



“TORAH TIME LIVE!”

ROSH HASHANAH, DAY 1

The “Torah Time Live!” parashah plays provide a fun and fully-realized program where students are entertaining themselves while focusing creative energies on their learning. Best of all, they remember the stories, the characters, and the moral lessons, and use them in future discussions. No preparation is needed: just figure who plays which character and off they go!

A play by David J. Smolar

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Jewish Education, right out of the box.



SHALOM! Thanks for purchasing Kikayon Productions' "Torah Time Live!" *Parashah* program High Holidays series (a.k.a. TTL), perfect for age 10+ Junior Congregations, Hebrew school classrooms, and preteen/teen youth group events.

At Kikayon Productions, we create and develop fun, experiential teaching materials and programs for Jewish education. Kids learn, comprehend, and retain information but more effectively when their lessons involve movement, drama, and experiential learning. Through play-acting the Torah stories they learn, they gain a deep level of empathy for the characters and a deeper grasp of the ethical decisions their Torah heroes make.

Here's a quick breakdown of the tools included in each TTL program.

The Cast Chart: Inclusion, Pronunciation, and Time-Saving Tool

Each play covers a different Torah portion, providing a funny yet informative teleplay that students love to perform. At the start, you'll see a chart listing useful information, all the characters' names, both in English and in the transliterated form used throughout the play along with proper pronunciation guides for each name. This way, you can be sure that everyone is pronouncing the names of the characters exactly as they appear in the Torah. And the last column on the right allows room for the leader to write down who's playing which character, a really great classroom time-saver.

Inclusion and outreach are paramount in our minds in creating our plays and programs. For students who aren't the strongest readers [or maybe not in the mood for acting that day], the opening chart also indicates in which scenes each character appears, how many lines of dialogue they have, and even suggestions of non-speaking roles for kids who don't want to read but want to act. By adding line numbers, it's that much easier to indicate where the group is during a reading in case someone comes in late or an actor loses their place.

Character Signs [so you don't have to write]

By popular demand, we've added character signs! If you're using TTL for Junior Congregation and aren't allowed to write down the names of the kids in the cast, no problem! Following the text of the play, you'll find pages with the names of each character already printed out for you in big letters, in both Hebrew and English where applicable. Print out just one copy of these signs, punch holes in the top corners, and run some string through the holes. The kids can wear the signs around their necks during their performance, making it even easier to remember their names. And if one kid plays multiple parts, well, they'll get multiple signs as well. Or have them split a longer role by handing off the sign to someone else during the play. Sky's the limit!

The Middah as a Public Service Announcement

As for the material, in addition to the play covering various stories or *mitzvot* taught by in the *parashah*, each play includes a “public service announcement” [PSA] in the middle. This break from the action provides another episode in the continuing adventures of Mitzvah Man, who appears each time to break up a spat between two siblings, Tzipi and Shlomo. When one's obnoxious behavior pushes the other's breaking point, Mitzvah Man appears to stop the selfishness, wisely point out what's wrong with this picture, then teach the kids about a *middah*, a moral lesson or ethic that seem to be missing. This part of the play may go by quickly but can provide a great opportunity for further discussion afterwards.

Ending Wrap-Up

Each program ends with various characters summarizing some of the themes and lessons addressed during the course of the play. Here we quickly review, clarify, and reinforce the deeper meanings of the plots. Knowing how much concentration the kids need just performing the plays, this gives them a chance to absorb what they've read before moving onto thoughtful discussion.

Provocative Thought Questions

Following each TTL play are a series of thought questions, touching on aspects of the stories covered in the play as well as the ethical lesson of the PSA. Feel free to use these questions as you like, either as a review of the Torah story to make sure the

participants absorbed the information or as a jumping off point for deeper dives into the moral lessons of the *parashah*. We hope you’ll see how these plays can be used for various types of programming, covering anything from a fun ½ hour diversion to a full Torah-oriented activity.

Variations of use

“Torah Time Live!” programming is perfect for Junior Congregations as well as Hebrew schools where Torah portions are studied. Of course, as you’ll find out at our website at www.KikayonProductions.com, the TTL *Parashah* play programs can serve a variety of venues. Please consider using our plays for any of the following:

- Synagogue, as the centerpiece of Shabbat or holiday junior congregation services;
- Hebrew school, as a great classroom teaching tool where kids can just grab the play, figure who’s playing what, and act it out with no preparation needed;
- Jewish summer camps and retreat centers, as a fun drama activity that can happen anywhere, for the group or for an audience, especially as a great RAINY DAY ACTIVITY;
- Retirement and convalescent homes, where teens or grown-ups can use the materials with little or no preparation as fun and respectful entertainment for residents and patients;
- Or at home, for holiday parties or family celebrations or just a fun way for kids to act out and burn off energy while learning Torah all the while.

At Kikayon Productions, we create experiential and interactive products for Jewish learning, holidays, and special events. We call our method “Education through Entertainment.” And we use plays, improv, art, song, and even food as non-frontal tools for learning. Our teaching materials guide adult leaders and teen mentors through fun and engaging activities while maintaining decorum within an age-appropriate context. Our holiday texts and prayer books offer engaging and insightful elements for worship and celebrations. And we offer all kinds of products and services for your shul's special events, from custom-made original plays and musicals to leading interactive and creative learning workshops at your institution.

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Find out more at www.KikayonProductions.com! Sign up for our mailing list for coupons on other products, updates on new stuff coming out, and where and when you can attend a seminar in using drama and improv in your Jewish educational setting. Connect with us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook. Keep up with our “Frontal Free” blog on our site.

Shana Tova, and thanks for helping spread the word of the Kikayon, all around the world.

Kikayon Productions. Jewish education, right out of the box.

KIKAYON PRODUCTIONS SAMPLE

On day 1 of *Rosh Hashanah*, the Torah reading comes from parashat “*Vayeira*” including Torah stories told in Genesis 21:1-21

Mitzvah Man *middah*: *T’shuva* – Repentance

TTL play synopsis:

In this episode, Yitzchak grows up but Yishma’el wears out his welcome. Later in the PSA, it’s never too late to learn how to apologize.

KIKAYON PRODUCTIONS SAMPLE

THE CAST

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Hebrew Names</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Scenes</u>	<u>Lines</u>	<u>Cast Member</u>
Avraham	av-ra-HAM	אַבְרָהָם	Abraham	The first Hebrews	1, 3, 4	12	
Sarah	Sah-RAH	שָׂרָה	Sarah		1	11	
Hagar	Hah-GAHR	הַגָּר	Hagar	Sarah's maidservant	1, 2	14	
Yishmael	yeesh-ma-AYL	יִשְׁמָעֵאל	Ishmael	Hagar's obnoxious son	1, 2	23	
Micha'el	mee-cha-AYL	מִיכָאֵל	Michael		2	5	
Yitzchak	yeetz-CHAHK	יִצְחָק	Isaac	Avraham and Sarah's son	1	10	
The Almighty			The Almighty		2	3	
Harriet				Yishmael's wives	3	23	
Hoda					4	10	
Tzipi	TZI-pee	צִפִּי	Birdie	The sister	PSA	12	
Shlomo	SH'LO-mo	שְׁלֹמֹה	Solomon	The brother		13	
Mitzvah Man			Mitzvah Man	The hero		10	
*Dead Bird 1				Run down the curtain	3		
*Dead Bird 2				Joined the choir invisible	3		

Narrator: And now, hold onto your Torah...it's TORAH TIME LIVE!!! [*raucous applause*]

Opening theme: to the tune of “On Top of Old Smoky”

We'll read from the Torah	Before we get antsy	So if you love the Torah
We'll learn from the scrolls	Let's take a new look	From the books one through five
And hear the best story	At what we find this week	Let's act out together
We've ever been told	When we open the Book	At Torah Time Live! [applause]

1 **Scene 1**

2 Narrator: When last we left our heroes, Avraham had married Sarah's servant, Hagar
3 the Egyptian, and they had a son named Yishmael, meaning “G-d hears
4 everything.” And Yishmael grew strong and tough...and annoying.

5
6 Yishmael: Here ya go, Ma.

7 Hagar: Oh look, Avraham. Yishmael found a dead bird.

8 Yitzchak: Eeeeeew.

9 Yishmael: I didn't find it. I shot it down.

10 Hagar: Shot it down? With your bow and arrow?

11 Yishmael: Uh, no. With my SUPER AWESOME BOW AND ARROW.

12 Yitzchak: Oh, calm down.

13 Yishmael: Oh yeah? Jealous much?

14 Yitzchak: Jealous of what?

15 Yishmael: Of this SUPER AWESOME –

16 Yitzchak: -- bow and arrow. Got it.

17 Sarah: [quietly] Avraham, what's with this kid?

18 Avraham: Yishmael? He's got his good points.

19 Sarah: I know he can hunt and provide food for the family, but he's just so...

20 Avraham: Disrespectful?

21 Sarah: I was going for “slimy” but let's just go with yours.

22 Yitzchak: He's already eaten my cake!

23 Hagar: Well, Yishmael is a growing boy.

- 1 Yitzchak: And the candles.
- 2 Yishmael: Chewy but such pretty colors....
- 3 Avraham: Happy Birthday, little Yitzchak.
- 4 Sarah: Happy Birthday, honey!
- 5 Hagar: Yishmael, give Yitzchak his present.
- 6 Yishmael: OK...here ya go!
- 7 Yitzchak: Oh, it's another dead bird. Lovely. Mother, Yishmael has brought me still
8 yet another dead bird.
- 9 Hagar: Yishmael, where did you get that?
- 10 Yishmael: Oh gee, I don't know, I guess it fell out of the air?
- 11 Yitzchak: At least he's no longer shooting arrows at **me**.
- 12 Avraham: What?
- 13 Sarah: You don't know? It's Yishmael's latest thing.
- 14 Yishmael: Hey, what can I tell ya: I'm easily bored. Yitzchak, go long!
- 15 Yitzchak: Here we go again. Gotta run!
- 16 Sarah: [grumbles] Avraham, you are my husband and I can trust you, right?
- 17 Avraham: Sure, what is it?
- 18 Sarah: It's Yishmael. He's gotta go.
- 19 Avraham: Go? Go where?
- 20 Sarah: Somewhere else, but not here. He's a bad influence on Yitzchak.
- 21 Avraham: Honey, just because he's an active child –
- 22 Sarah: A hazardous-to-Yitzchak's-health child –
- 23 Avraham: – doesn't mean I should just get rid of him.
- 24 Sarah: Well, he's also been shooting his arrows everywhere.
- 25 Avraham: He was hunting for Yitzchak's birthday.
- 26 Sarah: No, he was hunting YITZCHAK.
- 27 Avraham: Alright, I'll ask G-d what we--
- 28 Almighty: Kick them out.
- 29 Avraham: That was fast.
- 30 Almighty: Avraham, send Hagar and her son into the desert.

1 Avraham: But what if –

2 Almighty: I shall watch over them. You'll see.

3

4 Narrator: More to come after this word from Mitzvah Man.

5

6 **Mitzvah Man PSA**

7 Shlomo: OK, I've polished your shoes, cleaned your rings, braided your hair, and
8 steamed and pressed your dress.

9 Tzipi: Perfect! I'll look ravishing for my date tonight.

10 Shlomo: Well, now that I've helped you, I need a hand studying for my algebra
11 test tomorrow.

12 Tzipi: Great, here's a hand. Yaaay!!!

13 Shlomo: But it's a HUGE test! And you said you'd help.

14 Tzipi: Now, why would I stay and help you when I have a date tonight? Oh,
15 sorry, you don't know what it's like to have a date.

16 Shlomo: But he's not picking you up for a whole hour.

17 Tzipi: Wow, you can tell time!

18 Shlomo: Y'know, insults hurt deep.

19 Mitzvah Man: *whoosh* Anything I can do?

20 Both: MITZVAH MAN!

21 Shlomo: Yo, Mitzvah Man, she's been ragging on me all day!

22 Tzipi: I'm just nervous about my date, I guess.

23 Mitzvah Man: So the answer is to take it out on your brother, who's been helping you
24 all day?

25 Tzipi: My date will be here soon!

26 Mitzvah Man: Tzipi, before you go anywhere, you first need to do *T'shuva*, asking for
27 Forgiveness.

28 Shlomo: First you have to say what you did to me, then say it was wrong.

29 Tzipi: Shlomo, I insulted you and that's just wrong.

30 Mitzvah Man: But then you have to say you're sorry and you'll never do it again.

- 1 Abraham: I'm an old man looking for Prince Yishmael.
- 2 Hoda: He's out doing laundry.
- 3 Abraham: Oh, that's too bad.
- 4 Hoda: Well, why don't you come in so I can clean you up and give you what to
5 eat?
- 6 Abraham: That would be great!
- 7 Hoda: How about a steak and some brisket and a kugel and some broccoli and
8 roast chicken and some asparagus and a big garden salad sound?
- 9 Abraham: Over the top.
- 10 Hoda: Great. You just sit there and I'll go make dinner. It'll take me a few hours,
11 so why not relax? Turn on the TV.
- 12 Abraham: The what?
- 13 Hoda: It's a hole in the wall where you can watch people walk by.
- 14 Abraham: My child, I'd love to come in...but first, a message for your guy.
- 15 Hoda: Yes?
- 16 Abraham: Tell him, this house...is a home.
17
- 18 Narrator: And as we finish up our play
19 Here's most of what we've learned today...
20
- 21 Hagar: Don't be obnoxious.
- 22 Yishmael: Respect your family: what you do reflects on them.
- 23 Avraham: The things you do affect everyone around you –
- 24 Sarah: For better or for worse.
- 25 Harriet: It's not always "about you."
- 26 Hoda: Sometimes being nice is its own reward.
27
- 28 Narrator: That's a bit from this week's *parashah*,
29 Micha'el: ...but there's always so much more.
- 30 Hagar: Now go and read the real thing,

- 1 ALL: ...and then you'll know for sure!
- 2
- 3 Next time: Avraham is ram tough!

Closing theme: to the tune of "On Top of Old Smoky"

We read from the Torah
We learned from the scrolls
We heard the best story
We've ever been told

But we have to move on now
This *parashah* is done
We bet that the next one
Will be even more fun

So if you love the Torah
From the books one through five
Come join us here next week
For Torah Time Live!

QUESTIONS:

1. Was Yishmael really dangerous or just a bad fit for Avraham's home life?
2. We read a *midrash*, an old rabbinic story, where Avraham visited grown-up Yishmael's home. Why did Avraham disapprove at first? Why was it so important that Yishmael have a hospitable home?
3. How do you benefit from asking someone to forgive you?

אַבְרָהָם

Avraham

שָׂרָה

Sarah