

**Introduction to Judaism** is a pathway for the adult learner who wishes to discover or deepen Jewish knowledge. In 21 sessions we will provide a journey into Jewish spirituality, thought, ritual and culture. We will also discuss the scope of Jewish history, the meaning of Jewish peoplehood, Jewish diversity and the importance of Israel to the Jewish people.

## *The Institute for Basic Judaism*

For more information contact  
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[www.ibjewish.org](http://www.ibjewish.org)

## Where and when will classes meet?

Classes will meet at the Emanuel synagogue in West Hartford.

The program will meet on 21 Thursday evenings beginning on **November 2, 2017**. The introduction to Judaism module meets from 7:35 – 9:15PM.

From January 4, 2018 until March 22, 2018, a beginners Hebrew reading module will be added, meeting from 6:30 -7:25 PM. (Cost will depend upon number of registrants.)

### **Program Fees:**

\$295 per participant. Significant others, full-time students and alumni of IBJ will receive a 50% discount.

There will be required readings. Many will be from texts you will want to acquire. Some readings will be provided as handouts.

There will be an additional fee for the Hebrew reading module based on the number of students.

Special arrangements may be made for reasons of financial need. Contact Rabbi Plavin to discuss your need confidentially.

# *The Institute for Basic Judaism 2017-2018*

**An Introduction to  
Judaism Program serving  
Central Connecticut**

Offered in partnership with the  
Miller Introduction to  
Judaism Program at  
American Jewish University



**This program is sponsored by  
the Rabbinical Assembly  
of Connecticut**

## From past participants:

“ I found The Basic Judaism class with Rabbi Plavin to be very informative and easy to follow. I particularly enjoyed the way he pulled our class together like the new family we were beginning to form. ”

“ I found the class and Rabbi Plavin to be warm and inviting to new comers as well as patient and kind. I found him to be extremely tolerant and accepting of people and their beliefs. Through this class I found myself falling in love with Judaism. ”

“ Thank you so much for facilitating the wonderful class....It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience. ..I couldn't have asked for a better teacher or better introduction to this religion I have chosen! ”

*“Observing Mitzvot (commandments) is the primary way Jews live a religious life. We express our search for God and our quest to live in holiness through the observance of Mitzvot. The Mitzvot inspire us by focusing our thoughts and elevating our feelings: they guide us toward behavior imbued with certain values and goals. The observance of Mitzvot shapes our actions and sanctifies our behavior. We make ourselves open to the spirit through the act of fulfilling Mitzvot.”*

-Rabbi Pamela Barmash

**The study of Mitzvot is the major focus of IBJ.**



## You will learn about:

- ✧ History and culture of the Jewish people
- ✧ Holy days and festivals
- ✧ Sabbath
- ✧ Passover
- ✧ Jewish concepts of God and ethics
- ✧ Synagogue and its services
- ✧ Life cycle observances including:
  - birth
  - bar & bat mitzvah
  - marriage
  - death
- ✧ Kashrut: the Jewish dietary laws
- ✧ Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust
- ✧ Israel and Zionism
- ✧ Diversity of contemporary Jewish life

## Who are our students?

The Institute provides educational background for all seeking to learn about Judaism, including:

Jews who never had the opportunity of a Jewish education in their youth.

Prospective Jews-by-Choice who need to meet the academic requirements of conversion to Judaism.

Individuals who want to better understand the religion of their significant other or a family member.

Non-Jews who may have an intellectual curiosity about the mother faith of both Christianity and Islam.