



Torah Reading Assignments

In order to ensure *Kavod laTorah* (honoring the Torah) we look to our Torah readers to provide their best readings. This is a skill that is acquired over time and takes a great deal of practice and dedication. While there will always be a *gabbai* to help anyone when reading, we strive for each *Aliyah* to be read fluently with accurate pronunciation, accents and trope. And whenever possible, we will assign each *Aliyah* to be read by one person only.

As you plan your child's bar/bat mitzvah, one of the honors that many like to give out is a reading from the Torah. We ask that you be mindful of *Kavod laTorah* when asking friends and relatives to chant Torah and carefully follow these guidelines. Also, understand that you do not need, nor do we expect you, to find readers for the entire *parasha*. We have many skilled readers to call upon who chant weekly.

Any questions regarding these guidelines should be directed to Cantor Abrams, 952-873-7317, aabrams@bethelsynagogue.org. We look forward to celebrating your *simcha* with you.

Guidelines:

1. Assignments:

- a. Choose readers who are able to read a minimum of 10 *p'sukim* (verses). They must be able to learn these verses on their own or with the help of a private tutor. We may assign readers less verses but that will be based on the reading for the particular parsha.
- b. Those parents who would like to read will be assigned smaller sections if necessary.
- c. Recordings will be made for parents only.

2. Forms:

- a. Return your Torah reading request form at least 6 months in advance. This will help us get assignments to your readers with plenty of time for them to learn their section. Your readers will be contacted by either Cantor Abrams or Jenny Hage with assignments.
- b. Provide us with complete contact information - emails and phone numbers.

3. Listening:

- a. Remind your friends/family that they will need to know their readings by the week before the bar/bat mitzvah and will be contacted to chant for someone from the synagogue. Doing this the week before ensures that there is ample time to make any corrections and gives each reader the time to smooth out their readings and make them more fluent.
- b. Often people are instructed to leave a voice mail of their reading and will be contacted with corrections if necessary. If we are unable to reach your family/friends, we will ask you to do so.
- c. If anyone has not been listened to they will not be able to read for the bar/bat mitzvah. We are unable to guarantee listening after Wednesday of the bar/bat mitzvah week therefore it is important that readers are diligent with getting back to the listener.
- d. We reserve the right to not have someone read if we believe that are not fully prepared.