WRITING YOUR B'NEI MITZVAH TORAH SUMMARY

YOU WILL BE READING YOUR SUMMARY ALOUD AT YOUR B'NEI MITZVAH AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TORAH READING.

Preparing your Summary

☐ 1. Read through the summary in the booklet in your binder. It is entitled "Introduction to the Parashah."

☐ 2. Read through the ENTIRE Torah portion in English. In your booklet, it is the column on each page that says "Translation." You don't have to read any of the commentaries at this point.

☐ 3. Divide your Torah Portion into 2-4 main sections and write a topic sentence about each.

☐ 4. Write a brief paragraph for each section. Don't include a lot of detail; just summarize the section and give one or two examples when appropriate, using a term like "for example…" or "such as…"

☐ *5.* When referring to God in your summary and your D'var Torah, please use non-gendered language, since God is beyond gender. The simplest approach is to simply say "God" rather than "He." Another alternative, which is used in our Torah Commentary is "The Eternal."

☐ 6. Make sure you are consistent throughout your summary in your use of tenses.

*Present tense: God **tells** Abraham to offer his son as an offering on Mount Moriah. Abraham **gets up** early in the morning, **saddles** his donkey, and **takes** Isaac and two servants up the mountain.*

OR

*Past tense: God **told** Abraham to offer his son as an offering on Mount Moriah. Abraham **got up** early in the morning, **saddled** his donkey, and **took** Isaac and two servants up the mountain.*

OVER

Completing Your Summary

☐ 1. **Begin your Summary** with this sentence:

Shabbat Shalom. This week's Torah portion is _____ from the book of _____.

☐ 2. **End your Summary** with this sentence:

We will now be chanting from _____(Book), chapter____, verse _____, which can be found on page _____of your blue Torah Commentary.

☐ 3. **Format your Summary**:

- ✡ 18-point font
- ✡ Double Spaced
- ✡ Leave an extra space between paragraphs
- ✡ **Number the pages**
- ✡ No need to hole-punch your summary. Paper-clip it instead.

☐ 4. Write "Summary" and your name at the top.

☐ 5. SAVE YOUR SUMMARY IN YOUR COMPUTER and as a google doc.

☐ 6. Share your google doc labeled **"Summary (Torah portion name) – (your name)"** with the rabbi who is helping you: Rabbi Esther Adler eadler@mzion.org, Rabbi Heather Renetzky hrenetzky@mzion.org, or Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker aspilker@mzion.org.

☐ 7. Print your Summary and keep it with your B'nei Mitzvah Notebook.

Your Name
SUMMARY EXAMPLE 1

Shabbat Shalom. this weeks' Torah portion is Chayei Sarah from the book of Genesis.

Sarah dies at the age of 127 in Kiriat-Arba, now known as Hebron. Sarah, was the love of Abraham's life, and he buys a burial site in Kiriat-Arba, the cave of Machpelah, from the Hittites.

After some time, Abraham decides that he must find a wife for his son, Isaac. Abraham directs his senior servant, Eliezer, to search for a wife, warning him not to take a Canaanite woman. Eliezer travels to Aram-Nanaraim to the city of Nanor, the land of Abraham's kin. On arrival, the servant prays to God to direct him to the woman chosen to be the wife for Isaac. He is directed to Rebekah, daughter of Behuel who is the son of Nahor, brother of Abraham. Rebekah, with her words and

deeds, shows Eliezer that she is the answer to his search for a wife for Isaac.

Eleizer is welcomed into Behuel's house and after conferencing with Bethuel and his son Laban, it is agreed that Rebekah will travel to Canaan with Elieizer to become the wife of Isaac. The next morning, Eliezer prepares to leave, but Laban and his mother request that Rebekah remain with them for a little while longer. Eleizer asks not to be delayed and the decision is immediately put to Rebekah to decide. She decides to immediately leave and journey to Canaan, with her maids, to become Isaac's wife.

Abraham takes another wife, Keturah, who bears him 6 children before dying. He wills all possessions to Isaac and gives gifts to his other children. When Abraham dies, Isaac and Ishmael bury Abraham next to Sarah in the cave of Machpelah. This portion closes with the naming of Ishmaels 12 sons. Ishmael dies at the age of 137.

We will now be chanting from Genesis, Chapter 23, verse 1, which can be found on page 154 in your blue Torah Commentary.

Your Name
SUMMARY EXAMPLE 2

Shabbat Shalom. This week's Torah portion is Shelach L'cha, from the book of Numbers.

God told Moses to send scouts into the land of Canaan to evaluate the land and the people. Among the scouts were Joshua and Caleb. In the land of Canaan, they cut down a cluster of grapes so large it took two of them to carry it.

Forty days later they returned to the Israelite community. They told them that the land was great but the people were strong and the cities were fortified. The people were upset and said things such as, "we should have stayed in Egypt, rather than die by sword."

Joshua and Caleb told the people they could overcome the people and gain the land, but a different scout said that they could not, and the people Israel believed that one. Joshua and Caleb continued to say they could win.

Eventually, God told Moses that the people were going to be punished. But Moses asked God to forgive them. God forgave the Israelites, but they had to wander in the wilderness for forty more years, and only Joshua and Caleb would be allowed to enter the land of Canaan.

We will now be chanting from Numbers, chapter 14, verse 26, which can be found on page 984 in your blue Torah Commentary.