‘Ten Paths to God’ is the new, free, online curriculum about Judaism and Jewish values based on traditional and contemporary teachings as well as my own writings. The curriculum is split into ten units and seeks to help young Jews around the world answer the three fundamental questions every reflective human being will ask at some point in life: Who am I? Why am I here? How then shall I live?

The opening unit focuses on the concept of Identity. As Jews, we are born into a family and a people that has a history. Who are we? To which story do we belong?

The next three units look at the three great pillars of Jewish life: Prayer, the most focused way in which we reach out to God; Study, the highest of all Jewish acts, which the sages said was even more holy than prayer; and Mitzvot, the way of the commands. In prayer we find God by speaking; in study we find God by listening; in mitzvot we find God by doing.

From there, the curriculum looks at the three great attributes of the Jewish personality: Tzedakah, love as justice; Chessed, love as compassion; and Faith, love as loyalty. Judaism is a religion of love, not the mystical, otherworldly love that hovers above the world, leaving its imperfections intact, but the love that engages with the world, trying – one act at a time, one day at a time, one life at a time – to make it a little less cruel, a little more human and humane.

The final three units focus on the three great expressions of Jewish life: Israel, the one place on earth where Jews have the chance to do what every other nation takes for granted, namely the right to rule ourselves and create a society in accordance with our beliefs; Kiddush Hashem, sanctifying God’s name in the world by acting as God’s ambassadors; and lastly Responsibility, the idea that we are God’s partners in the work of creation, and there is work for each of us to do in this tense and troubled age.

We have to make Judaism more compelling for the next generation, intellectually, ethically and spiritually. Our values, heritage and way of life can provide a framework for young Jews today as they navigate the many challenges they face in the 21st century. That is what is driving me with this project, and why I care so passionately about finding ways to communicate Judaism and Jewish values to the next generation.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
UNIT STRUCTURE

This curriculum has been designed with the utmost flexibility, allowing the educator to tailor it to their specific needs. It can easily be adapted to fit both formal and informal settings: in schools, youth movements, university campus learning initiatives, outreach organisations, adult education synagogue programmes, bar and bat mitzvah classes, or as a resource for structured one-to-one learning in chavruta or between parents and their children.

Available at both entry and advanced levels, with video content and downloadable PDF guides for students and educators, the structure of each unit is as follows:

(1) Trigger Video: Each unit begins with a short opening video. In the video, Rabbi Sacks presents an overview of the unit subject. These videos last for around 3 minutes each and provide the foundation and starting point for the rest of the unit.

(2) Opening Discussion: The first section of each unit uses the transcript of the opening video as the basis for the unit. Following on from that, specific phrases are highlighted within the text and questions provided to facilitate further discussion on the topic. The Educators guides include specific pedagogical comments relating to how to run a class or guide a discussion.

(3) The Core Concepts Further Explored: In the sections that follow, supplementary sources, including excerpts from Rabbi Sacks’ writings, are used to take a deeper look at the core concepts in the thought of Rabbi Sacks.

(4) Optional Assignment: The final section of each unit offers an optional project-based assignment for students to undertake. The aim of this assignment is the practical implementation of the ideas explored in the unit.

In addition, there is the opportunity to submit any questions they have, via the Educator, to Rabbi Sacks. While he will not be able to answer every question received, the most insightful or most commonly asked questions from each unit will be posted together with a video response to www.RabbiSacks.org/TenPaths.
To download all the material for the entry and advanced levels of this curriculum, including student and educator PDF guides and videos, please visit

www.RabbiSacks.org/TenPaths

where you can also subscribe to the bespoke mailing list for updates about this project.