Adam said, “The woman made me eat it.” And the woman said, “The serpent made me eat it.” So the Lord punished all three of them. He cursed the serpent to crawl on the ground, and He told Adam and his wife that their lives were going to become a lot harder. Adam gave his wife the name “Eve,” and the Lord made some new clothes (**remove 13B & 93B**) for them. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden and God placed special angels called Cherubim there to guard the Tree of Life. (**add 9, 200, 271**)

Things would never be the same for Adam and Eve. Because they had sinned, they no longer had the free, open, and happy relationship with God that they had had before. God is merciful though. He did promise to send a special person one day who would make things right again.

Challenge:

Make sure the children understand what sin is and that sin keeps us from being close to God. Remind the children that God sent the Messiah to die for our sins so that we could be close to God again.

LESSON 3 - CAIN AND ABEL

Scripture:	Genesis 4:1-15		
Theme:	God wants our best!		
Memory Verses:	Genesis 4:9	The LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (JPS)	
	2 Cor. 9:7b	...for God loves a cheerful giver. (NIV)	
Hebrew Words:	אָח	(ach)	brother
	פֵּרוֹת	(pe-ri)	fruit

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Shabbat, A Day Set Apart: Havdalah

Props: Havdalah Candle, Spices, Grape Juice, small Kiddush Cup with plate to catch overflowing grape juice, Use Children's Siddur for prayers

Just as Shabbat began with the lighting of candles, so Shabbat ends traditionally with the lighting of a very unique, multi-wicked candle called a Havdalah candle. According to Jewish tradition we recite certain Hebrew prayers and fill a small cup with wine or grape juice until it overflows onto a plate. We also smell sweet spices. We do this as a way to end our Shabbat with overflowing joy (the grape juice) and with the lingering sense of sweetness (the spices).

For this section we refer you to the Children's Siddur for the details:

The following is the basic outline:

- 1) We recite some Scripture
- 2) We say the Kiddush
- 3) We say a blessing over the spices
- 4) We say a blessing over the candle lighting
- 5) We conclude with a traditional Havdalah benediction in Hebrew

Note: Most Messianic Jews are not familiar with Havdalah, yet it has a basic core of Messianic Expectation. We encourage you to teach it to your children as it is popular among most identified and observant Jews, and your children will surely be exposed to it in the future even if they do not celebrate it in their own homes.

Lesson 3 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-15

Theme: God wants our best!

Introduction: Bring in an old piece of fruit and a fresh piece of fruit. Ask some of the children which piece of fruit they would choose to eat. Ask some other children which piece of fruit would be the best one to give as a gift to a friend. Discuss what it means to give God our best: **time** (spend time with God instead of playing a computer game), **attitude** (be kind to others as God would want instead of being selfish as we would want); children who are not believers can be encouraged to give God their best by giving Him themselves.

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S4, S8-9, S15
Flannelgraph Figures: 40, 54, 126, 132, 184, 211, 250, 266

Adam and Eve had a son named Cain (*add 40*) and another son named Abel. (*add 54*) Abel, the younger brother, looked after the sheep, (*add 126*) while Cain, the older brother, worked the ground and grew things.

One day, Cain brought an offering of some of the fruit he had grown to the Lord. (*add 250 on top of 211 for Cain*) Abel also brought an offering, the best of the firstborn of his sheep. (*add 132 on top of 211 for Abel*) The Lord was happy with Abel's offering (*add 266 to 132 and 184 to 266*) which was the best of what Abel had, but was not with Cain's. Cain didn't bring his best! Cain was angry. The Lord said, "Why are you angry? If you do what is right you will be accepted. But, if you do not – sin is crouching at your door." (*remove 132, 184, 211, 250, 266*)

Cain was jealous and said to his brother, "Let's go out to the field." When they were in the field, Cain killed Abel. The Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain said, "I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord said, "What have you

done? You killed your brother, and his blood is on the ground. Now you will be cursed from the ground. When you try to work the ground, plants won't grow for you anymore. You will be a wanderer."

Cain said, "My punishment is too much for me. If anyone finds me, he will kill me." The Lord said, "If anyone kills Cain, he will be in trouble." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one would kill him. Cain went away from there and lived in the land of Nod.

Cain should have loved and looked out for his brother Abel, but instead he killed him because he was angry, and he became angry because he was jealous. This all came about because in not giving God his best, he became jealous of his brother who did give God his best.

After Abel's death, God blessed Adam and Eve with another son named Seth. Adam and Eve had many more children, but not all of them lived in a way that pleased God. Seth and his family followed God and because of this God blessed them.

Challenge:

Remind the children that God loves them and that God wants them to learn to give their best to Him. Mention again their ideas for giving God their best, but also remind them that God more than anything wants for them to give their lives to Him.

LESSON 4 - THE FLOOD

Scripture:	Genesis 5:25-9:29		
Theme:	Obey God because He knows best!		
Memory Verses:	Genesis 6:5a And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.... (Soncino)		
	Romans 3:10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;" (NASB)		
Hebrew Words:	מַיִם	(ma-yim)	water
	אוֹת	(ot)	sign

Lessons with Natan/Rivka

Shabbat, A Day Set Apart: Review

Props: Have the appropriate props from the previous lessons and the Children's Siddur

- Kindling Shabbat Lights & Sanctification of the Day (Lesson 1)
- Kiddush & Motzi (Lesson 2)
- Havdalah (Lesson 3)

Ask the children questions about Shabbat:

How did it start? What makes it special? What are the different ways Jewish people keep the Shabbat?

Be sure to also have them recite again the different prayers they learned, primarily focusing on the Kiddush and Motzi, which are constantly used in daily life. Also review Havdalah but don't plan to recite the entire liturgy unless you plan to adjust your Club schedule for the evening.

Lesson 4 Midrash (Scripture Study)

Scripture: Genesis 5:25-9:29

Theme: Obey God because He knows best!

Introduction: Ask for a volunteer and give them some crazy instructions to follow (bark like a dog, walk like a chicken, hop on one foot in a circle). Repeat this with a few more volunteers. Commend the children for following instructions. Point out that God gave Noah some pretty strange instructions to follow, but, since Noah was a righteous man, even though it might have seemed strange to him, he obeyed God anyway. Noah believed that God knew best.

Summary of Story:

Visual Aids: Background & Scenery: Blue Ocean/Sky; Green Hillside Overlay; S2, S3, S6
Flannelgraph Figures: 15, 59, 89B, 94, 97B, 123, 124, 125, 127, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 143, 148, 150, 157, 158, 172, 182, 183, 184, 211, 225, 264

God saw that man was becoming very wicked on the earth. Everyone thought about himself or herself instead of God, and they did many bad things. God was sad that He had made man. He decided to destroy man, the animals and birds. There was, however, one righteous man who followed God. He was named Noah. He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (*add 15, 89B*)

God told Noah that He was going to destroy everything that breathed on the earth. He told Noah exactly how to build an ark out of gopher wood sealed with tar so his family and some of the animals could live when God destroyed everything else. Noah built the ark just as God instructed him. (*add 225*)

Then God told Noah to go into the ark with his family. Two of every kind of animal (male and female) and seven of each of the clean animals came to the ark. (*add 94, 97B, 123, 124, 125, 127, 133, 135, 136, 137, 143, 157, 158*) Clean animals were either domesticated animals or animals used for sacrifice. Then water came up from the ground and rain fell from the skies for forty days and nights. (*remove everything except the ark floating on blue background; add 172, 182, 184*) There was so much rain that the dry land was completely

covered with water, even the mountains. All living things that breathed air were drowned, but the people and the animals that were on the ark lived.

For many days the ark floated on the waters. Finally the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat (*add S2, S3, S6*) in the modern country of Turkey. It took a whole year for the ground to dry out. Noah sent out first a raven and then a dove to see if the ground was dry enough for them to leave the ark. (*add 148, 150*) Finally it was. So Noah, his family and the animals came out, and he built an altar to the Lord. (*add 59, 132, 211, 264*) He offered burnt offerings from the clean animals that had been in the ark. Then God made a promise that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood.

God blessed Noah and his sons. He said that they could eat animals for food, but they had to drain out the blood first. God also said that anyone who killed another man would have to be killed because God made man in His own image.

The Lord made a covenant with Noah and his offspring. He promised that there would never again be a flood to destroy the earth. God made the rainbow the sign of the covenant, (*add 183*) so that whenever He sees the rainbow He would remember His promise.

Challenge:

Tell the children the importance of following God's instructions. Ask them where they would find God's instructions (hint: the Scriptures). Encourage them to read the Scriptures for themselves regularly and to encourage their parents to read as well.