

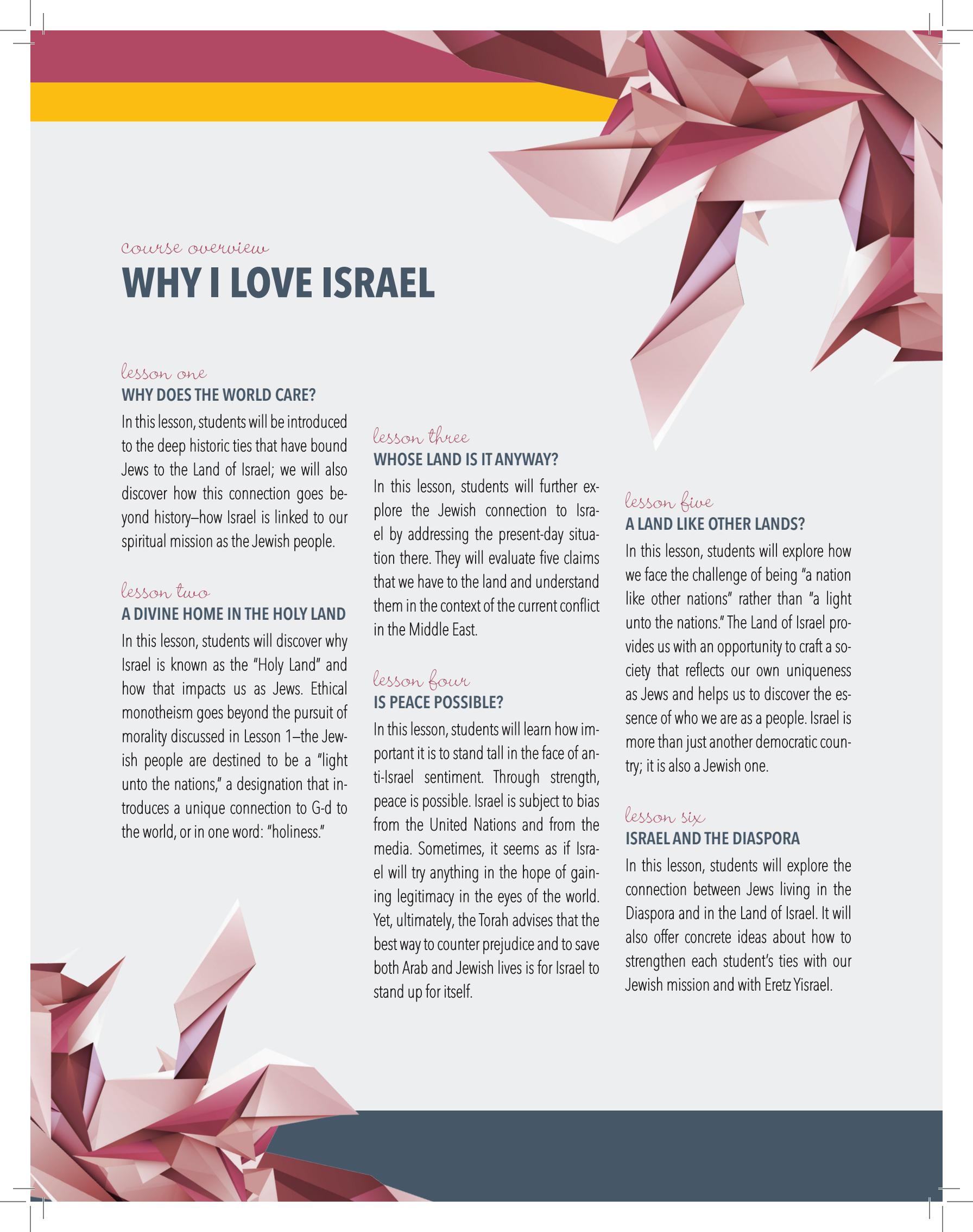
*course introduction*

## WHY I LOVE ISRAEL

Is there something wrong with the way Israel has conducted itself in its attempts to bring peace to the Middle East? Why does it seem that Israel has so many enemies? How important is Israel to me, anyway? Your teen will take a journey, where they will virtually travel through the Holy Land, learn of the history, meaning and holiness of this ancient country. They will see how this faraway place is their home, and how their Jewish identity is connected to it.

Why I Love Israel introduces teens to the land of Israel in a deep and meaningful way. Students explore the Holy Land and how our mission as a people is intrinsically bound to Israel. Students are given the information and tools to have knowledgeable, factual discussions about Jewish claims to the land and modern political realities. This interactive subject empowers students to stand up and voice their opinions, while identifying and expressing their role as a member of the Jewish nation. It's an inspiring, engaging and stimulating discourse about the land of Israel. All the lessons include videos of a road trip through the Holy Land, giving students an insider's view of real life in Israel and different regions and cities there.





*course overview*

# WHY I LOVE ISRAEL

*lesson one*

## WHY DOES THE WORLD CARE?

In this lesson, students will be introduced to the deep historic ties that have bound Jews to the Land of Israel; we will also discover how this connection goes beyond history—how Israel is linked to our spiritual mission as the Jewish people.

*lesson two*

## A DIVINE HOME IN THE HOLY LAND

In this lesson, students will discover why Israel is known as the “Holy Land” and how that impacts us as Jews. Ethical monotheism goes beyond the pursuit of morality discussed in Lesson 1—the Jewish people are destined to be a “light unto the nations,” a designation that introduces a unique connection to G-d to the world, or in one word: “holiness.”

*lesson three*

## WHOSE LAND IS IT ANYWAY?

In this lesson, students will further explore the Jewish connection to Israel by addressing the present-day situation there. They will evaluate five claims that we have to the land and understand them in the context of the current conflict in the Middle East.

*lesson four*

## IS PEACE POSSIBLE?

In this lesson, students will learn how important it is to stand tall in the face of anti-Israel sentiment. Through strength, peace is possible. Israel is subject to bias from the United Nations and from the media. Sometimes, it seems as if Israel will try anything in the hope of gaining legitimacy in the eyes of the world. Yet, ultimately, the Torah advises that the best way to counter prejudice and to save both Arab and Jewish lives is for Israel to stand up for itself.

*lesson five*

## A LAND LIKE OTHER LANDS?

In this lesson, students will explore how we face the challenge of being “a nation like other nations” rather than “a light unto the nations.” The Land of Israel provides us with an opportunity to craft a society that reflects our own uniqueness as Jews and helps us to discover the essence of who we are as a people. Israel is more than just another democratic country; it is also a Jewish one.

*lesson six*

## ISRAEL AND THE DIASPORA

In this lesson, students will explore the connection between Jews living in the Diaspora and in the Land of Israel. It will also offer concrete ideas about how to strengthen each student’s ties with our Jewish mission and with Eretz Yisrael.