

# Akhlah Lesson Plan

## Sh'ma Yisrael

### This lesson Plan includes:

- **Pre-Test** – To see where emphasis is needed
- **Hebrew Word list** – Handout to help with some of the important words
- **Activity** – Learn by doing – Recite the prayer
- **Work Sheet** - for the Prayer
- **Post-Test** – To check retention

### Background:

Shema Yisrael (יְשׁוּעָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ) is the central prayer of Judaism. The Shema is a prayer that serves as a centerpiece of the morning and evening Jewish prayer services. Observant Jews consider the Shema to be the most important part of the prayer service in Judaism, and its twice-daily recitation as a mitzvah. It is traditional for Jews to say the Shema as their last words, and for parents to teach their children to say it before they go to sleep at night.

The Shema is only six words, but it contains two important concepts: that Adonai is our G-d and Adonai is the one G-d not just one among many.

Originally, the Shema consisted of only one verse: Deuteronomy 6:4. Now it is the first part of the three portions: Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 11:13-21, and Numbers 15:37–41.

The two large letters – ע of שְׁמַע (Sh'ma) and ה of אֶחָד (Echad) – together spell עֵד (Witness). The words are written large in the Torah scroll.

### Pre-test answers

- (1) A
- (2) C
- (3) B
- (4) A

### Post-test answers

- (1) A
- (2) C
- (3) B
- (4) A

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### Sh'ma Yisrael

#### Pre-Test

1. **How many words is the Sh'ma?**
  - a. **Six**
  - b. **Three**
  - c. **Nine**
  - d. **Twelve**
  
2. **What do the two large letters spell?**
  - a. **Echad**
  - b. **Sh'ma**
  - c. **Witness**
  - d. **Shadai**
  
3. **Which Prayer services is the Sh'ma recited?**
  - a. **Morning and Afternoon**
  - b. **Morning and Evening**
  - c. **All of them**
  - d. **Just at bedtime**
  
4. **What book of the Torah does the Sh'ma come from?**
  - a. **Deuteronomy**
  - b. **Numbers**
  - c. **Exodus**

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### Sh'ma Yisrael

The Sh'ma

אֶחָד : יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁמַע

Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Elohenu Adonai Echad.

Hear Israel, the Lord our G-d The Lord is One.

<b>Sh'ma</b>	<i>listen, hear and do, accept</i>
<b>Yisrael</b>	Israel, in the sense of the people or congregation of Israel
<b>Adonai</b>	Lord
<b>Eloheinu</b>	<i>Plural first person possessive of Elohim, meaning Our G-d</i>
<b>Echad</b>	Cardinal number One

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### Sh'ma Yisrael

#### Post-Test

1. **How many words is the Sh'ma?**
  - a. **Six**
  - b. **Three**
  - c. **Nine**
  - d. **Twelve**
2. **What do the two large letters spell?**
  - a. **Echad**
  - b. **Sh'ma**
  - c. **Witness**
  - d. **Shadai**
3. **Which Prayer services is the Sh'ma recited?**
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