

772

Sefer Torah

For a Safer World





What's a Sefer Torah?

If you've been to a place where Jewish people pray, you've probably seen a Sefer Torah. It's kept at the very front, behind curtains. When they take it out, everyone stands and comes to kiss it. Then they read from it in a special tune. The Sefer Torah is made of a very long leather parchment with lots of Hebrew writing and rolled up into a scroll.

Why do you think the Sefer Torah is so special? Because it's G-d's instruction book for us to know how to take care of His world. That makes it very precious to G-d, because He really cares a lot about His world. And it's precious to us, because we can study it and do what it says and then be really connected to G-d.



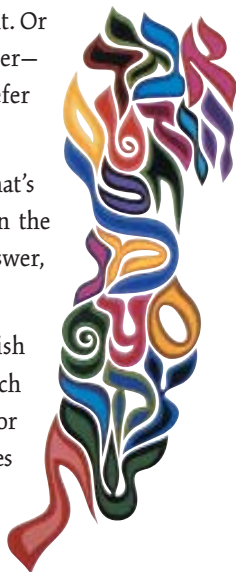
The Most Important Letter is...

What do you think is the most important letter in the whole Sefer Torah? Maybe the first one? Or the last one? Or the one in the middle? Do you think there might be one letter that the Torah just can't do without?

Well, I have a surprise for you: If any single letter were missing, the whole Sefer Torah has to be wrapped up and put away until it is fixed. In fact, even if that letter isn't missing, but it just isn't written right—like maybe it's missing a leg or an arm. Or it's got a curve where there's supposed to be a point. Or it's touching another letter—even then, the whole Sefer Torah is no good.

So if someone asks you, "What's the most important letter in the Sefer Torah?" you can answer, "Every letter is!"

Now imagine all the Jewish people as one Sefer Torah. Each person, big or small, young or old, is one letter. That makes everyone just as important as everyone else, right?



Right. So that is why the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, asked that every Jewish child anywhere should have his or her very own letter in a special Sefer Torah written just for kids. To tie all the Jewish people together stronger and tighter to each other and to our precious Torah. And to show us that we are all important to each other.

How Do I Do This?

Here's how you get your letter:

1. If you are a boy, you have to be under 13 (bar mitzvah age). Girls have to be under 12 (bat mitzvah age).
2. You need to fill out the form on the next page.
3. Everybody who wants a letter pays one dollar. It's best if you pay with your own money rather than your parents paying for you.
4. You will get a certificate that tells you in which parsha your letter came out.



What About the Adults?

After the Rebbe started the Sefer Torah Campaign, adults started saying, “Why should we be left out?” So the Rebbe said, “Okay. We’ll make other Sefer Torahs and let any Jewish adult get a letter. That way, not just the kids, but all the Jewish people will be connected tighter to each other and to our precious Torah.”

In fact, the last mitzvah of the entire Torah is for every Jewish man to write his own Torah! Or at least, a part of a Torah.

So we have another form here for adults. If you are over the age of bar or bat mitzvah, fill this one out. Or if you know any adults who don’t yet have a letter in a Sefer Torah, tell them about this deal and get them to join in. After all, if just one is missing, it’s just not the same, right?



Form

First Child

Last Name _____

Full Jewish Name _____

Birthday(month-day-year) _____

Mother's Jewish Name _____

Gender _____

Second Child

Last Name _____

Full Jewish Name _____

Birthday(month-day-year) _____

Mother's Jewish Name _____

Gender _____

Third Child

Last Name _____

Full Jewish Name _____

Birthday(month-day-year) _____

Mother's Jewish Name _____

Gender _____



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