



Jewish Literacy Programme
Year 4 ~ Week 6

This week's סדרה:

English Translation	חומש Words	Write each Hebrew word into script
(and) he took	וַיִּקַּח	_____
(and) he sent	וַיִּשְׁלַח	_____
(and) he went	וַיֵּלֶךְ	_____
(and) he went out	וַיֵּצֵא	_____
(and) he gave	וַיִּתֵּן	_____
(and) he came	וַיָּבֵא	_____

English Translation / Explanation	G.K. Words
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The Six Fast Days (1)

Fast of Gedalia, on 3rd Tishri, the day after Rosh Hashanah. We remember the murder of Gedalia Ben Achikam, Governor of Israel after the destruction of the First Bet HaMikdash. He was killed by a Jew, Yishmael Ben Netania, who was hired by the King of Amon. <small>see more over page</small>	צום גְּדַלְיָה see over page	Write each Hebrew word into script _____ _____
Yom Kippur, 10th Tishri, ends with the final Shofar blast at the end of N'eilah. On Yom Kippur, Hashem forgives sins we have committed against Him, but not the sins we may have committed against our fellow man. If we really want to come out of this holy day completely clean, we need to first beg forgiveness from anyone we may have wronged.	יוֹם כִּפּוּר	_____ _____
On the 10th of Tevet of the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem.	עֲשָׂרָה בְּטֵבֵת	_____ _____
Fast of Esther, 13th Adar. This commemorates: 1. Esther's fast before she pleaded for the King to save the Jewish People; 2. The fast of the Jewish People before going out to battle with their Persian enemies.	תַּעֲנִית אֶסְתֵּר	_____ _____

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ך	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ף	צ	ץ	ק	קר	ש	ת
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ך	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ף	צ	ץ	ק	קר	ש	ת

The Tragic Story of Gedalia

Gedalia is mentioned in Yirmiyah (Jeremiah) 40 and in Melachim Bet (Kings II) 25. From looking at these two locations, one learns the following about Gedalia: After Nevuchadnezzar (King of Bavel - Babylon) destroyed the Temple and the nation of Israel was exiled to Babylon, a small number of Jews remained in the land of Israel. Nevuchadnezzar appointed Gedalia as a "governor" over them. When the Jews who were in exile heard that a group of Jews was allowed to remain in Israel and that Gedalia was appointed to oversee them, they were happy, and people started returning to the land to live.

The King of the neighboring nation of Amon, Balis, did not want the Jews to stay happy. He convinced Yishmael ben Netania that he should assassinate Gedalia. According to the Rabbis, Yishmael was of royal blood. Balis, in order to provoke Yishmael into killing Gedalia, would "tease" Yishmael about the fact that a "commoner" was appointed a leader over Israel, and that Yishmael, who was of royalty, was passed over for the job. This caused Yishmael to become envious and jealous of Gedalia, to the extent that Yishmael decided to kill Gedalia.

At the beginning of the month of Tishrei, Yishmael came to Gedalia. Although Gedalia had been told that Yishmael was coming to kill him, he did not believe it because he did not want to believe this "lashon ha'ra," or slander. When Yishmael arrived, Gedalia treated him with respect. Then Yishmael and his henchmen (gang of followers) turned on Gedalia and killed him. The Jews who were then living in Israel feared reprisals (acts of revenge) from Nevuchadnezzar (as "they" killed the leader he had appointed) and fled to Egypt. The land of Israel was then devoid (empty) of Jews. This day, therefore, is a day of great tragedy, and therefore we fast.

(<http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/yomkippur/vol1no39.html>)