

OMG - God's on my iPod*!



LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEXTS

**Compiled
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***And whatever you might use
to play/listen to music!**

שְׁמֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

God can be....



When I ask God
a question that I
really want
answered,
especially at a
difficult time,
God can be





When a couple celebrates
their marriage,
God can be

When I feel a sense of
blessing and gratitude
in my life,
God can be



When I think about
God as transcendent,
well beyond our world,
God can be



When I think about the
diversity within the
world, God can be



When I wonder
why there is
conflict and
disunity in the
world,
God can be



When I think about God
as immanent - very close
to my mind, heart, and
soul - God can be



When I am on a
journey or facing a
challenge, God can be



When I feel that
God is working
through me,
God can be



יְבָרֶכְךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ יְאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ
וְיַחַדְךָ יֵשָׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֶּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Write three questions that you would ask God if you knew you would get an answer.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____



כִּי אָנּוּ אַמַּעְחָא וְאַתָּה מַלְכֵינוּ; Ki anu amecha v'atah malkeinu;

אָנּוּ בְנֵיךָ וְאַתָּה אָבִינוּ. Anu vanecha v'atah avinu

אָנּוּ נַחֲלַתְךָ, וְאַתָּה גּוֹרָלֵנוּ; Anu nachalatecha v'atah goraleinu;

אָנּוּ צֹנֶהְךָ, וְאַתָּה רוֹעֵנוּ. Anu tzonecha, v'atah ro-einu

אָנּוּ כַרְמֶךָ, וְאַתָּה נוֹטְרֵנוּ; Anu karmecha v'atah notreinu;

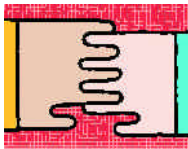
אָנּוּ רַעֲיָתְךָ, וְאַתָּה דּוֹדֵנוּ. Anu ra'yatecha v'atah dodeinu



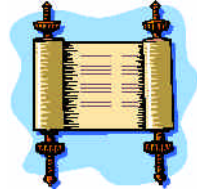
We are Your People,
You are our Ruler.



We are Your children,
You are our Parent.



We are Your possession,
You are our Portion.



We are Your flock,
You are our Shepherd



We are Your vineyard,
You are our Keeper.



We are Your beloved,
You are our Friend.



A TRAVELER'S PRAYER

MAY IT BE ACCEPTABLE UNTO THEE, O LORD
OUR GOD, AND THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, THAT THOU
SHALT GUIDE US TOWARD PEACE, AND DIRECT US
TOWARD PEACE, AND CAUSE US TO TREAD TOWARD
PEACE. BRING US TO THE PLACE OF OUR DESIRES, TO
LIFE, TO JOY, AND TO PEACE. DELIVER US FROM THE
HANDS OF ANY ENEMY, OR HIDDEN FOE OR ROBBERS
OR EVIL BEASTS ON THE JOURNEY, AND FROM ALL

KINDS OF TROUBLE THAT MAY BEFALL IN THE WORLD.

SEND A BLESSING TO ALL THE DEEDS OF OUR HANDS.
GRANT US FAVOR AND KINDNESS AND MERCY IN THINE
EYES AND IN THE EYES OF ALL WHO BEHOLD US. HEAR
THE VOICE OF OUR SUPPLICATIONS FOR THOU ART GOD
WHO HEARS PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION. BLESSED
ART THOU, O GOD, WHO HEARKENS UNTO PRAYERS.

FOR A SAFE JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE! WITH WISHES FROM
ESILA SCHWARTZ - תשל"ג - 314-997-4040 FAX 997-3066

May it be Your will, Our God and God of our ancestors, that You lead us in peace and help us reach our destination safely, joyfully and peacefully. May You protect us on our leaving and on our return, and rescue us from any harm, and may You bless the work of our hands, and may our deeds merit honor for You. Praise to You, Adonai, Protector of Israel.

From *Mishkan T'filah* for Shabbat,
Page 260

MAY YOU LIVE to see your world fulfilled, may your destiny be for worlds still to come, and may you trust in generations past and yet to be. May your heart be filled with intuition and your words be rich in understanding. May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue, and your vision clarify a straight path before you. May your eyes shine with the light of Torah and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens. May your lips ever speak wisdom and your fulfillment be in righteousness, even as you ever yearn to hear the words of the Ancient One of Holiness.

Berakhot 17a; Translation from

Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2007.

World of Your Dreams (Debbie Friedman)-From Talmud Berachot 17a

Refrain: May your eyes shine with the light of Torah
And your face be radiant as the brightness of the sky
May your lips speak words of wisdom
And may the world you live in be the world of your dreams.
May you see your world created in your lifetime
May you see your visions come to be
May your hope touch every generation to come
These are the prayers we have for you, and may your eyes...

May you be blessed with understanding
With wisdom and compassion in your heart
May your tongue be filled with song and your lips sing out for justice
These are the prayers we have for you, and may your eyes...

Sh'ma B'ni (Craig Taubman/Doug Cotler)

Sh'ma b'ni, take these wings to fly with - *Shim'ee biti*, with these roots you will grow
This is my promise, this is my blessing - You are the promise and you are the blessing

Sh'ma b'ni, shim'ee biti שְׁמַע, בְּנִי – שְׁמְעִי, בָּתִּי

May you live to see the wonder in this world and those yet to come
To care for those who came before you - to trust in those who are yet to come

Sh'ma b'ni, shim'ee biti

U-fros aleinu, U-fros aleinu, U-fros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha וּפְרוֹשׁ עָלֵינוּ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹמְךָ

May your heart be filled with wisdom - May your mind be filled with love
May your lips be filled with sweetness - May you shine like the stars above

Sh'ma b'ni, shim'ee biti

U-fros aleinu, U-fros aleinu, U-fros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha

So you shall fly on wings of eagles - and may you grow to be straight and tall
This is my promise, this is my blessing - You are the promise and you are the blessing

Sh'ma b'ni, shim'ee biti

"Listen, my child, to your father's lesson, and do not turn from your mother's teaching."
[Proverbs 1:8]

"Spread over us the shelter of your peace" - [Shabbat/Holiday Evening Service]

Psalm 51:1-19

**FOR THE LEADER: A PSALM OF DAVID. WHEN NATHAN THE
PROPHET CAME TO DAVID AFTER HE HAD GONE TO BATHSHEBA.**

Have mercy upon me, O God, as befits Your faithfulness;
in keeping with Your abundant compassion, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly of my iniquity, and purify me of my sin;
for I recognize my transgressions, and am ever conscious of my sin.
Against You alone have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight;
so You are just in Your sentence, and right in Your judgment.
Indeed, I was born with iniquity; with sin my mother conceived me.
You desire truth about that which is hidden; teach me wisdom about secret things.
Purge me with hyssop till I am pure; wash me till I am whiter than snow.
Let me hear tidings of joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed exult.
Hide Your face from my sins; blot out all my iniquities.
Fashion a pure heart for me, O God; create in me a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast me out of Your presence, or take Your holy spirit away from me.
Let me again rejoice in Your help; let a vigorous spirit sustain me. I will teach
transgressors Your ways, that sinners may return to You.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God-God, my deliverer, that my tongue may sing of Your
righteousness.
Eternal One, open my lips that my mouth may speak Your praise.
You do not want me to bring sacrifices; You do not desire burnt offerings.
True sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God, You will not despise a contrite and
crushed heart.

May it be Your will, Eternal One, my God and God of my ancestors, to protect me, this
day and every day, from insolence in others and from arrogance in myself. Save me from
vicious people, from evil neighbors, and from corrupt companions. Preserve me from
misfortune and from powers of destruction. Save me from harsh judgments; spare me
from ruthless opponents, whether they are members of the covenant or not.

[Prayer of Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi as a private meditation when completing the Amidah, Berachot 16b]

Both of the above translations are from:
Machzor Lev Shalem: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur,
The Rabbinical Assembly, 2010.

We are God's Partners in Repairing the World: What We Can Do



As God _____, we can _____
_____.

As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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As God _____, we can _____
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Finding God

By Daniel Syme and Rifat Sonsino

God in the Bible

One Creator Controls everything acts alone Ethical Covenant with Israel Savior of humanity Knows all (almost) All-powerful (almost) Commandments Angels as messengers Torah Angels as messengers

Moses Maimonides

Neo-Aristotelianism

God is the Unmoved Mover We can say what God isn't, not what God is we can approach God by developing our intellect. Angels are metaphors for the laws of nature.

Dialogue-Martin Buber

2 types of relationships: I-It (exploiting other without caring) and I-Thou (concern and kindness). God is the Eternal Thou. We approach God through dialogue. We meet God when we relate to other people as "Thou" rather than "it."

Depth Theology-Abraham

Joshua Heschel

God, known by us intuitively only (because the divine is "ineffable" - beyond our comprehension), shows concern for humanity and needs human attention. God is a living Being that takes part in the affairs of the world and in our lives. When we practice commandments, we reconnect with God.

Mytical Panentheism-

Lawrence Kushner

Everything is organically, seamlessly joined to everything else. We are waves in a divine ocean...Everything is within God. God is our sense of self, our innermost essence, encountered through God's creation. God is the Self of the Universe.

God-In Rabbinic Literature

One Creator Controls everything acts alone Ethical Covenant with Israel Savior of humanity Knows all (almost) All-powerful (almost) Commandments Angels as messengers Personal Heaven & Hell Chosenness Messiah (restore peace) Physical resurrection Oral Law

Jewish Mysticism-Isaac Luria

Approach God through "emanations"-Sefirot-centers of divine power, representing aspects of being: physical (God's presence-Shechinah), emotional, mental and spiritual (Infinite God-Ein Sof). Tikun Olam-As God contracted to create the world, vessels of divine light shattered and scattered divine sparks throughout creation. Doing mitzvot restores sparks to God.

Limited Theism-Milton Steinberg and Harold Kushner

God is all-good but not all-powerful. God gave us free will to act as we choose. The presence of evil shows there are things that God cannot do. We are partners with God in bringing goodness into the world.

Polydoxy-Alvin Reines

Each person can, without coercion from an outside authority, believe in a way that doesn't impinge on the freedom of others.

Hylottheism, one of a number of finite God concepts that fits polydoxy, regards God as "the enduring possibility of being," with no sense of the divine as the object of prayer or obedience.

Inclusive Monotheism-

Judith Plaskow

In an egalitarian community, God is a friend, companion, cocreator, the one who, seeing what is best in us, lures us to be the most we can become. God is the source of all life...sustaining the great web of existence.

Philo

God is Perfect We can say what God isn't, not what God is Spiritual Monotheism God is Ontos-That which exists Logos-the "Word" that is God's thought linked to ours Spirit Israel has relationship with God Soul of the Universe Approach God through Reason

Pantheism-Spinoza

God=nature. Free will is an illusion-everything is predetermined (fated) to happen. Our goal is to know God.

Religious Naturalism-

Mordechai Kaplan

God is not supernatural. God is the totality of all those forces, powers and processes which help us to become the best we are capable of becoming. God is the process through which we reach our highest potential.

Humanism-Erich Fromm

We can feel at one with the world by developing our qualities of love and reason. God represents these ideas and stands for the highest human values which give meaning to our lives.

Predicate Theology-

Harold Schulweis

God can only be found in relationship. The appropriate question is not "where is God" but "when is God." We know God as manifest in our godly actions.

Religious Naturalism-

Roland B. Gittelsohn

God is the "Soul of the Universe," the "creative Spiritual Seed," the "Energy, Power, Force, Direction, and Trust" - by which the universe is sustained, in which the universe and mind find their meaning." Prayer is intended to change the person praying through increased awareness of God as the force sustaining the universe.

**As Far As our Hearts Can See (L.Karol – July 18, 2009 –
Chaverim Mini-Course, Crane Lake Camp)**

Almighty, unique, the one I respect - All-knowing, a mystery
Amazing, the ultimate unknown, - In You and in me

CHORUS:

God, we try to say for sure who You are
What You do and who You can be
We look for You in every corner of creation as far as our hearts can see

Creator, helper everywhere, in everything, in everyone
In nature, in our love and our lives
In our hopes when the day is done – CHORUS

How do You make your choices between right and wrong?
Is the key to war or peace in our hands?
Has the power been ours all along? CHORUS

We look for You in every corner of creation
As far as our hearts can see

**Oseh Maasei V'raysheet
(L. Karol – Limmud Chaverim/Olim Crane Lake Camp - July 24, 2009)**

You are our hope, the One that holds us together
You feel our pain when our lives seem out of control
You are the joy, the spirit in every celebration
You are the fire that's burning deep inside every soul

CHORUS

Baruch atah adon-i elokeinu melech haolam - Oseh ma-a-sei v'ray-sheet
Holy One who made the world, please bless us now.

You are the poetry in every conversation
You are the wonder in nature all around
All You know is beyond our understanding
You are the melody, the music deep inside every sound -CHORUS

We are one community
Even though we're not the same
We sing a song with heaven and earth
When we praise Your name. CHORUS