

# BRINGING JEWISH TEXTS TO LIFE

Rabbi Micah Streiffer Scholar in Residence

"Rabbi Micah brings Torah to life with his depth of knowledge, insight and humor." - Susan P.

I am a rabbi and Ph.D student who specializes in meaningful, text-rich adult Jewish learning. I offer these classes, either in person or on Zoom, to complement the learning being offered in your congregation. The topics are relevant to modern Jewish life, and my classes are interactive and well-researched.

See the next page for a list of session topics.

Please contact me for pricing or to book a class!



Featured: My Most Popular Class!

Beyond the "Old Man in the Sky"

RADICAL Jewish Views of God

A Class Series (4 sessions)

Think your beliefs (or lack thereof) are "out there?" Think again! In this series, we will study "radical" thinkers whose ideas have transformed the way modern Jews think about God.



Is God a being? A process? An idea? A part of the world or apart from the world? Is God found in relationships, nature, morality, social action, or somewhere else? How can we relate to the traditional words of the prayerbook if we don't exactly believe in what they say?

We'll enter into conversation with the writings of Maimonides, Spinoza, Martin Buber, Judith Plaskow, Mordecai Kaplan, Margaret Moers Wenig, and others. And we'll explore our own beliefs along the way.

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# **Available Class Topics:**

Can be held in person or on Zoom

### **Jewish Philosophy and Beliefs**

- Beyond the "Old Man in the Sky": Radical Jewish Views of God (4 session series; see first page)
- Maimonides: A Guide for the Perplexed (3-4 session series; an accessible deep-dive into Maimonides' philosophical writings about God, science, religion, identity, and a meaningful life)
- **Spinoza: Rebel With a Cause** (3-4 session series; an accessible deep-dive into the writings of Judaism's controversial "Bad Boy Philosopher" who helped invent modernity)

## Spirituality and Prayer

- Working For the Weekend: Reclaiming Shabbat in Liberal Judaism (series or single session)
- The Fixed and the Fluid: Making Jewish Prayer MEAN Something (single session)
- "Enter O Bride": Shabbat, Sexuality, and Tikkun Olam in L'cha Dodi (single session)

### **Jewish Identity**

- O Jerusalem! The 3000-Year Story of a City AND an Idea (4 session series)
- Jewish History in an Hour (single session)
- Who is a Jew? Ancient Traditions & Shifting Landscapes (single session)
- Do We REALLY Still Believe in the "Chosen People?" (single session)

#### Judaism and the Earth

- How "Green" is Your Torah? Exploring Judaism's Environmental Ethic (series or single session)
- Open Up Our Eyes: A Jewish Spiritual Nature Walk (single session)
- The Case for Jewish Vegetarianism (single session)
- Eating Our Way to a Better Tomorrow: Kashrut and the Environment (single session)

"Rabbi Streiffer has a wonderful way of distilling ideas into something we can grasp, presenting the original texts with his own plain language and giving us chances to respond to them."

Emily R.

"I have taken classes before on thinkers including Maimonides and Spinoza, but never before have these materials been presented so clearly or engagingly."

Jax J.

"Rabbi Streiffer is truly a master teacher! He beautifully led a joint program for our Reform and Conservative congregants, and was able to connect with each participant through thought-provoking questions, the use of wonderful texts, and a fantastically engaging style. We can't wait to bring him back for more study together."

Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov

Temple of Israel - Wilmington, North Carolina

"Rabbi Streiffer actively engaged our learners in conversation and helped them connect their own beliefs and practices with Jewish texts. He is a great teacher who can take more academic subjects and make them accessible, and I encourage you to reach out to him if you're looking for a guest teacher."

Rabbi Joel Simon Congregation Schaarai Zedek - Tampa, Florida