



Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

# Who is the Jewish Messiah?

## Step 1: Lesson Goals

### Goals:

**Affective** – Students will connect the times we live in to the larger arc of Jewish history.

**Behavioral** – Students will try to treat each other in a way that reflects the inherent worth of every individual.

**Cognitive** – Students will be able to explain the concept of *Mashiach* in Judaism.

## Essential Questions/Big Ideas:

1. What is the Jewish concept of the *Mashiach*, and how has it evolved over time?
2. In what ways might spiritual growth, human responsibility, and even technological advancement influence Jewish thinking about the coming of the *Mashiach*?
3. What role does each individual play in preparing for a messianic future, and how does that shape Jewish identity today?
1. The *Mashiach* is a living hope for a transformed future.
2. Jewish tradition believes that messianic redemption requires both divine intervention and human initiative.
3. Judaism empowers individuals to see themselves as partners in creating a redeemed world.



## Step 2: Learning Plan

### Hook/Trigger: (10 minutes)

Play this [video](#) [6:01-7:06] and then answer the following questions:

- What surprised you?
- What is one question you have?
- What is something you learned?

### Learning Activity: (25 minutes)

#### Text study

Lead your students through this [text study](#) about the Messianic age.

### Reflection (7 mins)

#### *Reishit Tzmichat Geulateinu*

Many people have connected the creation of the modern State of Israel with the beginning of the Messianic age because one of the signs of the Messianic age is “[the ingathering of the exiles](#)” to the Land of Israel amongst others. For example, in “[A Prayer for the Peace of the State of Israel](#)” the state is described as “Reishit tzmichat ge'ulateinu” (the beginning of the sprouting of our redemption).

- Do you agree with that description of the State of Israel? Why or why not?
- Why do you think some people choose not to say the Prayer for the State of Israel?

## Step 3: Assessment

### Checking for Understanding: (3 minutes)

Seeing the divine in others



The Jewish vision of the Messianic era is that all people will see the divine in one another. What do you think of this idea? What would it look like for you to see others this way in your daily life? How would it change the way you treat people?