Grade 8 Biblical Hebrew

First edition · 5 units · 10 lessons · one quarter · Hebrew from the Leningrad Codex

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 8 Biblical Hebrew is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student learns how the Hebrew Bible was copied and kept (the Masoretes, the Leningrad Codex, the Great Isaiah Scroll), memorizes the Shema and the priestly blessing in Hebrew, and learns the Hebrew words that live on in English and in the church.

Then the student meets the Christians who learned Hebrew to translate the Bible, discovers the Aramaic chapters of Daniel and Ezra, and finishes K–8 Hebrew by reading, parsing and reciting the whole of Psalm 23.

> Every lesson has a short video, most under ten minutes, from Hebrew teaching channels approved for School Launch: Aleph with Beth (a free Christian Biblical Hebrew course with songs and easy Bible stories) and Daily Dose of Hebrew (two-minute verse readings by seminary professors), with a few single videos from Biblingo and BibleProject. The Daily Dose verse videos are made for adults; in the younger grades they are marked as the parent's video. Every lesson works without the video. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 8 (about ages 13–14) who read independently. No earlier Hebrew is needed: the course reviews the letters and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the reading practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Hebrew notebook. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice, the game and reading aloud: the student reads the week's Hebrew out loud to the family.
2. **Read it out loud every day.** Hebrew is learned by reading it aloud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by reading the alphabet, the vowel chart and the verses learned so far. Five minutes of cheerful reading beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Hebrew works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Hebrew works* explains the pattern; *Read it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new letters, signs or words. Make a flashcard for each one: Hebrew on the front, the sounds and meaning on the back.
5. **The Hebrew notebook.** Use any notebook for the whole quarter: letter charts, vowel charts, copywork and translations. Write Hebrew from the right edge of the line. Date every page.
6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Right to left.** Hebrew is written and read from right to left, so a Hebrew book opens from what an English reader calls the back. Every Hebrew word in these lessons is set right to left; when the child writes, start at the right edge of the line.

8. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 40 letters, signs and words. Unit 1: תֹּסִפוּ (tosifu), הַדָּבָר (haddavar), מִצְוֹת (mitsvot), דְּבָרֶךָ (devarekha), חָצִיר (chatsir), צִיץ (tsits), אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Eloheinu), יָקוּם (yaqum). Unit 2: שְׁמַע (shema), אֶחָד (echad), אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Eloheinu), יִשְׂרָאֵל (yisra'el), וְאָהַבְתָּ (ve'ahavta), לְבָבְךָ (levavkha), נַפְשֶׁךָ (nafshekha), מְאֹדֶךָ (me'odekha). Unit 3: יְבָרֶכְךָ (yevarekhekha), וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ (veyishmerekha), פָּנָיו (panav), שָׁלוֹם (shalom), אָמֵן (amen), מָשִׁיחַ (mashiach), הָעַלְמָה (ha'almah), אוֹת (ot). Unit 4: דְּבָרִי (dvari), יִהְיֶה (yihyeh), רֵיקָם (reqam), מִפִּי (mippi), מְנֵא (mene), תְּקֵל (teqel), כְּתָבָא (kethava), שֶׁקֶל (sheqel). Unit 5: יַרְבִּיצֵנִי (yarbitseni), יְנַהֲלֵנִי (yenahaleni), יְשׁוֹבֵב (yeshovev), יַנְחֵנִי (yancheni), אִירָא (ira), יִרְדְּפוּנִי (yirdefuni), וְשַׁבְתִּי (veshavti), חֶסֶד (chesed).
9. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
10. **The Hebrew Bible.** Hebrew verses are quoted from the Westminster Leningrad Codex, the public-domain electronic text of the Leningrad Codex, the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament, copied around A.D. 1008. It is the Hebrew text the King James translators' Old Testament comes from (the Masoretic text), in its oldest complete copy. In the elementary grades the verses are shown with their vowel points but without the small cantillation marks (the musical accents), which would crowd a beginner's page; Biblical Hebrew I shows them in full. Hebrew verse numbers sometimes differ from English ones; every verse here is chosen so that the numbers match. God's own name, written with four letters (יהוה), is printed LORD in capitals in the King James; Jewish readers have long said Adonai ("Lord") in its place, and this course does the same. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

How the Hebrew Bible Came to Us

The scribes who copied the Hebrew Bible, the Masoretes who added its vowels, and the Dead Sea Scrolls that proved their care. Ye shall not add unto the word; The word of our God shall stand for ever. With a carpet page of the Leningrad Codex and the Great Isaiah Scroll.

1.1 The Masoretes and the Leningrad Codex

1.2 The Great Isaiah Scroll

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Hear, O Israel

The Shema, the great confession of the one true God, and the command to love Him with all the heart, soul and might. Jesus called it the first and great commandment. With Doré's Moses Breaks the Tables of the Law.

2.1 The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4

2.2 Heart, Soul and Might: Deuteronomy 6:5

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Blessings and Bible Words

The priestly blessing of Numbers 6, the oldest Bible words ever found, and Hebrew words that live on in English and in the church: amen, hallelujah, hosanna, Immanuel. With Rembrandt's Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph.

3.1 The LORD Bless Thee: Numbers 6:24–26

3.2 Amen, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Immanuel

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Translators and a Strange Writing

Christians who learned Hebrew to bring the Bible to the world (Jerome, Reuchlin, Tyndale and the King James translators), and the Aramaic parts of the Old Testament, with the writing on the wall in Daniel 5. So shall my word be … it shall not return unto me void. With Rembrandt's Belshazzar's Feast.

4.1 Christians Who Learned Hebrew

4.2 The Writing on the Wall: Daniel 5 and Aramaic

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Capstone: Psalm 23

Reading and reciting the whole of Psalm 23 in Hebrew, parsing its verbs and suffixes with all the grammar of Grades 4–8. With Bernhard Plockhorst's The Lord Is My Good Shepherd.

5.1 Psalm 23:1–3

5.2 Psalm 23:4–6 and Recitation

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 The Masoretes and the Leningrad Codex: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 reading practice, video and activity (scribe's test) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, read the week's Hebrew words and verse aloud for five minutes.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 The Great Isaiah Scroll: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 reading practice, video and activity (scroll in a jar) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (timeline of the hebrew bible)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 reading practice, video and activity (doorpost card) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 Heart, Soul and Might: Deuteronomy 6:5: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 reading practice, video and activity (three-circle chart) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (shema doorpost)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 The LORD Bless Thee: Numbers 6:24–26: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 reading practice, video and activity (blessing card) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 Amen, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Immanuel: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 reading practice, video and activity (hebrew-in-english dictionary) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (blessing card and word list)

WEEK	PLAN
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 Christians Who Learned Hebrew: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 reading practice, video and activity (translation test) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 The Writing on the Wall: Daniel 5 and Aramaic: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 reading practice, video and activity (writing in columns) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (translator trading cards)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 Psalm 23:1–3: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 reading practice, video and activity (psalm 23 parsing book) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 Psalm 23:4–6 and Recitation: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 reading practice, video and activity (psalm 23 journey map) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (psalm 23 recitation and commentary)

Materials

Hebrew notebook (any notebook)

One for the quarter: charts, copywork and translations.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils and a fine-tip marker

For letter charts, vowel charts and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: reading aloud, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest

repetition. A student who reads Hebrew out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Reading aloud and flashcards	**30**
Hebrew notebook (dated pages, charts, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the reading drills and practice with help.

- A reading answer is right when every consonant and vowel is sounded; small differences of accent are fine.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Hebrew handwriting is graded on clear letter shapes written right to left, not on beauty.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Hebrew to teach this course. Every letter, vowel and word has its sounds written out, and every answer is in the answer key. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your mistakes.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Biblical Hebrew? Because it is the language of most of the Old Testament, the Scriptures Jesus read and quoted. A student who can read even a little Hebrew sees with his or her own eyes the words behind the English Bible: In the beginning God created, and The LORD is my shepherd.

This is a course in the Hebrew of the Bible, not in modern politics. The stories are the stories of Scripture and of the faithful scribes, scholars and translators who copied and handed down the Hebrew text, told cheerfully and honestly.

UNIT 1

How the Hebrew Bible Came to Us

Lesson 1.1 tells the story of the Masoretes and the Leningrad Codex, with Deuteronomy 4:2.

Lesson 1.2 tells the story of the Great Isaiah Scroll from Qumran, with Isaiah 40:8.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 7 Biblical Hebrew: roots, the perfect, the story form.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can explain who the Masoretes were and what they added.
- ☐ I can explain why the Dead Sea Scrolls matter.
- ☐ I can read Deuteronomy 4:2 and Isaiah 40:8 in Hebrew with help.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**The Masoretes and the Leningrad Codex**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**The Great Isaiah Scroll**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. 5 pts

   Who were the Masoretes, and what did they add to the Hebrew text?

2. 5 pts

   What is the Leningrad Codex?

3. 5 pts

   What is the Great Isaiah Scroll and why does it matter?

4. 5 pts

   Say Isaiah 40:8 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. Jewish scribes (about A.D. 600–1000, chiefly in Tiberias) who added the vowel points, accents and notes, without changing the letters.
2. The oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible, copied about A.D. 1008; the Hebrew of this course comes from it.
3. A scroll of all of Isaiah from about the second century B.C., found near Qumran in 1947; it agrees closely with Hebrew Bibles copied 1,000 years later.
4. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: TIMELINE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

Make a timeline from Moses to today: Moses and the prophets; the Great Isaiah Scroll (about 125 B.C.); Jerome (about A.D. 400); the Masoretes (600–1000); the Aleppo Codex (about 930); the Leningrad Codex (1008); the first printed Hebrew Bibles (1488); the King James Version (1611); the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1947). Add one sentence and one picture for each.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student explains each date aloud.
Grammar	The dates and names are spelled correctly.
Understanding	The timeline shows how the text was kept.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 1 · HOW THE HEBREW BIBLE CAME TO US · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 The Masoretes and the Leningrad Codex

OBJECTIVES

- Explain what the Masoretes did.
- Describe the Leningrad Codex.
- Read Deuteronomy 4:2 with help.

> **Warm-up.** Copy one line of a book by hand, perfectly. Now imagine copying the whole Bible, and counting every letter to make sure none is missing. That was the scribes' work.

WATCH

Deuteronomy 4:2

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6oxCyGrlRg

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; listen for lo tosifu, ye shall not add.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Deuteronomy 4:2 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Psalm 119:89

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgeWRNvW68U

Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Psalm 119:89 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

Masoretes

Jewish scribes, mostly in Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee, who from about A.D. 600 to 1000 added vowel points, accents and notes to the Hebrew text.

Masorah

The scribes' notes in the margins: counts of letters and words, and notes on unusual spellings.

codex

A book with pages, rather than a scroll.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

תֹּסִפוּ

tosifu

toh-see-FOO

verb

you (pl.) shall add

הַדָּבָר

haddavar

hahd-dah-VAHR

noun with the article

the word, the thing

מִצְוֹת

mitsvot

meets-VOHT

noun, plural

commandments

דְּבָרְךָ

devarekha

deh-vahr-KHAH

noun with suffix

thy word

CORE IDEAS

The story. Moses told Israel: Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it. Jewish scribes took this seriously. For centuries the Hebrew Bible was written with consonants only. The Masoretes did not change one letter; instead they added the dots and dashes you have learned, so that the way the text was read aloud would never be lost.

Their care. The Masoretes counted the verses, words and letters of each book and wrote the counts in the margins. They noted the middle verse of the Torah and every unusual spelling. Where the traditional reading differed from the written letters, they left the letters alone and put the reading in the margin (ketiv, what is written; qere, what is read).

The Leningrad Codex. Copied in Cairo about A.D. 1008 by a scribe named Samuel ben Jacob, from manuscripts of the Ben Asher family of Masoretes, it is the oldest complete Hebrew Bible. It is kept in the National Library of Russia in St Petersburg, and its text is the Westminster Leningrad Codex used in this course.

PICTURE STUDY



Carpet page of the Leningrad Codex, Samuel ben Jacob, scribe, 1008 · Ink, gold and color on parchment · National Library of Russia, Saint Petersburg

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Some of the decoration on carpet pages like this one is made of tiny Hebrew writing, the Masoretes' notes shaped into patterns. The words at the center record who copied and checked the book.

Look closely

- Find the six-pointed star.
- Where can you see the tiniest writing?
- What shapes make up the border?
- How many colors can you find?

Talk about it

1. Why would scribes turn their notes into art?
2. How does it feel to read from a text copied this carefully?

ACTIVITY

Scribe's test

Copy a verse like a scribe and check it like a Masorete.

You will need

- Lined paper
- A fine pen
- A ruler

Steps

1. Copy Deuteronomy 4:2 in Hebrew from the course, letter by letter.
2. Count the letters in your copy and in the original.
3. Count the words. Do they match?
4. Find the middle letter of the verse.

Tips

- Count maqqef-joined words separately.

Check your work

☐ My counts match.

☐ I found the middle letter.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write three things the Masoretes added and one thing they never changed.

> **From history.** The Aleppo Codex, about 930, is older than the Leningrad Codex and was praised by the scholar Maimonides, but about 40 percent of its pages, including most of the Torah, went missing after riots in Aleppo in 1947.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: לֹא תֹסִפוּ עַל־הַדָּבָר

▼ **Show solution**

1. lo = not; tosifu = you shall add (root י־ס־ף, add).
2. al-haddavar = to (upon) the word.

Answer: Ye shall not add unto the word.

Example 2. Translate: לְעוֹלָם יְהוָה דְּבָרְךָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. le'olam = for ever.
2. The Name = O LORD; devarekha = thy word.

Answer: For ever, O LORD, thy word (Psalm 119:89).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Where did most Masoretes work?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Tiberias, by the Sea of Galilee.

2. Easy What is a codex?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A book with pages.

3. Easy Did the Masoretes change the letters?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   No.

4. Medium What are ketiv and qere?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   What is written and what is read: when the reading differed, the Masoretes kept the letters and put the reading in the margin.

5. Medium When and where was the Leningrad Codex copied?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   About A.D. 1008, in Cairo.

6. Hard Say Deuteronomy 4:2 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking the vowel points are as old as Moses. The letters are ancient; the points were added much later to preserve the reading.
- Thinking the Masoretes rewrote the text. They guarded it.

> **Make it a game · Spot the scribal error.** The parent copies a Hebrew verse from this course with one letter or vowel changed. Players compare it with the course text and find the error. Then swap roles.

> **Scripture.** “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” (Deuteronomy 4:2, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> לֹא תֹסִפוּ עַל־הַדָּבָר
>
> Find lo tosifu, ye shall not add, and velo tigreʻu, neither shall ye diminish. LORD your God is the holy Name with your God; say Adonai Eloheikhem.

1.2 The Great Isaiah Scroll

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Explain what the Great Isaiah Scroll shows about the Bible's text.
- Read Isaiah 40:8.

> **Warm-up.** If someone copied a book by hand, then someone copied the copy, a thousand times over a thousand years, how different would the last copy be? In 1947 a shepherd found the answer.

WATCH

Isaiah 2:3b - Biblical Hebrew

Biblingo: Learn the Biblical Languages · 0:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU0LaYxrvjc

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; listen for udvar-Adonai, and the word of the LORD.

Note: Biblingo reads Isaiah 2:3b aloud in Biblical Hebrew with the text on screen (0:42): for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

KEY TERMS

Dead Sea Scrolls
About 900 scrolls and fragments found from 1947 to 1956 in caves near Qumran, by the Dead Sea; many are copies of Bible books.

1QIsa[a]
The Great Isaiah Scroll: Cave 1, Qumran, Isaiah, first copy. All 66 chapters on 17 sheets of leather, about 24 feet long.

יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם yaqum le'olam
Shall stand for ever.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

חָצִיר

chatsir

khah-TSEER

noun

grass

צִיץ

tsits

TSEETS

noun

flower

אֱלֹהֵינוּ

Eloheinu

eh-loh-HAY-noo

noun with suffix

our God

יָקוּם

yaqum

yah-KOOM

verb

he (it) shall stand

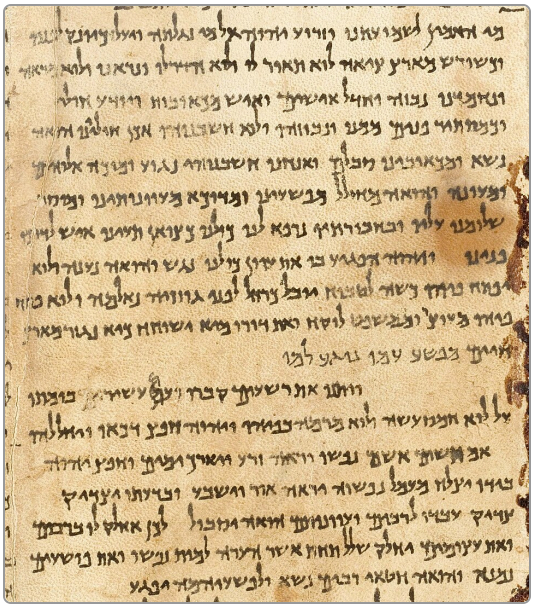
CORE IDEAS

The story. Isaiah wrote: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd boy searching for a lost goat threw a stone into a cave near the Dead Sea and heard pottery break. Inside the jars were scrolls, among them a complete copy of Isaiah, made about a century or more before Christ.

What it showed. Before 1947, the oldest complete Hebrew copies of Isaiah were from about A.D. 1000. The Great Isaiah Scroll is about 1,000 years older, yet it agrees with them in the great majority of its text; most of the differences are spelling. God kept His word through faithful copyists, as Isaiah 40:8 says.

Read it. יָבֵשׁ חָצִיר נָבֵל צִיץ withers grass, fades flower (perfects, verb first); וּדְבַר־ אֱלֹהֵינוּ but the word of our God (construct + suffix -enu, our); יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם shall stand for ever.

PICTURE STUDY



The Great Isaiah Scroll (Isaiah 53), Unknown scribe at Qumran, about 2nd century B.C. · Ink on leather · Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This column holds Isaiah 53, the chapter about the suffering Servant: He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities (53:5). It was copied long before Jesus was born; the New Testament applies it to Him (Acts 8:32–35).

Look closely

- Can you see any vowel points?
- Find the space between two paragraphs.
- Find the stain.
- Do the letters look like the ones you have learned?

Talk about it

1. Why is a copy without vowel points harder to read?
2. Why does it matter that Isaiah 53 was written down before Jesus was born?

ACTIVITY

Scroll in a jar

Make a model Dead Sea scroll and jar.

You will need

- Brown paper
- Tea (to stain the paper)
- Two dowels
- A tall cardboard tube

Steps

1. Stain the paper with cold tea and let it dry.
2. Copy Isaiah 40:8 on it in Hebrew letters without vowel points, as the scroll has it.
3. Roll it on dowels and store it in the tube "jar."
4. Read it to someone, adding the vowels from memory.

Tips

- Leave out the vowel points, but keep the letters exact.

Check your work

☐ I copied the letters exactly.

☐ I read the verse without the points.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Isaiah 40:8 twice: once with vowels, once without (like the scroll). Read both.

> **From history.** Peter quotes Isaiah 40:8 in 1 Peter 1:24–25 and adds: And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: יָבֵשׁ חָצִיר

▼ **Show solution**

1. yavesh = it withered (perfect; verb first).
2. chatsir = grass.

Answer: The grass withereth.

Example 2. Translate: וּדְבַר־אֱלֹהֵינוּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. u- = but (and); devar = word of (construct).
2. Eloheinu = our God (-enu, our).

Answer: but the word of our God.

PRACTICE

1. Easy When were the Dead Sea Scrolls found?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   1947 (to 1956).

2. Easy Translate: חָצִיר

   ▼ **Show answer**

   grass.

3. Easy Translate: לְעוֹלָם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   for ever.

4. Medium About how old is the Great Isaiah Scroll?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   About 2,100 years (2nd century B.C.).

5. Medium What did the scroll show about the Masoretic text?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   It agrees closely; most differences are spelling.

6. Hard Say Isaiah 40:8 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking the scrolls have vowel points. They have only letters.
- Missing the suffix -enu on Eloheinu.

> **Make it a game · No-vowel reading.** Write ten words from this year without vowel points (שלום, דבר, מלך, יום, אור, ...). Players read them aloud. Discuss: which words could be read two ways?

> **Scripture.** "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isaiah 40:8, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וּדְבַר־אֱלֹהֵינוּ יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם
>
> Find udvar-Eloheinu yaqum le'olam, but the word of our God shall stand for ever: a construct chain, a suffix and a verb.

UNIT 2

Hear, O Israel

Lesson 2.1 reads Deuteronomy 6:4, the Shema, word by word, with Doré's Moses.

Lesson 2.2 reads Deuteronomy 6:5, heart, soul and might, with BibleProject's word studies.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can recite Deuteronomy 6:4–5 in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can parse shema, ve'ahavta and the suffixes in verse 5.
- ☐ I can explain lev, nefesh and me'od.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**Heart, Soul and Might: Deuteronomy 6:5**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

The student recites, parses and translates. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Recite Deuteronomy 6:4 in Hebrew.
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: שְׁמַע and אֶחָד
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: בְּכָל־לְבָבְךָ
4. **5 pts**
   Which commandment did Jesus call the first and great commandment?

ANSWER KEY

1. shema yisra'el Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad.
2. hear! (command); one.
3. with all thine heart.
4. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matthew 22:37–38), quoting Deuteronomy 6:5.

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: SHEMA DOORPOST

Make a doorpost card with Deuteronomy 6:4–5 in Hebrew and in the KJV. On the back explain each of the words shema, echad, lev, nefesh and me'od, and copy Deuteronomy 6:6–9. Recite verses 4–5 from memory.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student recites verses 4–5.
Grammar	The words are parsed correctly.
Understanding	The explanations are accurate.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 2 · HEAR, O ISRAEL · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 The Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite Deuteronomy 6:4.
- Parse shema and Eloheinu.
- Explain the large letters.

> **Warm-up.** What is the most important thing you could ever say about God? Moses put it in six Hebrew words.

WATCH

Deuteronomy 6:4

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd5GYMXWfQo

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; recite along with the verse video.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Deuteronomy 6:4 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

BACKUP VIDEO

Shema - Listen

BibleProject · 3:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KQLOuIKaRA

BibleProject's word study on the Hebrew word shema, "hear, listen" (3:26).

KEY TERMS

שְׁמַע shema

Hear! Listen! (a command, root ש־מ־ע). To hear in Hebrew also means to obey.

אֱלֹהֵינוּ Eloheinu

Our God.

אֶחָד echad

One.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

שְׁמַע

shema

sheh-MAH

verb, command

hear!

אֶחָד

echad

eh-KHAHD

number

one

אֱלֹהֵינוּ

Eloheinu

eh-loh-HAY-noo

noun with suffix

our God

יִשְׂרָאֵל

yisra'el

yees-rah-AYL

name

Israel

CORE IDEAS

The story. Before Israel entered the promised land, Moses gathered them and said: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD. All around them, nations worshipped many gods. Israel was to worship one. When a scribe asked Jesus which commandment was first, Jesus began with these words (Mark 12:29).

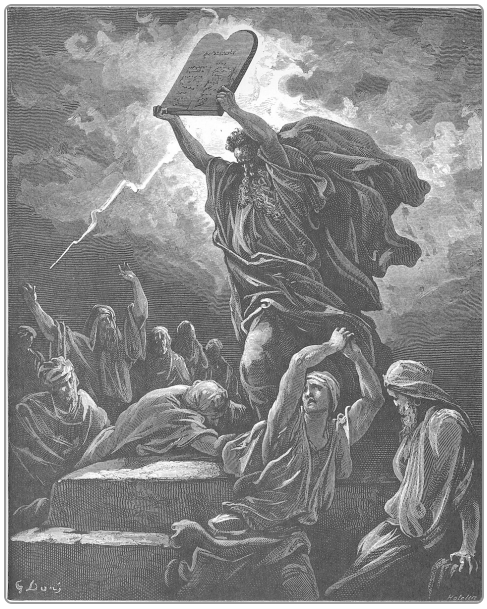
Read it.

> שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד׃

shema (hear!) yisra'el, Adonai (the holy Name) Eloheinu (our God), Adonai echad (one): four verbless words after the command. The KJV supplies "is": The LORD our God is one LORD.

The large letters. In Hebrew Bibles the last letter of שְׁמַע (ayin) and of אֶחָד (dalet) are written large. Jewish tradition notes that together they spell עֵד ed, witness: the one who says the Shema bears witness to the one God.

PICTURE STUDY



Moses Breaks the Tables of the Law, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving · From the Doré Bible

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

When Moses came down from Sinai and found Israel worshipping a golden calf, he broke the tablets of the law (Exodus 32:19). The first commandment, Thou shalt have no other gods before me, had been broken. The Shema calls God's people back to the one true God.

Look closely

- What is Moses about to do?
- How are the people reacting?
- Find the lightning.
- Why is the sky so dark?

Talk about it

1. Why did Moses break the tablets?
2. How does the Shema answer the sin of the golden calf?

ACTIVITY

Doorpost card

Make a doorpost card with the Shema, as Deuteronomy 6:9 says.

You will need

- Card stock
- Ribbon
- Markers

Steps

1. Copy Deuteronomy 6:4 in Hebrew, making the ayin of שְׁמַע and the dalet of אֶחָד large.
2. Write the KJV below.
3. Hang it by your door and recite it each time you pass.

Tips

- Write the large letters exactly where the Bible has them.

Check your work

☐ My card has the large letters.

☐ I recite it from memory.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Deuteronomy 6:4 in Hebrew with the large letters. Translate each word.

> **From history.** Jewish families have said the Shema morning and evening for over two thousand years. Deuteronomy 6:6–9 says to teach these words to your children and write them on your doorposts.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Parse: שְׁמַע

▼ **Show solution**

1. root ש־מ־ע (hear).
2. Short form with no prefix: a command to one person.

Answer: command, Qal, ש־מ־ע: Hear!

Example 2. Translate: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. The Name: say Adonai.
2. Eloheinu = Elohim + -enu, our.

Answer: the LORD our God.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: שְׁמַע

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Hear!

2. Easy Translate: אֶחָד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   one.

3. Easy Translate: יִשְׂרָאֵל

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Israel.

4. Medium Which two letters are large in the Shema?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The ayin of shema and the dalet of echad.

5. Medium What does shema mean besides “hear”?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Listen and obey.

6. Hard Recite Deuteronomy 6:4 in Hebrew and English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   shema yisra’el Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Translating shema as “he heard.” It is a command.
- Leaving out the supplied “is.”

> **Make it a game · Six-word relay.** Six players each hold one word of the Shema. They line up right to left and say their words in order, faster each round. Then swap words.

> **Scripture.** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:” (Deuteronomy 6:4, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד׃
>
> Recite the whole verse. The holy Name appears twice; say Adonai.

UNIT 2 · HEAR, O ISRAEL · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 Heart, Soul and Might: Deuteronomy 6:5

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite Deuteronomy 6:5.
- Parse ve’ahavta and the three suffixes.
- Explain lev, nefesh and me’od.

> **Warm-up.** What does it mean to love someone with all your heart? Make a list of what that looks like.

WATCH

What It Means to Love God With "All Your Heart"

BibleProject · 3:50

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS4iM6KpPYo

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; watch the heart video first, then the strength video.

Note: BibleProject's word study on lev / levav, "heart," in the Shema (3:50).

BACKUP VIDEO

What It Means to Love God With "All Your Strength"

BibleProject · 4:43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aaVy1AmFX4

BibleProject's word study on me'od, "might, strength," in the Shema (4:43).

KEY TERMS

וְאָהַבְתָּ ve'ahavta

And thou shalt love (root א־ה־ב; a perfect with ve- that looks forward: a command).

לְבָבְךָ levavkha

Thy heart: in Hebrew, the center of thought, will and feeling.

מְאֹדֶךָ me'odekha

Thy might: me'od is the word "very," used here as a noun: thy "muchness," all you have.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of

the shewa.

וְאָהַבְתָּ *ve'ahavta* **veh-ah-hahv-TAH** verb and thou shalt love	לְבָבְךָ *levavkha* **leh-vahv-KHAH** noun with suffix thy heart
נַפְשְׁךָ *nafshekha* **nahf-sheh-KHAH** noun with suffix thy soul	מְאֹדֶךָ *me'odekha* **meh-oh-DEH-khah** noun with suffix thy might

CORE IDEAS

The story. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Love for God is not only a feeling. In Hebrew, the heart is where we think and choose, the soul (nefesh) is our whole living self, and might (me'od) is everything we have and can do.

Read it.

> וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל־מְאֹדֶךָ׃

ve'ahavta (and thou shalt love) et (object marker) Adonai Elohekha (thy God) bekhol-levavkha (with all thy heart) uvkhol-nafshekha (and with all thy soul) uvkhol-me'odekha (and with all thy might).

Grammar. וְאָהַבְתָּ is a perfect (-ta, you) with ve-; in commands and promises this pattern points forward: thou shalt love. Three suffixes -kha (thy) and three "with all": בְּכָל־.

ACTIVITY

Three-circle chart

Draw three circles labeled לֵבָב, נֶפֶשׁ, מְאֹד.

You will need

- Paper
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. In each circle write the Hebrew and its meaning.
2. Inside, list ways a young person can love God with that part of life (thinking, choosing, working, giving).
3. Write Deuteronomy 6:5 in Hebrew around the outside.

Tips

- Copy each maqqef in בְּכָל־.

Check your work

☐ My chart has all three words.

☐ I can recite verse 5.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Deuteronomy 6:5 in Hebrew. Parse ve’ahavta and each suffix.

> **From history.** Jesus added “and with all thy mind” when He quoted this verse (Mark 12:30), making plain for Greek readers what the Hebrew “heart” already included.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Parse: וְאָהַבְתָּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. ve- = and.
2. ahav + -ta = you loved (perfect); with ve- in a command it points forward.

Answer: and thou shalt love.

Example 2. Translate: וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. u- = and; be- = with; khol = all.
2. nafshekha = thy soul (nefesh + -kha).

Answer: and with all thy soul.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: לְבָבְךָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   thy heart.

2. Easy Translate: נַפְשְׁךָ

   ▼ **Show answer**

   thy soul.

3. Easy Translate: בְּכָל־

   ▼ **Show answer**

   with all.

4. Medium What does me’od usually mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   very.

5. Medium What does the heart mean in Hebrew?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The center of thinking, choosing and feeling.

6. Hard Recite Deuteronomy 6:5 in Hebrew and English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ve'ahavta et Adonai Elohekha bekhol-levavkha uvkhol-nafshekha uvkhol-me'odekha. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking "heart" means only feelings.
- Reading ve'ahavta as past ("and you loved").

> **Make it a game · Shema chain.** Go around the room: each person adds the next Hebrew word of Deuteronomy 6:4–5. Miss a word and you start the chain again from shema.

> **Scripture.** "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deuteronomy 6:5, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל־מְאֹדֶךָ׃
>
> Recite the verse. Find the three suffixes -kha (thy) and the three bekhol, with all.

UNIT 3

Blessings and Bible Words

Lesson 3.1 reads the priestly blessing, Numbers 6:24–26, with Rembrandt's Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph.

Lesson 3.2 teaches Hebrew words used in English and in the New Testament, with Isaiah 7:14.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can recite Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can explain the jussive verbs in the blessing.
- ☐ I can explain amen, hallelujah, hosanna and Immanuel.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**The LORD Bless Thee: Numbers 6:24–26**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**Amen, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Immanuel**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

The student recites, parses and translates. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Recite Numbers 6:24 in Hebrew.
2. **5 pts**
   Translate: וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם
3. **5 pts**
   What do amen and hosanna mean?
4. **5 pts**
   Say Isaiah 7:14 in English.

ANSWER KEY

1. yevarekhekha Adonai veyishmerekha.
2. and give thee peace.
3. amen: surely, truly, so be it (root אָמַן, firm); hosanna: save now (Psalm 118:25).
4. Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: BLESSING CARD AND WORD LIST

Make a blessing card with Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew and the KJV to give to a family member. Then make an illustrated list of ten Hebrew words used in English (amen, hallelujah, sabbath, cherub, jubilee, Messiah, hosanna, Immanuel, manna, Satan) with their Hebrew spelling and meaning.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student recites the blessing.
Grammar	The Hebrew words are spelled correctly.
Understanding	The meanings are accurate.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 3 · BLESSINGS AND BIBLE WORDS · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 The LORD Bless Thee: Numbers 6:24–26

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite Numbers 6:24–26.
- Explain the jussive verbs.
- Tell the story of the silver scrolls.

> **Warm-up.** Has someone ever prayed a blessing over you? How did it feel? God gave the priests of Israel exact words to bless His people.

WATCH

The Ancient Hebrew Blessing (בִּרְכַּת כֹּהֲנִים) - Numbers 6:24-26

Aleph with Beth · 3:16

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11zuSK-Xyf8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; sing the blessing until you can say it without the screen.

Note: Aleph with Beth sings the priestly blessing, Numbers 6:24–26, in Biblical Hebrew with the words on screen (3:16).

KEY TERMS

יְבָרֶכְךָ yevarekhekha

May he bless thee (root ב־ר־ך + -kha).

וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ veyishmerekha

And keep thee (root ש־מ־ר).

jussive of blessing

A wish form: may the LORD bless, may He shine, may He lift up.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

יְבָרֶכְךָ

yevarekhekha

yeh-vah-rekh-KHAH

verb with suffix

may he bless thee

וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ

veyishmerekha

veh-yeesh-meh-REH-khah

verb with suffix

and keep thee

פָּנָיו	שָׁלוֹם
panav	*shalom*
pah-NAHV	**shah-LOHM**
noun with suffix	noun
his face	peace, wholeness

CORE IDEAS

The story. God told Moses to tell Aaron and his sons, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel. The blessing has three lines that grow longer: 3, 5 and 7 Hebrew words. Each line names the LORD. Then God says, And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them (Numbers 6:27).

Read it.

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ׃

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וִיחֻנֶּךָּ׃

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם׃

Each verse begins with a wish verb: may He bless, may He make shine, may He lift up. פָּנָיו his face; אֵלֶיךָ toward thee; שָׁלוֹם peace, wholeness.

The silver scrolls. In 1979, archaeologists digging at Ketef Hinnom, a burial cave in Jerusalem, found two tiny rolled-up silver scrolls from about 600 B.C. When they were unrolled, they held this blessing: the oldest known copy of words from the Bible.

PICTURE STUDY



Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1656 · Oil on canvas · Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Kassel

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

In Genesis 48 Jacob, nearly blind, blesses Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh and crosses his hands to give the greater blessing to the younger. Blessing by a father, and by the priests in God's name, runs all through the Bible.

Look closely

- Which boy is Jacob blessing with his right hand?
- What is Joseph doing with his hand?
- Find the mother.
- What colors make the bed glow?

Talk about it

1. Why would a father's blessing matter so much?
2. How is the priestly blessing like a father's blessing?

ACTIVITY

Blessing card

Make a blessing card to give to someone.

You will need

- Card stock
- Gold and blue markers

Steps

1. Write Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew, one verse per line.
2. Write the KJV inside.
3. Give it to a family member and read it aloud to them.

Tips

- The lines grow: 3, 5, 7 words.

Check your work

- ☐ My card has all three verses.
- ☐ I read the blessing aloud.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Numbers 6:24–26 in Hebrew. Count the words in each line and parse the first verb of each.

> **From history.** The silver scrolls of Ketef Hinnom are kept in the Israel Museum. They are older than the Dead Sea Scrolls by about 400 years.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה

▼ **Show solution**

1. yevarekh- = may he bless (jussive, ב־ר־ך).
2. -kha = thee; the Name = the LORD.

Answer: The LORD bless thee.

Example 2. Translate: יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ

▼ **Show solution**

1. ya’er = may he make shine (root א־ו־ר, light).
2. panav = his face; elekha = toward thee.

Answer: The LORD make his face shine upon thee.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: שָׁלוֹם

   ▼ **Show answer**

   peace.

2. Easy Translate: פָּנָיו

   ▼ **Show answer**

   his face.

3. Easy How many words are in each line?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   3, 5, 7.

4. Medium Root of יָאֵר?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   א־ו־ר, light (as in or).

5. Medium Where were the silver scrolls found?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   At Ketef Hinnom, Jerusalem, in 1979.

6. Hard Recite Numbers 6:24–26 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading the verbs as statements ("the LORD blesses"). They are wishes and prayers.
- Missing the suffix -kha (thee) on each verb.

> **Make it a game · Growing lines.** Players take turns saying the blessing one word at a time; whoever says the last word of a line raises both hands. Then try it from memory.

> **Scripture.** "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:" (Numbers 6:24, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ׃
>
> Recite the verse: yevarekhekha Adonai veyishmerekha. Two verbs, each with the suffix -kha.

UNIT 3 · BLESSINGS AND BIBLE WORDS · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 Amen, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Immanuel

OBJECTIVES

- Explain Hebrew words used in English and in the New Testament.
- Find their roots.

- Read Isaiah 7:14.

> **Warm-up.** You may say three Hebrew words every Sunday without knowing it. Can you guess which? (Amen, hallelujah, hosanna.)

WATCH

Isaiah 9:6 - Biblical Hebrew

Biblingo: Learn the Biblical Languages · 0:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHGvi3RA0mY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; listen for yeled yullad lanu, a child is born unto us.

Note: Biblingo reads Isaiah 9:6 aloud in Biblical Hebrew with the text on screen: For unto us a child is born (9:5 in Hebrew Bibles).

BACKUP VIDEO

Hebrew Worship - Psalm 118:26 תְּהִלָּה - Barukh haba - Biblical Hebrew

Aleph with Beth · 2:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzSkXGbRPlI

Aleph with Beth sings Psalm 118:26, barukh habba, Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD (2:21), the words the crowd sang on Palm Sunday.

KEY TERMS

אָמֵן amen

Surely, truly, so be it (root א־מ־ן, firm, faithful; emunah, faithfulness).

עִמָּנוּ אֵל immanu el

God with us (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).

הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא hoshi‘ah na

Save now! (Psalm 118:25), which became “hosanna.”

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

אָמֵן

amen

ah-MAYN

adverb

truly, so be it

מָשִׁיחַ

mashiach

mah-SHEE-ahkh

noun

anointed one, Messiah

הָעַלְמָה

ha'almah

hah-ahl-MAH

noun with the article

the virgin, the young woman

אוֹת

ot

OHT

noun

sign

CORE IDEAS

The story. When King Ahaz of Judah was afraid of his enemies, Isaiah gave him a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Matthew 1:23 tells us this was fulfilled when Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, and explains the name: God with us.

Hebrew words in English. אָמֵן amen; הַלְלוּ־יָהּ hallelujah, praise ye the LORD; שַׁבָּת sabbath; כְּרוּב cherub; יוֹבֵל jubilee (ram's horn); מָשִׁיחַ Messiah, anointed; מָן manna; שָׂטָן Satan, adversary.

In the New Testament. On Palm Sunday the crowds cried "Hosanna," from הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא save now (Psalm 118:25), and Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:9). Jesus' own name, Yeshua, comes from the same root: the LORD saves.

ACTIVITY

Hebrew-in-English dictionary

Make a small dictionary of Hebrew words in English.

You will need

- A small notebook
- Markers

Steps

1. Give each word a page: amen, hallelujah, hosanna, Immanuel, sabbath, cherub, jubilee, Messiah, manna, Satan.
2. Write the Hebrew, its root, its meaning, and one verse.
3. Draw a picture for each.

Tips

- Check each Hebrew spelling against the course.

Check your work

- ☐ My dictionary has ten pages.
- ☐ I can explain each word.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write amen, hallelujah, hosanna and Immanuel in Hebrew with their meanings and roots.

> **From history.** The names Joshua, Hosea, Isaiah and Jesus (Yeshua) all come from the root י־ש־ע, save.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: עִמָּנוּ אֵל

▼ **Show solution**

1. immanu = with us (im + -nu).
2. el = God.

Answer: God with us.

Example 2. Root of הוֹשִׁיעָה?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Take off ho- (a verb pattern) and the ending.
2. The root is י־ש־ע, save.

Answer: י־ש־ע, save: the root of Yeshua and Isaiah.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: אָמֵן

   ▼ **Show answer**

   truly, so be it.

2. Easy What does hallelujah mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Praise ye the LORD (Yah).

3. Easy What does Immanuel mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   God with us.

4. Medium What does hosanna mean, and where does it come from?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Save now; Psalm 118:25.

5. Medium Which root gives amen and emunah?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   א־מ־ן, firm, faithful.

6. Hard Say Isaiah 7:14 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking hosanna means “praise.” It means “save now.”
- Writing Immanuel as one word in the Hebrew; the Leningrad Codex writes it as two.

> **Make it a game · Hebrew or not?.** The parent reads English words: amen, banana, cherub, jubilee, pajamas, sabbath, hallelujah, kangaroo, manna, Messiah. Players stand for Hebrew words and sit for others, then explain the Hebrew ones.

> **Scripture.** “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> הִנֵּה הָעַלְמָה הָרָה וְיֹלֶדֶת בֵּן
>
> Find ha‘almah, the virgin; ben, a son; and immanu el, God with us. Note adonai here is the word Lord (master), not the holy Name: the KJV prints Lord, not LORD.

UNIT 4

Translators and a Strange Writing

Lesson 4.1 tells how Christians learned Hebrew and translated the Old Testament, with Isaiah 55:11 and a portrait of Johannes Reuchlin.

Lesson 4.2 teaches that a few chapters of the Old Testament are in Aramaic, with Daniel 5:25 and Rembrandt's Belshazzar's Feast.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name four Christian translators who worked from the Hebrew.
- ☐ I can name the Aramaic parts of the Old Testament.
- ☐ I can explain the writing on the wall.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**Christians Who Learned Hebrew**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**The Writing on the Wall: Daniel 5 and Aramaic**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

The student writes or answers aloud. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Why did Jerome learn Hebrew?
2. **5 pts**
   Name two English words William Tyndale coined in translating the Old Testament.
3. **5 pts**
   Which parts of the Old Testament are in Aramaic?
4. **5 pts**
   What did MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. To translate the Old Testament into Latin from the Hebrew itself (the Vulgate).
2. Passover, scapegoat.
3. Daniel 2:4–7:28, Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26, Jeremiah 10:11 (and two words in Genesis 31:47).
4. Numbered, weighed, divided: God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom, weighed him and found him wanting, and divided his kingdom (Daniel 5:26–28).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: TRANSLATOR TRADING CARDS

Make five trading cards: Jerome, Reuchlin, Luther, Tyndale and the King James translators. Each card: a picture, dates, what they translated or wrote, from which language, and one fact. Add a sixth card on Daniel and the Aramaic chapters.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student presents each card.
Grammar	Names and dates are correct.
Understanding	Each card explains why the work mattered.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 4 · TRANSLATORS AND A STRANGE WRITING · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 Christians Who Learned Hebrew

OBJECTIVES

- Tell how Jerome, Reuchlin and Tyndale learned and used Hebrew.
- Explain how the KJV Old Testament was translated.
- Read Isaiah 55:11.

> **Warm-up.** You have now studied Hebrew for years. Imagine being one of the few people in your whole country who could read it, and the only way others could read the Old Testament was if you translated it.

WATCH

Hebrew Introduction - Free Communicative Biblical Hebrew - equipping the global Church

Aleph with Beth · 4:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rg-Dcfj-fc

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading.

Note: Aleph with Beth's introduction to learning Biblical Hebrew today, spoken in Hebrew with pictures and English help (4:07).

KEY TERMS

Vulgate

Jerome's Latin Bible (about A.D. 405), translated from the Hebrew and Greek.

Rudiments of Hebrew

Johannes Reuchlin's Hebrew grammar and dictionary for Christians (1506).

translation

Carrying the meaning from one language to another. The KJV translators worked from the Hebrew Masoretic text.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

דְּבָרִי

dvari

dvah-REE

noun with suffix

my word

יִהְיֶה

yihyeh

yih-YEH

verb

he (it) shall be

רֵיקָם

reqam

ray-KAHM

adverb

empty, void

מִפִּי

mippi

meep-PEE

preposition with suffix

out of my mouth

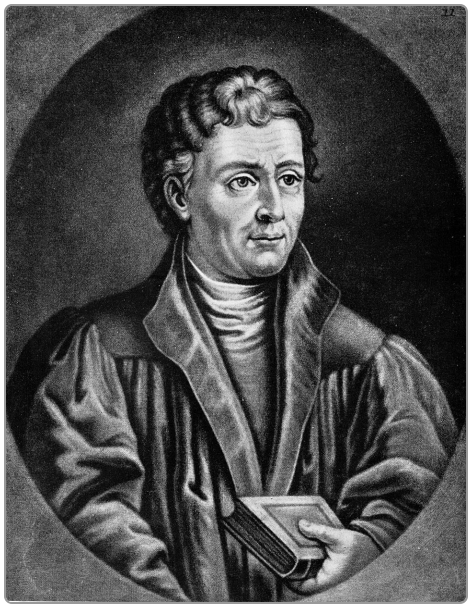
CORE IDEAS

The story. God said through Isaiah: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please. God's word goes out in every language, because faithful people learned Hebrew and Greek and translated it.

Four translators. Jerome learned Hebrew in Bethlehem and translated the Old Testament into Latin from the Hebrew (about 405). Johannes Reuchlin wrote a pioneering Hebrew grammar and dictionary for Christians (1506) and defended Hebrew books from being burned. William Tyndale translated the Pentateuch from Hebrew into English (1530), coining words like Passover and scapegoat, and was martyred in 1536. The King James translators (1604–1611) worked from printed Hebrew Bibles and kept much of Tyndale's English.

Read it. כֵּן יִהְיֶה דְּבָרִי so shall my word be (dvari = my word); לֹא־יָשׁוּב אֵלַי רֵיקָם it shall not return unto me void (empty).

PICTURE STUDY



Johannes Reuchlin, Unknown engraver, after a 16th-century likeness · Engraving · Public-domain print

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Reuchlin (1455–1522) was a German lawyer and scholar. When some wanted all Jewish books burned, Reuchlin argued that Christians should study them instead, and he taught Hebrew to a generation of scholars. His great-nephew Philip Melanchthon became Martin Luther's closest helper.

Look closely

- What is Reuchlin holding?
- How is he dressed?
- What shape frames the portrait?
- What kind of person does he look like?

Talk about it

1. Why might a Christian scholar defend Hebrew books?
2. How did Reuchlin's grammar help the Reformation?

ACTIVITY

Translation test

Translate a verse yourself and compare.

You will need

- Paper
- A pencil

Steps

1. Translate Isaiah 55:11a word by word from the Hebrew in this lesson.
2. Write your own smooth English version.
3. Compare it with the KJV. Which words did the KJV choose differently, and why?

Tips

- Use the vocabulary box.

Check your work

☐ I made my own translation.

☐ I compared it carefully.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Write one sentence each about Jerome, Reuchlin, Tyndale and the KJV translators.

> **From history.** The first printed Hebrew Bible appeared in Soncino, Italy, in 1488. The great Rabbinic Bible printed by Daniel Bomberg in Venice (1524–25) was used by the King James translators.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: כֵּן יִהְיֶה דְבָרִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. ken = so; yihyeh = shall be (root ה־י־ה, a future form).
2. dvari = my word (davar + -i).

Answer: So shall my word be.

Example 2. Translate: לֹא־יָשׁוּב אֵלַי רֵיקָם

▼ **Show solution**

1. lo = not; yashuv = it shall return.
2. elai = unto me; reqam = empty, void.

Answer: it shall not return unto me void.

PRACTICE

1. Easy In what language did Jerome translate the Bible?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Latin.

2. Easy Who coined “scapegoat”?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   William Tyndale.

3. Easy Translate: דְבָרִי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my word.

4. Medium What did Reuchlin write in 1506?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A Hebrew grammar and dictionary for Christians, the Rudiments of Hebrew.

5. Medium From what text did the KJV translators work for the Old Testament?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The Hebrew (Masoretic) text, in printed editions.

6. Hard Say Isaiah 55:11 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking the KJV was translated from Latin. It was translated from the Hebrew and Greek.
- Mixing up Reuchlin (Hebrew grammar) and Erasmus (Greek New Testament).

> **Make it a game · Translator timeline race.** Write the names and dates (Jerome 405, Soncino Bible 1488, Reuchlin 1506, Tyndale 1530, KJV 1611, Dead Sea Scrolls 1947) on cards. Shuffle and race to lay them in order.

> **Scripture.** "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> כֵּן יִהְיֶה דְּבָרִי אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִפִּי
>
> Find ken yihyeh dvari, so shall my word be, and lo-yashuv elai reqam, it shall not return unto me void.

4.2 The Writing on the Wall: Daniel 5 and Aramaic

OBJECTIVES

- Name the Aramaic parts of the Old Testament.
- Read Daniel 5:25.
- Explain the writing on the wall.

> **Warm-up.** Have you ever seen writing you could not read, in a language you did not know? Belshazzar saw a hand write on his palace wall, and none of his wise men could read it.

WATCH

Daniel 12:3

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 2:30

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vrB_51CQVY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading; Daniel 12 is in Hebrew again: they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament.

Note: Daily Dose of Hebrew: a seminary professor reads Daniel 12:3 in Hebrew and explains it; this one is for the parent.

KEY TERMS

Aramaic

A sister language of Hebrew, the common language of the Persian Empire and later of Jesus' homeland. It uses the same alphabet.

Aramaic chapters

Daniel 2:4–7:28; Ezra 4:8–6:18 and 7:12–26; Jeremiah 10:11.

מְנֵא תְקֵל וּפַרְסִין mene teqel ufarsin

Numbered, weighed, and divided (Aramaic).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

מְנֵא

mene

meh-NAY

Aramaic verb

numbered

תְּקֵל

teqel

teh-KAYL

Aramaic verb

weighed

כְּתָבָא

kethava

kheh-tah-VAH

Aramaic noun

the writing

שְׁקֶל

sheqel

SHEH-kel

noun

shekel (a weight)

CORE IDEAS

The story. King Belshazzar of Babylon threw a feast and drank from the gold cups taken from God's temple. A hand appeared and wrote on the wall. Daniel read it: MENE, God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL, Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES, Thy kingdom is divided. That very night Belshazzar was slain (Daniel 5:26–30).

Aramaic. Most of the Old Testament is Hebrew, but a few chapters are in Aramaic, a related language. Daniel switches to Aramaic at 2:4, when the wise men speak to the king, and back to Hebrew at 8:1. Aramaic uses the same letters: מְנֵא numbered (Hebrew root מ־נ־ה, count), תְּקֵל weighed (Hebrew sheqel), פַּרְסִין divided, and a pun on Persians (paras).

Jesus spoke Aramaic. Words like talitha cumi (Mark 5:41), ephphatha (Mark 7:34) and abba (Mark 14:36) are Aramaic, kept in the Greek Gospels.

PICTURE STUDY



Belshazzar's Feast, Rembrandt van Rijn, about 1635–1638 · Oil on canvas · National Gallery, London

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Rembrandt wrote the letters on the wall in columns, top to bottom, instead of right to left in rows. He may have learned this idea from his neighbor in Amsterdam, the Jewish scholar Menasseh ben Israel, who explained that this is why the king's wise men could not read it.

Look closely

- Find the hand writing on the wall.
- Which direction do the letters run?
- What is the woman on the right spilling?
- How do the guests feel?

Talk about it

1. Why might Rembrandt arrange the letters in columns?
2. What do the gold cups tell you about Belshazzar's sin (Daniel 5:2–4, 23)?

ACTIVITY

Writing in columns

Write MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN in Aramaic letters, Rembrandt style.

You will need

- Black paper
- A gold or yellow pencil

Steps

1. Write מנא מנא תקל ופרסין on one line, right to left.
2. Now write the same letters in columns, top to bottom, starting at the right, as Rembrandt did.
3. Can a friend read the column version?

Tips

- Rembrandt's columns hold three letters each.

Check your work

☐ I wrote both versions.

☐ I can explain each word.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. List the Aramaic parts of the Old Testament. Copy Daniel 5:25 and translate the four words.

> **From history.** Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian in 539 B.C. Isaiah had named Cyrus about 150 years earlier (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: מְנֵא

▼ **Show solution**

1. Aramaic, related to Hebrew מ־נ־ה, count.
2. Daniel explains: God hath numbered thy kingdom.

Answer: numbered.

Example 2. Translate: תְּקֵל

▼ **Show solution**

1. Related to Hebrew שֶׁקֶל shekel, a weight.
2. Daniel explains: thou art weighed.

Answer: weighed.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What language is Daniel 5?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Aramaic.

2. Easy Who could read the writing?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Daniel.

3. Easy What does tekel mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   weighed.

4. Medium Where does Daniel switch to Aramaic and back?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   At 2:4 to Aramaic; at 8:1 back to Hebrew.

5. Medium Name an Aramaic word spoken by Jesus.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   talitha cumi, ephphatha, abba.

6. Hard Say Daniel 5:25 in English.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking all of the Old Testament is Hebrew.
- Reading the Aramaic words as Hebrew; the endings are different (-a for "the" instead of ha-).

> **Make it a game · Column code.** Write short Hebrew words from this year in Rembrandt-style columns. Players race to decode them by reading top to bottom, right to left.

> **Scripture.** "And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." (Daniel 5:25, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> וְדָנָה כְתָבָא דִי רְשִׁים מְנֵא מְנֵא תְקֵל וּפַרְסִין׃
>
> This verse is Aramaic, not Hebrew. Find kethava, the writing (Aramaic -a is "the"), and mene mene teqel ufarsin.

UNIT 5

Capstone: Psalm 23

Lesson 5.1 reads Psalm 23:1–3 and parses every word.

Lesson 5.2 reads Psalm 23:4–6, and the student recites the whole psalm.

PREREQUISITES

- Grades 4–8.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can read Psalm 23 aloud in Hebrew.
- ☐ I can recite Psalm 23:1 and 23:6 from memory.
- ☐ I can parse the main verbs and suffixes.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**Psalm 23:1–3**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**Psalm 23:4–6 and Recitation**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

The student reads, recites and parses. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **5 pts**
   Read Psalm 23:1–3 aloud in Hebrew.
2. **5 pts**
   Parse יְשׁוֹבֵב and יַנְחֵנִי
3. **5 pts**
   Translate: כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי
4. **5 pts**
   Recite Psalm 23:6 in English and in Hebrew.

ANSWER KEY

1. Fluent reading with correct syllables, dagesh and shewa.
2. he restoreth (root שׁ־וׁ־ב, return); he leadeth me (root נ־חׁ־ה + -ni, me).
3. for thou art with me.
4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. / akh tov vachesed yirdefuni kol-yemei chayyai, veshavti beveit-Adonai le'orekh yamim.

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PSALM 23 RECITATION AND COMMENTARY

Recite Psalm 23 in Hebrew (recorded or before the family). Then write a one-page commentary: for each verse, the Hebrew, the KJV, two grammar notes and one sentence about what it means for your life.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Reading	The student recites the psalm clearly.
Grammar	The grammar notes are accurate.
Understanding	The commentary is thoughtful and faithful to the text.
Care	Hebrew is written right to left with every vowel and mark in place.

UNIT 5 · CAPSTONE: PSALM 23 · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 Psalm 23:1–3

OBJECTIVES

- Read Psalm 23:1–3 aloud.
- Parse every verb and suffix.
- Recite verse 1.

> **Warm-up.** Recite as much of Psalm 23 in English as you can. Many people know it by heart. Today you begin to know it in Hebrew.

WATCH

When the Bible Says “Soul,” What Is It Talking About?

BibleProject · 4:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_igCcWAMAM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading. The second video is optional and for the parent.

Note: BibleProject’s word study on nefesh, “soul” (4:23): He restoreth my soul.

BACKUP VIDEO

Q&A - Psalm 23:1

Daily Dose of Hebrew · 10:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19rJDKKI2Ps

Parent video (10:42, longer than our usual limit): Daily Dose of Hebrew answers questions on Psalm 23:1 word by word. For the parent to watch first and share parts.

KEY TERMS

יַרְבִּיצֵנִי yarbitseni

He maketh me to lie down (root ר־ב־ץ + -ni, me).

יְנַהֲלֵנִי yenahaleni

He leadeth me (gently, to water) (root נ־ה־ל).

יְשׁוֹבֵב yeshovev

He restoreth, brings back (root ש־ו־ב, return).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

יַרְבִּיצֵנִי

yarbitseni

yahr-bee-TSAY-nee

verb with suffix

he maketh me to lie down

יְנַהֲלֵנִי

yenahaleni

yeh-nah-hah-LAY-nee

verb with suffix

he leadeth me

יְשׁוֹבֵב

yeshovev

yeh-shoh-VAYV

verb

he restoreth

יַנְחֵנִי

yancheni

yahn-KHAY-nee

verb with suffix

he leadeth me

CORE IDEAS

The psalm. David, the shepherd king, wrote of the LORD as his Shepherd. In verses 1–3 the LORD gives everything a sheep needs: food, rest, water, a restored life and right paths.

Read it.

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר׃

בִּנְאוֹת דֶּשֶׁא יַרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מְנֻחוֹת יְנַהֲלֵנִי׃

נַפְשִׁי יְשׁוֹבֵב יַנְחֵנִי בְמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ׃

Parse it. לֹא אֶחְסָר I shall not lack (first-person future form, root ח־ס־ר). יַרְבִּיצֵנִי, יְנַהֲלֵנִי, יַנְחֵנִי: three verbs with the suffix -ni, me. בִּנְאוֹת דֶּשֶׁא in pastures of grass and מֵי מְנֻחוֹת waters of rest: construct chains. לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ for his name's sake.

PICTURE STUDY



The Lord Is My Good Shepherd, after Bernhard Plockhorst, late 1800s · Color print after a painting · Widely reprinted

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

You met this picture in Grade 4. Now you can read the psalm behind it in Hebrew. Jesus took David's words for Himself: I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (John 10:14).

Look closely

- Find the lamb, the crook and the ram.
- Where are the green pastures?
- Is there any water in the picture?
- How close do the sheep stay?

Talk about it

1. Which verse of Psalm 23 fits this picture best?
2. How does Jesus fulfill Psalm 23?

ACTIVITY

Psalm 23 parsing book

Make a booklet with one page for each word of Psalm 23:1–3.

You will need

- Small notebook
- Pens

Steps

1. On each page write one Hebrew word, its root, its form (noun, verb, suffix …) and its meaning.
2. Add a picture on the shepherd pages.
3. Read the whole booklet aloud.

Tips

- Count maqqef-joined words separately.

Check your work

- ☐ My booklet covers verses 1–3.
- ☐ I can parse every word.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Psalm 23:1–3 in Hebrew. Parse the five verbs.

> **From history.** Grade 6 read these verses for their nouns and suffixes; now you can parse the verbs too.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Parse: יַנְחֵנִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. ya- prefix: he (future form).
2. root נ־ח־ה (lead) + -ni, me.

Answer: he leadeth me.

Example 2. Translate: בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק

▼ **Show solution**

1. be- = in; ma‘glei = paths of (construct plural).
2. tsedeq = righteousness.

Answer: in the paths of righteousness.

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: דֶּשֶׁא

   ▼ **Show answer**

   grass.

2. Easy Translate: נַפְשִׁי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   my soul.

3. Easy What does the suffix -ni mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   me.

4. Medium Root of יְשׁוֹבֵב?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ש־ו־ב, return.

5. Medium Translate: מֵי מְנֻחוֹת

▼ **Show answer**

still waters (waters of rest).

6. Hard Recite Psalm 23:1 in Hebrew and English.

▼ **Show answer**

mizmor ledavid, Adonai ro'i lo echsar. A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading -ni as "my." On a verb it means "me."
- Forgetting that the heading mizmor ledavid is part of verse 1.

> **Make it a game · Psalm 23 cloze.** The parent reads Psalm 23:1–3 in Hebrew and stops before a word. The first player to say the missing word scores. Then switch readers.

> **Scripture.** "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:3, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> נַפְשִׁי יְשׁוֹבֵב יַנְחֵנִי בְמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ׃
>
> Read nafshi yeshovev yancheni, my soul he restoreth, he leadeth me. Find the two verbs and the suffix on each word.

5.2 Psalm 23:4–6 and Recitation

OBJECTIVES

- Read Psalm 23:4–6 aloud.
- Parse the main verbs and suffixes.
- Recite the whole psalm.

> **Warm-up.** Psalm 23 moves from green pastures to a dark valley to a banquet table to the house of the LORD. Trace the journey with your finger on a drawn map.

WATCH

Hebrew - Do not fear, for I am with you - Biblical Hebrew - Lesson 111b

Aleph with Beth · 6:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLljOoUQShU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core reading.

Note: Aleph with Beth's Lesson 111b, Do Not Fear, for I Am With You (Isaiah 41:10), in simple Biblical Hebrew (6:05).

KEY TERMS

לֹא־אִירָא רָע lo-ira ra

I will fear no evil (root י־ר־א).

יִרְדְּפוּנִי yirdefuni

They shall follow (pursue) me: goodness and mercy chase after me.

וְשַׁבְתִּי veshavti

And I will dwell (return): ve- + perfect, pointing forward.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Hebrew reads from right to left. Capitals show the stressed syllable, usually the last one. kh is the throaty ch of Bach; a is ah, e is eh, ee is the i of machine, o is oh, oo is the oo of food, and uh is the quick sound of the shewa.

אִירָא
ira
ee-RAH
verb
I will fear

יִרְדְּפוּנִי
yirdefuni
yeer-deh-FOO-nee
verb with suffix
they shall follow me

וְשַׁבְתִּי
veshavti
veh-shahv-TEE
verb
and I will dwell (return)

חֶסֶד
chesed
KHEH-sed
noun
mercy, steadfast love

CORE IDEAS

The psalm. The shepherd leads through the valley of the shadow of death, then becomes the host who spreads a table, and at last the psalmist is home in the house of the LORD. Goodness and mercy (chesed, covenant love) do not just follow; they pursue.

Read it.

> גַּם כִּי־אֵלֵךְ בְּגֵיא צַלְמָוֶת לֹא־אִירָא רָע כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטְךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ הֵמָּה יְנַחֲמֻנִי׃
>
> תַּעֲרֹךְ לְפָנַי שֻׁלְחָן נֶגֶד צֹרְרָי דִּשַּׁנְתָּ בַשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסִי רְוָיָה׃
>
> אַךְ טוֹב וָחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיָּי וְשַׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאֹרֶךְ יָמִים׃

Parse it. אֵלֵךְ I walk (root ה־ל־ך); אִירָא I will fear; יְנַחֲמֻנִי they comfort me; תַּעֲרֹךְ thou preparest; דִּשַּׁנְתָּ thou hast anointed (perfect, -ta); יִרְדְּפוּנִי they shall pursue me; וְשַׁבְתִּי and I will dwell (ve- + perfect, like ve'ahavta).

ACTIVITY

Psalm 23 journey map

Draw the journey of Psalm 23 as a map.

You will need

- Large paper
- Colored pencils

Steps

1. Draw green pastures, still waters, right paths, a dark valley, a table, and the house of the LORD.
2. Label each with its Hebrew phrase from the psalm.
3. Recite the psalm while tracing the path.

Tips

- Copy the Hebrew exactly from the lesson.

Check your work

- ☐ My map has six places.
- ☐ I recited the psalm.

HEBREW NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Psalm 23:4–6 in Hebrew. Parse the seven verbs listed in the lesson.

> **From history.** The Hebrew veshavti can be read “and I will return” or “and I will dwell”; the KJV, with the ancient Greek translation, reads dwell.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Translate: טוֹב וָחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי

▼ **Show solution**

1. tov = goodness; vachesed = and mercy.
2. yirdefuni = they shall pursue me (root ר־ד־ף + -ni).

Answer: goodness and mercy shall follow me.

Example 2. Parse: דִּשַּׁנְתָּ

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ending -ta = thou (perfect).
2. Root ד־שׁ־ן, make fat, anoint.

Answer: thou hast anointed (KJV: thou anointest).

PRACTICE

1. Easy Translate: רָע

   ▼ **Show answer**

   evil.

2. Easy Translate: חֶסֶד

   ▼ **Show answer**

   mercy, steadfast love.

3. Easy Translate: יָמִים

   ▼ **Show answer**

   days.

4. Medium Translate: לֹא־אִירָא רָע

   ▼ **Show answer**

   I will fear no evil.

5. **Medium** Parse: וְשַׁבְתִּי

   ▼ **Show answer**

   ve- + perfect (-ti, I), pointing forward: and I will dwell.

6. **Hard** Recite Psalm 23:6 in Hebrew.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   akh tov vachesed yirdefuni kol-yemei chayyai, veshavti beveit-Adonai le’orekh yamim.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading yirdefuni as “they pursue” in a hostile way. Here the pursuers are goodness and mercy.
- Missing the -ni suffix on yenachamuni and yirdefuni.

> **Make it a game · Psalm 23 recital.** Each family member recites one verse of Psalm 23 in Hebrew in turn, around the circle, until the student can recite the whole psalm alone. Celebrate with a special meal: a table prepared!

> **Scripture.** “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.” (Psalm 23:6, KJV)
>
> Hebrew (Westminster Leningrad Codex, vowel points shown, cantillation marks left out):
>
> אַךְ טוֹב וָחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיָּי וְשַׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאֹרֶךְ יָמִים׃
>
> Recite the whole verse. Find tov vachesed (goodness and mercy), yirdefuni (shall follow me), and beveit-Adonai (in the house of the LORD).