

## Shema Peulat Tefillah

Title: Hear Our Prayer and Read Our Messages

Goals: Teach the chanichim about the shema kolenu prayer of the Amidah and the tradition to leave notes to G-d in the Kotel.

Materials: poster and markers (to make model Kotel, already done), 90 index cards (to be supplied by you) and at least 45 pens/pencils/markers (to write notes, to be supplied by madrichim).

Instructions:

Estimated time: 12 minutes

1. Cut out Ohr Chadash, do a short psalm 150, fast tune for Adon Olam, silent second paragraph of Aleinu
2. Right before barchu, read introduction below.
3. Madrichim should start passing out materials to chanichim after introduction.
4. Chanichim should be given about 5-10 minutes to write their notes and place notes in baskets below the kotel.

Introduction:

How many of you have ever asked G-d for something? Do you always get everything you prayed for? The Shema Koleinu prayer recognizes that G-d doesn't always turn every prayer into a reality, but still begs G-d to at least hear, acknowledge, and accept our prayer. In this prayer, essentially, we pray that G-d accepts and answers our prayers. It shows that we need for G-d's help. One way that we commonly ask G-d for things is to leave a note with a prayer in the cracks of the Western Wall, the Kotel. People often pray for peace, the coming of the messiah, moshiach, or for the reconstruction of the Temple, Beit HaMikdash. Some people will write a very personal prayer. Today, we will have the opportunity to write our own prayers to stick in our model Kotel. At the end of the summer, I will be doing something very special -- I will be going to Israel for the year to study, and when I am there, I will bring all of the prayers to the real Kotel.

English text of prayer:

Hear our voice, L-rd our G-d; merciful Father, have compassion upon us and accept our prayers in mercy and favor, for You are G-d who hears prayers and supplications; do not turn us away empty-handed from You, our King, for You hear the prayer of everyone. Blessed are You L-rd, who hears prayer.