



ALIYOT BLESSINGS

An **aliyah** (plural - aliyot) is the calling to the bima to read the blessings before and after the reading of the Torah. The Torah is usually on a platform to which the reader ascends, hence the Hebrew term aliyah ("going up"). It is an important honor to be given an aliyah.

The day's Torah portion is divided into several sections. Before and after each segment, an honoree(s) reads or recites the special blessing that thanks God for giving the Torah to the Jewish people. After the reading the honoree(s) then recites a concluding blessing. The same before blessing and after blessing is read for each segment.

For most families, there are 5 aliyot. #1-4 are for family and close friends. #5 is for the bar/bat mitzvah child. In a family with twins or two siblings there are 6 aliyot - #1-4 for family and close friends and #5 and #6 for the two b'nai mitzvah.

A sample order for giving honors might be #1 and #2 for grandparents, #3 for sibling(s), aunts and uncles and cousins (older than 13), #4 for the parents, and #5 is for the bar/bat mitzvah.

At Temple Isaiah the person who reads/recites the blessing must be Jewish but they may be accompanied by a non-Jewish spouse or significant other. A non-Jewish parent or grandparent who wishes to also recite an appropriate English blessing celebrating this moment may do so. Speak with Rabbi Axler to explore this option.

Several people may come up to the bima at one time, i.e., two aunts and two uncles together, etc. for each aliyah blessing.

These people may wish to take the corner of a tallis or the corner of their prayer book and touch the Torah before saying their first blessing.

You will find a copy of the Torah blessings in the prayer book. If you wish to make copies and give one to each honoree. They are written in Hebrew and are also transliterated. If you don't know these prayers, your child(ren) does – ask for help!

Remember: the rabbi will call your name(s) in English and Hebrew, you go up to the bima, touch the Torah with your tallis or prayer book if you wish, say the first blessing, and wait until that segment is read. The rabbi will then nod to you and you will say the second blessing. After that, you should shake the rabbi's hand and go over to the bar/bat mitzvah for a quick handshake, kiss or hug. The rabbi will indicate if you are to stand to the side while the next segment and blessings are read. And then you go back to your seat.

A laminated card with the blessings written in large print in both Hebrew and transliteration is on the bima table and you may read from this or bring up your copy of the prayers.

An aliyah form is in your folder. Please write neatly as the rabbi will need to read from this. The form is due two weeks before the bar/bat mitzvah. On the form:

For **each** person coming up to give the blessing, the following information is needed:

Relationship to bar/mat mitzvah uncle

English name Jacob Lee Schwartz

Hebrew name Yakov Label ben Moshe v'Deena

Jacob Lee son of his father's Hebrew and (v') mother's Hebrew name