

Text for Younger Children

Our connection to Israel begins in the book of Genesis/*Bereishit* in the Torah. Below you will read a story version of part of Genesis:

Nearly 4000 years ago, God made a very special promise to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. "Go forth from your homeland and from your father's house to the land that I will show you." When Abraham and Sarah came to the land of Israel, then called Canaan, God said to them: "I will give this land to you and your children and to all future generations. Later God told Abraham that one day there would be many, many Jews around the world. God said: "Look toward the sky and count the stars if you can. That is how many sons and daughters of Abraham there will be." (*Teaching Jewish Holidays* by Robert Goodman)

1. Who did God first promise the land of Israel to? How are we related to those people today? Do you remember a prayer we say that talks about Abraham and Sarah? (*Avot v'Imahot* in the *Amidah*.)
2. Go outside at night and try counting the stars. When you look at the sky, how many stars do you see? Do you think there are as many Jews in the world as there are stars in the sky today?
3. Have you ever been to Israel?
 - a. If the answer is yes, what do you remember about Israel? What is something you enjoyed or saw there?
 - b. If the answer is no, what questions do you have about Israel? What is something you would like to see in Israel?