



The Torah service is traditionally included in Monday, Thursday, and Saturday morning services after the Silent prayer (end of *Amidah*) and before the closing. Many Reform Congregations now include a Torah Service on Friday nights because that is when the most people gather at the synagogue—especially if there is no *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* the following morning. If you wish to include a reading at the beginning of the Torah service, it should be read before the Torah is taken from the Ark. A song should be sung while the Torah is being removed from the Ark, such as *Al Shlosha D'varim*, and the congregation rises. The following prayers are usually sung, although they can be read in Hebrew and they glorify God's link to us through the Torah: *Ki Mitzion*, *Baruch Sh'natan*, *Shema* (traditionally only on Shabbat)

B'racha before the reading

- *Aliyot*: Traditionally, there are three on Mondays and Thursdays, and seven on Shabbat Morning. Many Reform congregations and camps do fewer—one on Mondays and Thursdays, perhaps, and three on Shabbat.
- make sure you know how to call someone up to the Torah and make sure the people know the prayers for before and after the reading

Torah Reading

- Be sure to get the correct *parasha* of the day (check with your Rabbi(s), Cantor or Educator)
- Give out parts well in advance
- Chanting is even better than reading!
- Make sure a *gabbai* is there with the vocalized text to help the Torah reader in case they stumble during the reading

B'racha after the reading **Translation** of the reading (if desired) *Hagba & G'Lilah*

- Congregation rises while Torah is raised
- Choose someone in advance to have the honor of raising the Torah to face the congregation. The person should hold it in the air so that three columns show, and then sit down with it as someone else (previously chosen) rolls and dresses the Torah.
- The Torah dresser should “spot” the Torah lifter while they sit down by grabbing hold of the *etzei Torah*—the wooden tops of the scrolls—and help roll them inward.
- On Mondays and Thursdays, the Torah is returned to the Ark immediately while on Saturdays, it is held by someone (previously chosen) until after the haftarah is read.

B'racha Before Haftarah Reading (only on Saturdays)

- Get the correct *parasha*
- Give out parts well in advance
- Chanting is even better than reading!
- Be sure people know blessings before and after reading

B'racha After Haftarah Reading Return Torah During the Ark Congregation rises

d'var Torah

A short explanation of the Torah portion prepared in advance. This can also be done before the Torah is read, before the haftarah portion, or before you return the Torah to the ark. **End of Torah Service**