

Reading Your Torah Portion for The First Time

Meet your Torah portion: _____

This is one of 54 portions (*Parshiyot*). The Jewish people follow a calendar that has us read 1 portion per week (though sometimes 2 portions because of occasional holiday interference and because of the difference between Jewish – solar/lunar and non-Jewish calendars- only solar. It's complicated!). The booklet you have is for 1 portion (*parasha*) out of those 54.

Over the coming weeks, you will be selecting which part of the week's portion you want to study in Hebrew, that you will be chanting or reading as part of becoming *B'nai Mitzvah!*

Here is what you need to do:

- Read through the entire portion IN ENGLISH. That is all the right-hand pages, the columns titled 'Translation', from page 10 through page _____.
- You can also use the English column on each page titled 'Commentary' to help explain things. It is like sidenotes, with the verse numbers corresponding across the columns.
- And, if you want even more explanation, read the section after the Torah portion called "Highlights of the *Parasha*" which is a summary of Jewish ideas about the portion from about the past 1000 years, found on pages _____.

Once you have read it through, at least one time, I want you to write down one thing that most captured your interest. It could be a word, a phrase, or a bigger idea. Write that thing down below. Include page/chapter and verse number that you are referring to.

Come with this paper filled out, for a conversation with Cantor Caro. This idea will become the part of the Torah portion that we focus on for what you will be chanting in Hebrew out of the entire week's portion. We will continue to reflect on it over the coming months so it might be the basis of your *D'var Torah* (your talk about the portion) at our Shabbat service.

If you ever have questions, you don't have to wait until you see me to ask them! You can email me at cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org, you can call me at (703) 437-7733, or you can text me at (818) 540-5112.