



Yeladim b'Yeshua FAQs for Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue



Introduction:

Welcome, and thank you for showing an interest in Yeladim b'Yeshua, (Children in Yeshua) Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue's Children's Ministry. This ministry serves the children ages 5 through 12/13* who participate in one or more of the activities that Yeladim b'Yeshua coordinates weekly and throughout the year. These are some Frequently Asked Questions about our ministry. If you do not find the answer to your question here, we invite you to call the synagogue office Monday - Thursday 8am-5pm and speak with Rivkah or Catherine. 850-484-0900 (*Bat/Bar Mitzvah age)

“What classes and programs are currently offered for my school age child?”

Yeladim b'Yeshua has many opportunities for your child to learn and grow in Yeshua. Currently these are:

Shabbat School: A weekly walk through the Torah portion, and fundamental Bible principles emphasizing identity and halacha. Every fourth Shabbat of each month after worship service.

Messianic Dance: Teaching basic forms and combinations of Davidic circle dancing needed to take part in dance worship. The first Shabbat of each month after worship service.

Yeladim b'Yeshua Ivrit Yahid: An immersive study of Hebrew that deepens our children's identity with the greater Jewish community while giving them tools to dive deeper into the WORD of G-D, and into more intimate relationship with Yeshua HaMashiach. Every third Shabbat of each month after worship service.

Musica v'Sheir: A joyous celebration of modern and traditional worship songs, music, and holiday observances that tie our young ones to our rich multi-national heritage.

Gesher l'Mitzvah: A preparatory bridge class focusing on Messianic identity, Hebrew language, and service for those 10+ looking toward their Bar/Bat Mitzvot. Open Enrollment begins May 20th 2023 closes June 10th 2023 for this year.

Shiru l'Ad-nai: Brit Ahm's youth and children's choir for dedicated youth and yeladim that desire a music education and want to bring their worship to a service level. Focused on worship, sight reading, and outreach to the community.

Tuesday Night Fellowship: Community Fellowship at will in synagogue backyard and in the fellowship hall. Tuesday evenings beginning at 5:00pm

Tuesday Night Studies: Activity based in depth study of Torah, in concurrent with Adult study or else on the weekly portion. Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm

Mom's Morning Out: Themed biblical half day of fellowship, play, crafts, and lessons to increase their identification with B'nei Yisrael, and their place among G-D's people. Every second Wednesday of each month from 9am through 1pm. Must reserve prior to Monday at 5pm to ensure space.

Vacation Torah Study: Weeklong all-day-camp designed to bring a powerful understanding of biblical concepts in an immersive and unforgettable summer day camp experience. Every Summer Vacation TBA (2023 dates: July 17-21)

VARIOUS Celebrations of Biblical and Traditional Feasts and Festivals; to include teachings, games, activities, vendor festivals, and more throughout the year TBA as the Torah cycle turns and resources and volunteers are available.

“Your child may be exposed to things that startle or frighten them, and challenge their beliefs...’ What is *that* about?”

Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue's Yeladim Ministry is a faith based, Torah pursuant, Bible teaching, Yeshua believing group of teachers and assistants that are fully dedicated to the learning, and spiritual growth of the children who participate in our

classes. More than that we have all made a promise to never to lie to your children. Therefore, in matters of sacred festivals versus pagan festivals (Shabbat, Christmas, Sukkot, Easter, Shavuot, Halloween and the like) or in matters of foolishness (Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies, & Tooth Fairies) We will make efforts to be respectful, but will not affirm lies nor promote them in the minds of our impressionable little ones.

Additionally, we have games designed to help them see things from a different perspective. Some of these games involve balloons that pop, fake snakes, challenges to character, and the like. Things that may startle them, but never harm.

Finally, we absolutely do not feel it is our place to discuss “adult things” with your children. However because these things are in scripture, in the course of reading the cycle of scripture these things may enter into the question. At all times we will refer these queries to you, the parent. We hope that in reading through the parsha each week with your children, you have opportunities to field such questions before they are asked of our instructors.

“My child will be 5 soon. When can my child join the Yeladim classes?”

We allow children who turn 5 years old to move up into the children’s classes after the child’s birthday occurs. With your prior consent they might be invited to participate earlier than their birthday once or twice in the prior months to help accustom them to the classroom environment as the instructor deems it appropriate.

“(Why) Do you really let the children hold a real sword?”

Before the Torah processional we invite all the children to join us in the first row of pews, and those that have notified us in advance (Told Rabbi Eric or Asst. Rabbi Jonathan before service begins) that they have a Bible verse they have memorized, may draw the sword and recite their memorized verse in front of the congregation. This is an honor and reminder that the WORD is real, has weight, and power for their lives. That G-Ds WORD is not just an idea that we uphold, but and actual weapon of respect that we want, and expect them, to learn to wield.

“What about Bar/Bat Mitzvah?”

A Bar (son) and Bat (daughter) of the commandment is a child that has taken on a personal responsibility for their own halacha (walk) with G-D. These are children 12/13 years of age that we consider to be ‘responsible youth’ and may if they choose to take on assistant and leadership positions within our synagogue. They may continue to participate in Yeladim b’Yeshua classes and activities but will usually be encouraged to take a more ‘mentoring’ role in the classrooms and take part in Brit Ahm Youth (B.A.Y.) activities.

Additionally, we have a Gesher l’Mitzvah (Bridge to the Mitzvah) class for those ages 10+ and interested in becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvot, that will guide them in the various preparatory work (learning Hebrew, choosing a service project, drash writing, and others) that Bar/Bat’s must do.

“How can I stay updated on events and activities regarding the children?”

The Shabbat service announcements and the ‘Yeladim’ page on Brit Ahm’s website @ ShalomPensacola.com is the main outlet for information on active classes and events for the children. This is also where you can pre-view or download copies of our Shabbat School lesson plans, games, activities, and other fun stuff that will encourage your children, and bring even more Torah learning into your home.

Additionally, our Brit Ahm facebook page, (and once you are a ‘regular attendee’ our facebook Family group) is the secondary place that we post events/cancelation information for the yeladim. If you are not on Facebook, (and we truly appreciate the reasons) you can also communicate with Rivkah or Catherine via phone by calling the synagogue office Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm at: 850-484-0900.

“Why are the children leaving the sanctuary?”

After the Torah processional Rabbi blesses the children and they follow their teacher to the classrooms, they receive instruction in various classes (see query: “What classes and programs are currently offered for my school age child?” for the current schedule.) and some time to play while the greater congregation including Bar and Bat mitzvahs receive Rabbi’s Drash. While we absolutely encourage all children to participate in our fun and valuable yeladim classes, participation is not mandatory, and your child -of whatever age- may stay in the sanctuary during the drash. The children return to the sanctuary before the Aaronic benediction and the close of service.

“What are the rules?”

The Three Rules of all of our Classrooms:

Love: Love G-D & your Neighbour

“Which commandment is first of all?”

²⁹Yeshua answered, “The first is, ‘Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad. Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.’ ³⁰And you shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²“Well said, Teacher,” the Torah scholar said to Him. “You have spoken the truth, that He is echad, and besides Him there is no other! ³³And ‘to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love the neighbor as oneself,’ is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (Mark 12:28-33 [TLV])

Love G-d & Love your neighbor means: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Respect personal space keeping hands and other body parts to ourselves. Speak kindly to everyone (or don’t speak at all). Treat the synagogue’s and others’ belongings with respect (Bibles, rug, booklets, chairs, markers, etc.). Loving others means we place their needs, interests, and preferences above and before our own. The attitude of Yeshua is one of selflessness and giving of ourselves!

Listen up: Open your ears and listen

¹⁷“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Messiah.

¹⁸But I say, have they never heard? Indeed, they have, for “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” (Romans 10:17-18 [TLV])

Open your ears and listen for instructions from the teacher before doing anything. Raise your hand and wait to be called on if you want to speak. Be silent when the teachers or another child is speaking (reading, answering a question, or had their hand raised).

If you are having side conversations or are focused on something other than those that are speaking, you are going to miss the information you are here to learn. Why waste your time? There exists such small amount of time that you get to spend here with an opportunity to hear about the Creator of you and all that exists, why miss it? Listen up and lengthen your days!

Learn well: Learn what is pleasing to the L-rd

⁸“For once you were darkness, but now in union with the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8 [TLV])

After listening up, follow and obey the directions given by the teacher (without complaining, without delay). Set an example for others by following directions carefully. If the teacher asks you to do something (or not to do something), respond and obey each time. Put your thinking cap on and look for ways to be helpful in class! Examples: If you notice the teacher is waiting for the class to be quiet, turn your attention to the teacher and set an example of a quiet student. (Happy Fox) Or if you see a younger student having difficulty learning dance steps, ask the teacher if you can stand next to him or her and offer your help.

“What is ‘Bring Your Bible’ about?”

We believe that children should be encouraged to ‘always be armed’. Our Bible, the very word of G-D, was given to us as a ‘two-edged sword’ and as such is practical for all manner of needful life occurrences. In our classrooms we frequently invite the children to read from the Bible, and we award extra points to those who carry it with them. Additionally, we frequently remind the yeladim that they should search out the

scriptures on their own, that even teachers are not always right, but Torah can always be trusted. If your little one is not blessed to have their own, please speak with Rabbi.

“What is your disciplinary method while in class?”

We go over classroom rules and guidelines frequently with the children, especially when there are new children or visitors. Emphasis is placed on loving your neighbor as yourself and following the rules so everyone can have a fun and enjoyable time in class.

Discipline Policy:

This policy comes directly from Rabbi Tokajer, is biblical, and we encourage every one of our teachers to follow this very simple and effective procedure. It communicates an expectation and standard of behaviour, as well as impressing upon them that class time is a privilege. The standard is for their ultimate best, and best for the yeladim who are respectfully attempting to learn.

1 Warning: The yeladim will receive one warning for breaking any of the three classroom rules. They will be told calmly and explicitly the rule they are breaking (one of the three) and the teacher will have them read or repeat that rule after them (depending on age/reading ability) then told that they now have a choice: to listen and follow directions, or to go back to their parents if they choose to continue misbehaving.

1 Choice: If they choose after that single warning to repeat the behavior or break another rule, we will ask our assistant to lead the offender back to their parents in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall by the most direct and visible route (this is part of the discipline - to be seen in disgrace). Their parents are to be told why their child has been returned to them. (Their offense is to be immediately forgiven and they will be gladly welcomed back into class next time it meets but may not return until then.)

Our Vision:

Our vision is to see children grow and flourish spiritually in their relationship with Messiah Yeshua and become solid, strong disciples who will spread the Good News to everyone with whom they come in contact, with joy and zeal.

Our Purpose:

To guide our children in beginning and strengthening a relationship with Messiah Yeshua by understanding and fully grasping the lessons and concepts in Scripture. To encourage a strong identity as Messianic believers with the whole of B'nei Israel

Our Priorities:

To foster identity, teach discipline, and inspire courage, in each of the yeladim within the greater narrative of G-D's plan for their lives, while ensuring that each of them hears and understands the message of Torah and the besora of Yeshua, no matter their age, background, or experience.

Our Promise:

Sound biblical teaching based upon Torah and its foundational principles. We seek to minimize "cheap or throwaway" crafts and awards and focus instead on meaningful take home lessons that may become a part of their every-day walk. In addition to being Biblically kosher, we are consciously committed to be a chemical, preservative, and dye-free, sugar and processed food-minimized ministry. Acknowledging that it is nearly impossible to get the best out of children when they are consuming the worst things that this world calls "food". See our more in depth food policy [here](#)

Our Standards:**Yeladim B'Yeshua Leader Requirements:**

Must be a member of the Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue, in good standing, mentally and physically able to teach or assist, and willing to submit to a background check, commit to a regular schedule, and accept oversight by ministry leaders, Rabbi Tokajer, and the Elders of the Brit Ahm Community.

Yeladim B'Yeshua Assistant Requirements:

Must be a regular attendee of the Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue, in good standing, mentally and physically able to teach or assist, and willing to submit to a background check, and commit to a regular schedule, and take direction from ministry leaders, Rabbi Tokajer, and the Elders of the Brit Ahm Community.

Other Requirements

Understanding of the Bible, values, traditions, and community standards as required by position desired.

Thanks for reading all this, if you still have questions or want to know more about the Brit Ahm Children's Ministry please do not hesitate to call us. We want you to know as much as you want to know so that you may feel confident in your child's learning and care with us. Additionally, as they are only with us 1% of the time, anything we can do to make the rest of the time more Yeshua centered we are happy to do.

