

Introduction

Temple Adas Shalom-Harford Jewish Center developed Torah Karaoke to make the reading of the weekly Torah portion more meaningful for the congregation and for the person preparing the reading. It is designed so that the congregation can simultaneously listen to the chanting, follow the Hebrew, and read the story in English.

The images on the screen further enhance the experience. By using Torah Karaoke to simultaneously listen to the chanting, read the English and Hebrew, and view the images, the congregation will have a deeply meaningful multimedia religious and spiritual experience.

The images can be any of the following:

1. Photographs. We developed a Torah Karaoke presentation illustrating the Genesis Creation story through photographs taken by members of the congregation.
2. Original artwork: One of our Bat Mitzvah students created a Torah Karaoke illustrated with her own original artwork.
3. Lego animation: One of our Bar Mitzvah students created a Torah Karaoke presentation using Lego animation.
4. Video: Our sisterhood created a Torah Karaoke using video as they acted out the parasha.

How is the Torah Karaoke presentation utilized during the Torah service?

The Torah Karaoke PowerPoint slides are displayed on a screen as the Torah is read. The PowerPoint is advanced such that as each word is chanted, the slide with that Hebrew word highlighted is displayed on the screen (hence the name "Torah Karaoke").

How to create a Torah Karaoke presentation:

1. Decide which verses of the parasha will be included in the presentation. For B'nai Mitzvah students in our congregation, the students decide which verses to include. We attempt to choose verses that - taken together - present a conceptual whole. They either tell a story (for instance, the binding of Isaac), or present a unified theme (for instance, the 6 Biblical holidays)
2. Paste the chosen verses into a PowerPoint presentation. It is best if each slide contains only a few Hebrew words: generally one to four. Occasionally it's necessary to have five or six Hebrew words if the English words have to be in a very different order than the Hebrew words in order for the phrase or sentence to make sense in the English.
3. Translate the Hebrew words into English.
4. (As noted above, feel free to use the Temple Adas Shalom-Harford Jewish Center Hebrew with English presentations found on this website)

5. Find an image for each slide.

Our B'nai Mitzvah students who create Torah Karaoke presentations have an outstanding educational experience. In order to incorporate appropriate images into the presentation, an in depth understanding of the parasha is required.

It's generally better not to use too many images. It is challenging to assimilate the Hebrew, English, and images while simultaneously listening to the chanting. Try not to overwhelm the congregation with too many images. Using the same image on consecutive slides seems to work fine. The same image can be repeated throughout a presentation for a given concept or personality. For instance, every time Moses is portrayed in a given presentation, use the same image.

6. Highlight the Hebrew words.

We do this by first making a new slide for each Hebrew word. For instance, if there are 3 Hebrew words on a given slide, we duplicate the slide 3 times. Then on the first of these 3 slides, we highlight the first Hebrew word, on the second slide the second Hebrew word, and on the third slide the third Hebrew word. This is somewhat laborious and time consuming (although we have found that the teenagers can do it much faster than the adults). If anyone knows of a more efficient way to do this, please let us know.

Types of presentations included on this website:

1. Just the Hebrew and English words without images: These presentations can be used by other congregations and educational institutions to make Torah Karaoke presentations by adding images and then highlighting the Hebrew words.
2. Hebrew words (highlighted) and English words with images: These presentations can be used by other congregations and educational institutions "as is" during the Torah service or for educational purposes.
3. Hebrew words (highlighted), English words, images, chanting synced with the Hebrew words as the power point is automatically clicked forward (coming soon): These presentations will provide examples of how Torah Karaoke is actually utilized during the Torah service.

Please [contact us if you have any questions, suggestions, edits](#), etc.