



## TEMPLE ISRAEL

**Fall Exploring Judaism Beginning September 18, 2011**

**Sundays, 9:00-10:30 am**

The following course is just a “taste” of the dynamic history, rituals, and beliefs found within Judaism. Through the book “Settings of Silver,” by Stephen M. Wylen, the alternate readings, and the exploratory website addresses, the goal of this course is for each student to begin and to subsequently, continue to explore and to experience Judaism.

I encourage participants to visit [www.timemphis.org](http://www.timemphis.org) to sign up for the weekly Temple newsletter, [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org) to sign up for “10 Minutes of Torah,” and <http://timemphis.org/files/WebsitesofInterest-1.pdf> to aid in answering certain questions one might have about Judaism. At same time, please feel free to come to Shabbat and holiday services, as well as other learning experiences to more fully delve into the depths of Judaism.

For those considering conversion, please feel to set up a time with one of the clergy to discuss the process in more detail.

If you have any questions or thoughts throughout your readings or from a previous class, please feel free to contact me at [rabiadam@timemphis.org](mailto:rabiadam@timemphis.org) or at 761-3130.

B’shalom,

Rabbi Adam B. Grossman

### **Course Information**

- Classes are chaired by Rabbi Adam Grossman and led by Temple’s clergy.
- The classes are for ALL adults, including Jews seeking to reengage with Judaism, non-Jews who are married to or are marrying Jewish partners, and those interested in converting to Judaism.
- A fee of \$20 will be charged for materials.
- Go to [www.timemphis.org](http://www.timemphis.org) for additional Exploring Judaism resources.
- E-mail Carol Geller, <mailto:carolg@timemphis.org>, or call 937-2771 for more information.

## Outline of Discussion Topics

9/18 – “What is a Jew?”

SOS – pg. 3-14, 336-357

Handout:

“What Is Jew?” By Morris N. Kertzer, pg. 7-16

Web Resources:

Union of Reform Judaism – <http://www.urj.org>

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism – <http://www.uscj.org>

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation– <http://www.jrf.org>

The Orthodox Union – <http://www.ou.org>

9/25 Differences Between Judaism and Christianity

10/2 Experiencing a Jewish Year

SOS – pg. 99-109, 124-182

Web Resources: <http://urj.org//holidays/index.cfm?>

10/9 No Class

10/16 God and the Afterlife

SOS – pg. 37-52, 110-123

Handouts:

Introduction to “The Many Faces God” by Rifat Sonsino

Appendix to “Finding God: Selected Responses” by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel B. Syme, pg. 173-180

10/23 Torah

SOS – pg. 15-36

10/30 Israel

SOS – 53-75, 380-406

Web Resources:

<http://www.urj.org/israel/>

<http://www.arza.org/>

[www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/conflicts.asp](http://www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/conflicts.asp)

[www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/creation.asp](http://www.adl.org/ISRAEL/record/creation.asp)

11/6 From Sinai until Now - A Jewish Historical Perspective

SOS – pg. 185-335, 358-379, 407-427

11/13 Tikkun Olam: Class Mitzvah Day Project

11/20 Living in Jewish Time - From Birth to Death

SOS – pg. 79-98, 428-439

Web Resources:

[www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life Stages/Building a Jewish Home/Contemporary Jewish Family.shtml?LFLS](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life%20Stages/Building%20a%20Jewish%20Home/Contemporary%20Jewish%20Family.shtml?LFLS)

<http://www.interfaithfamily.com>

<http://www.urj.org/life/observance/index.cfm?>

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/lifecycle/Death.htm>