



My Family from Israel

Grades K–4

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Julia McMeans, M.Ed.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

Families Around The World Video Series

includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY
- MY FAMILY FROM BURKINA FASO
- MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND
- MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
- MY FAMILY FROM CHILE
- MY FAMILY FROM INDIA
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM CHINA
- MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA
- MY FAMILY FROM ITALY
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM CUBA
- MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN
- MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM
- MY FAMILY FROM ENGLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM LAPLAND
- MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA
- MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE
- MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES
- MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:



800-843-3620



Program © 2003 by Marathon/TFO
Teacher's Guide © 2003 by Schlessinger Media,
a division of Library Video Company
P.O. Box 580, Wynnwood, PA 19096 • 800-843-3620
All rights reserved.

From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World*.



Program Summary

In *My Family from Israel*, students will meet 10-year-old Yesha'ayahou and his five brothers and sisters. Yesha'ayahou and his family are Orthodox Jews, and the practice and traditions of their religion are very important to them. Education is something else that is important to Yesha'ayahou and his family, and he attends school eleven hours a day! Yesha'ayahou does not watch television or go to the movies. Instead, Yesha'ayahou and his family make their own entertainment by spending time together and making music. Yesha'ayahou loves being with his father, and students will join him as he accompanies his father to watch him perform an important religious ceremony. Yesha'ayahou also enjoys watching his father copy words from the Bible with a special quill pen and ink. As he explains, it is an honor to be permitted to do this, and Yesha'ayahou is proud that his father can perform this special duty. This is a special time for Yesha'ayahou's family because Elazar, the eldest son, is about to turn seventeen. Soon he will leave the family home to enter a yeshiva, a special school where people go to devote their lives to studying the Bible. Although Yesha'ayahou is proud of his big brother, he talks about how much he will miss him. A big celebration is planned and all of the family joins together to make Elazar's departure a memorable and special occasion.

Geographical Information

Israel is a small Middle Eastern country which is approximately 21,000 square kilometers. It has a population of about 7 million, its capital is Jerusalem, and it is bordered by Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Israel's population is quite diverse and it is home to Jews from all over the world. Because so many people have immigrated to Israel, many languages and traditions are prevalent, although Hebrew is a language common to most inhabitants. Although it is small, Israel has varied geographic regions and climates.

Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families.

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Yesha'ayahou's. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other.* Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

Follow-up Activities

- Using a Venn diagram, ask students to compare and contrast Yesha'ayahou's family and social life with their own.
- Ask your students to imagine what it would be like if a close family member were going to move away. Have the students write letters to them which describe the things they will miss after those people are gone.
- Have your students imagine that like Yesha'ayahou, they are not permitted to watch television or go to the movies. Remember, this also rules out video games! Have them make a list of fun things they could do instead, and perhaps challenge them to try it for a week.
- Have your students read or listen to a selection of folktales from Israel. Have them illustrate or write about their favorite ones.
- Ask your students to think about the best gifts they ever gave or received. Have each of them write a paragraph which describes the gift and what made it so special. Students may also make illustrations of the gifts.
- Ask students if they have ever gone to work with a family member. Students can write descriptive paragraphs or make illustrations showing/telling what it was like.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.akhlah.com/
This site has a lot of great information and activities relating to Judaism, including facts about Israel, holidays and Hebrew.
- www.uri.org/kids/world_juda.htm
This clear and informative Web site offers information about the celebrations and basic beliefs of Judaism.
- www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/nations/israel.html
This Web site has good information relating to the nation of Israel.

Suggested Print Resources

- Singer, Isaac Bashevis and Maurice Sendak. *Zlateh and the Goat and Other Stories*. HarperCollins, New York, NY; 1984.
- Grossman, Laurie. *Children of Israel*. Lerner Publishing Group, Minneapolis, MN; 2000.
- Grossman, Laurie and Helen Byers. *Colors of Israel*. Lerner Publishing Group, Minneapolis, MN; 2001.