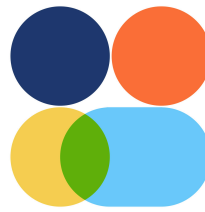


# LESSON PLAN



## Matan

Theme Forgiveness on Yom Kippur

Grade Level(s)

3rd-5th Grade

Time of lesson 30 minutes

### Key Ideas

- Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement - a day of asking forgiveness.
- Apologizing is a skill that helps to restore relationships and promotes community.
- Asking for forgiveness is one Yom Kippur tradition

### Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- explain reasons why apologizing/asking forgiveness is important.
- explain why it is hard for us to acknowledge that we have done something wrong, and why it can feel difficult to apologize.
- explain that apologizing and giving forgiveness are skills practiced during Yom Kippur.
- define the meaning of "Day of Atonement."

### Materials & Resources

- access to equipment to watch the video of Jonah and the Whale from the Old Testament
- variety of writing utensils and paper

### Warm-up and Overview

As students enter the classroom, have them work at their desks while playing "Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word" by Elton John.

### Introduction

Encourage students to listen to the words of the song and engage them in a discussion about the meaning of the words.

### Specific Accomodations

- Provide the lyrics of the song and/or have students watch a video of the song with captions.
- Allow students to discuss in small groups, one on one, or by writing down their thoughts if sharing in a whole group is not comfortable

## Activity

- Have the students watch the [video](#) in which Jonah is told by God that he must go to Nineveh and tell the people living there to lead better lives or God will punish them.
- Explain to the students that we read the story of Jonah on Yom Kippur.
- Ask students the following questions:
  - Why do you think Jonah found it difficult to say “sorry”?
  - Why is it important that we say sorry when we have done something wrong?
  - What can happen if we do something wrong - for example, if we do something to hurt another person - and we don't say sorry?
  - When we say sorry to someone that we have hurt, what should the other person do in return? Should they simply forgive us?

## Specific Accommodations

- Have students who do not want to discuss, draw pictures, write, or build their answers to the discussion question
- Give choices for students who may have a hard time coming up with an answer on their own

## Options for Extensions

- Ask students to think about how the story relates to a situation in their personal life.
- Have students read the book, *The Hardest Word, A Yom Kippur Story* by Jaqueline Jules.

## Options for Remediation

- Provide students the opportunity to preview the video before class. If necessary, provide a book/story for students in advance as well.

## Review and Closing

- Have students write on an exit slip one thing that they want to apologize for this Yom Kippur.
- Students could also have the option of writing a letter asking forgiveness to someone or write something they want to apologize for and put it in a sealed envelope to open in a few months as a check up.

## Specific Accommodations

- Provide an optional sheet for students to complete that reads:  
*One thing I still don't understand is:*

## Checking for Understanding

- Throughout the lesson, ensure that you hear from all students during the discussion
- Pause the video at times to ask students what their reactions are to what is happening in the story or to define any words they do not know