



Josh and the *V'ahavta* *Leader's Guide* by Alan J. Levin

Josh and the *V'ahavta* is a story for use in the intermediate grades. It fits well with teaching about the *V'ahavta*. The story focuses on the unique value of each person created in the image of God and students finding prayers that speak to them. It can also serve as a trigger for inviting students to investigate the *Siddur* (Prayerbook) and choose prayers which speak to them.

Ideas For Teachers

In this story Josh who sees himself as just average, searches for a place where he can excel. His experience in Hebrew school helps him relate to a prayer and recognize his value as a unique individual. In addition to teaching about prayer it provides an opportunity for the teacher to emphasize the value of each student to the Jewish community and praying with *Kavanah*. Possible directions for classroom study and discussion are:

- Reading the *V'ahavta* and understanding its contents and directions for us
- Text may be found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 11:13-21, Numbers 15:37-41
- Recognizing how we and our friends are of value and unique
- Finding prayers that speak to us
- *Keva and Kavanah*

Enduring Understanding

- Each person is unique and is of value to our community.

Possible Lesson Questions

- How are we outstanding in what we can do and contribute to our class?
- What does it mean to be created *B'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of God)?
- Why do you think the *V'ahavta* is such a basic important prayer for the Jewish People?
- In this story how does the *V'ahavta* provide Josh a venue for making his feel really good at something?