



## THE NEXT LEVEL CURRICULUM

### From Sinai to Manhattan

- 1: Who wrote the Torah? Study classic Biblical and Rabbinic Sources for the Jewish belief in the Divinity of the Torah as well as some modern “evidence”.
- 2: The Oral Torah: Examples of interrelation between the written and oral Torah; how Moshe received the oral tradition as well as the history of the oral transmission; role of the Jewish High Court/Sanhedrin.
- 3: The human contribution in the Mesorah/transmission of the oral tradition, the 13 Methodologies and the application of halachick process in modern times using the example of Rav Moshe Feinstein’s approach to the case of the discophiles twins.
- 4 & 5: Study sources from Torah, Mishna, Talmud, Rishonim and Shulchan Aruch on: Honoring parents, Smoking, Cosmetic Surgery and Extradition to demonstrate the halachick process in action in modern times.

### Shabbat

- 1: Why is Shabbat so fundamental to Judaism? Approach of Nachmanides and Rabbi S.R. Hirsch; importance of time over space and modern relevance with stories; begin study of Biblical/Rabbinic sources and commandments regarding the Sabbath.
- 2: Maimonides on the mitzvot of “Honor” and “Rejoicing” in Shabbat; Understanding the mitzvot of Candle-lighting and Kiddush.
- 3: Learn the mitzvot of washing for bread, double loaves, three meals and Havdallah. Travel through an entire Shabbat with inspirational stories.
- 4: The “No-No”s of Shabbat: What is “work” and why do we abstain from it on Shabbat? Study Dayan Grunfeld/Rav Hirsch’s philosophy of “melacha”.
- 5: “Bishul” or Cooking as an example of a “melacha”. Learn how to have hot food on Shabbat without violating Shabbat. Focus on the Torah/Biblical issues.
- 6: Non-Jewish Help on Shabbat: Learn a practical rabbinic area.

## **Understanding Chanukah**

- 1: History of the Jews under Greek rule, the Maccabean revolt, miracle of the flask of oil; Understanding the nature of the holiday and the relevance of its proximity to Christmas.
- 2: Insights into Chanukah by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichick followed by Chanukah celebration.

## **Jewish Prayer**

- 1: Why Pray?
- 2: Morning Blessings: Not Taking Life for Granted
- 3: The Blessings over the Study of Torah
- 4: The Shema and Its Surrounding Blessings
- 5: The Shmone Esrei/Silent Devotion 1
- 6: The Shmone Esrei/Silent Devotion 2

**Understanding Purim:** Learn the themes of the holiday and how they are reflected in the special observances of the day.

## **Understanding Passover**

- 1: Understanding the philosophy and ideology of Pesach, Chametz and Matzah.
- 2: The halachic ins and outs of Pesach preparation and observance
- 3: Insights into the Seder.

## **Religious Zionism**

- 1: Study the Anti-Zionist and Neutral/Non-Zionist Approach
2. Pro- Zionist Approach of Rav Kook versus Rabbi Soloveitchik
3. Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

## **Brachot: The Power of Blessings**

- 1: Philosophy and practice of blessings *before* eating.
- 2: Philosophy and practice of blessings *after* eating.

**Shavuot:** Laws and Insights of the holiday and its relationship to the Omer.

**Lashon Hara/Slander:** Learn the parameters for inappropriate and proper speech.

**Kashrut**

1. Philosophical perspectives on Kashrut; Vegetarianism and Halacha.

2: Keeping a Kosher home; practical observances.

**Tzedaka:** Understanding the Jewish approach to charity in thought and practice.

**From Destruction to Redemption**

1: Understanding the Jewish Temple, the Three Weeks & Nine Days

2. Understanding Tisha B'av / Year in review