

The Parent Connection



Guide for: *Yussel's Prayer: A Yom Kippur Story* retold by Barbara Cohen

Child's Name

Date Completed:

Understanding the Story

Talk about atonement and forgiveness, the Book of Life and the Closing of the Gates. The message of Yom Kippur is thinking about the wrong we've done, asking forgiveness, and being ready to start anew.

Words to Watch

1. Shul: Synagogue
2. Ne'lah: The closing prayer on Yom Kippur
3. Reb: A title of honor
4. Yom Kippur
5. fasting
6. Shana Tova: Happy New Year
7. Eastern Wall: The wall facing Jerusalem; in very traditional synagogues, the most prestigious place to sit.
8. Shofar: Ram's horn blown on High Holidays and throughout the month of Elul.

Jewish Concepts

1. Gemilut Hasadim: Deeds of loving kindness.
2. Tzedakah: Doing what is right to help others; righteous giving.
3. Kavanah: Intentions (the difference between Yussel's prayer and the prayers of Reb Meir and sons.)
4. Book of Life: A metaphor used extensively in the High Holy Day liturgy. God records judgment of each person in the "Book of Life."

Beyond the Book

1. Why do you think parents often prefer a gift or card you make yourself to something bought in a store?
2. If you didn't know the words how could you have offered a prayer?

3. Discuss the concept of prayer.
4. What is a prayer?
5. Why do we pray? What does it feel like to pray?
6. Have you ever said a prayer?
7. What would you pray for?

Complementary Activities

1. Write a prayer together.
2. Learn the Sh'ma. Say it every night before you go to sleep.
3. Help your child make a list of "resolutions" for Rosh Hashanah

✓ *Please check those activities completed.*