

Yotzer Or יוצר אור

(short version/p'tichah only)

Introductory Prayers	Sh'ma & Its Blessings	Amidah	Torah Service	Concluding Prayers
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To-Do List:

- ☐ Answer the **Ready...Set...Prep!** questions on Pages 2-3 with a *chevruta* partner
- ☐ Read the prayer in Hebrew (Page 4) with your *chevruta* partner
- ☐ Answer the **First Read** questions (Page 4) together
- ☐ Finish the prayer's translation (Page 5) alone or together
- ☐ Answer the **Break It Down** questions (Pages 6-7) with your *chevruta* partner
- ☐ Answer the **Reading Questions** (Page 8) either on your own or together
- ☐ **Now Practice!** Read & sing the prayer together, alone, and/or online (see Page 7)
- ☐ Do the **Get Creative!** activity on Page 8
- ☐ Read and sing the prayer to a teacher to sign off

chevruta

חִבְרוּתָא

n. study companion.
Shares a root with the word "friend" (חֵבֵר).

Yotzer Or יוצר אור

Introductory Prayers

Sh'ma & Her Blessings

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

Ready... Set... Prep!

Read the first five verses in the Torah, the start of the Creation story in Genesis:

Note: Anything in a yellow box is something you need to read in order to answer the questions!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>א בְּרֵאשִׁית, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ.</p> | <p>1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.</p> |
| <p>ב וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתָה תֵהוֹ וְבָהוּ, וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל-פְּנֵי תְהוֹם, וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם.</p> | <p>2 Now the earth was unformed and void, and there was only darkness across the depths, and the spirit of God hovered over the waters.</p> |
| <p>ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים, יְהִי אוֹר, וַיְהִי-אוֹר.</p> | <p>3 And God said: 'Let there be light.' And there was light.</p> |
| <p>ד וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאוֹר, כִּי-טוֹב, וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ.</p> | <p>4 And God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness.</p> |
| <p>ה וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָאוֹר יוֹם, וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה, וַיְהִי-עֶרֶב וַיְהִי-בֹקֶר, יוֹם אֶחָד.</p> | <p>5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning: one day.</p> |

- What did God create first? (Verse 1) _____
- What do you think it means in verse 2 that the earth was “unformed and void”? _____
- What did God create next? (Verse 3) _____
- Does the text say that God *created* darkness? If not, where do you think it came from? _____
- What did God do with the darkness? _____
- Verse 5 tells us the order of the Jewish “day” – which comes first, morning or evening? _____



This symbol means to use your tablet, computer, or smartphone to go online to find the answers!

7. In Google, type in, “when does the Jewish day begin” – there should be a “quick info” box that shows up at the top of the search results. Read that.

While the secular (non-religious) day usually begins at **midnight**, and when we think of “starting the day” we usually think of the **morning**, but the Jewish day is different. When does the Jewish day start? _____

8. Look back at Verse 5 in the Genesis text: why do you think the Jewish day starts then? _____

9. Could life exist on this planet without light? _____

10. Why do you think light was the first thing God created after making an empty earth? _____

After the Bar’chu, which calls the community to worship and makes sure we’re ready to pray, the next thing we do is say a prayer blessing God for creation: either *Ma’ariv Aravim* (“Bringer of the Evening”) for an evening service, or *Yotzer Or* (“Creator of Light”) for a morning service.

11. Just based on the prayers’ titles, why do you think we say them at their specific times?

Ma’ariv Aravim: _____

Yotzer Or: _____

12. If you had to choose four things to praise God for creating so that life as we know it can exist, what would they be?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Now read the prayer below out loud – there's a longer version, but this is its opening (or פתיחה), and some communities just say these lines!

1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
2. יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ
3. עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל.

Judaism tends to pick the first important word or two of the prayer and make that the name of it. Since Line 1 is common to so many prayers, the title of this prayer comes from the first two words of **Line 2**.

So, knowing that, write out the name of this prayer in **Hebrew**: _____

First-Read Questions

1. What words do you already recognize?

Hebrew Word	I think that it means...

2. At first glance, what do you think this prayer is about? _____

Translation

Fill in the blanks of the prayer's translation using the Word Bank!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Conjunction	Adjective / Adverb
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הָעוֹלָם	מֶלֶךְ	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	יְיָ	אַתָּה	בָּרוּךְ	1
of the world,	Ruler	our _____,	Adonai	(are) You,	_____	

חֹשֶׁךְ	וּבּוֹרָא	אוֹר	יוֹצֵר	2
of _____,	and Creator	of _____	Creator	

הַכֹּל.	אֵת	וּבּוֹרָא	שָׁלוֹם	עֹשֶׂה	3
of _____.	(no English translation)	and Creator	of _____	Maker	

Word Bank

שָׁלוֹם	חֹשֶׁךְ	הַכֹּל	בָּרוּךְ	אֱלֹהִי	אוֹר
peace (noun)	darkness (noun)	everything (noun)	blessed (adjective)	God (not God's name, the concept in general)	light (noun)

The translations above go **right-to-left** with the Hebrew text. Now write out the English translations for each line from **left-to-right**. The first one has been started for you! (Check your work on the next page!)

1. Blessed are you, _____
2. _____
3. _____

Yotzer Or: Color-Coded for Meaning

The colors here are just to help you match each word to its translation in the English lines below.

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
2. יוֹצֵר אוֹר וְבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ
3. עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם וְבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל.

1. **Blessed** are **You** **Adonai** **our** **God**, **Ruler** of **the** **Universe**,
2. **Creator** of **light** **and** **Creator** of **darkness**,
3. **Maker** of **peace** **and** **Creator** of **everything**.

Break it Down

1. Underline at least two key Hebrew words in the prayer. Why did you choose them? _____
- _____
2. Almost all prayers fit into one of three types: **gratitude** ("THANK YOU, GOD!!"), **praise** ("WOW, GOD, YOU'RE AMAZING!!") or **petition** ("HELP!!!"). Which kind do you think this prayer is? _____
- Why do you think so? (Use evidence from the translation & your own opinions!) _____
- _____

PERSONAL prayers are said because they address the INDIVIDUAL's needs. Personal prayers can still be said with a community; the **subject matter** and **purpose** makes a prayer personal, not the way we say it.

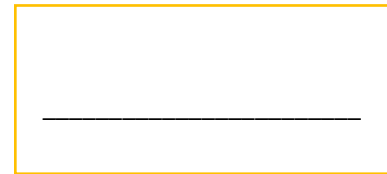
COMMUNAL prayers are said to address the COMMUNITY's needs. Some communal prayers can still be said alone; the **subject matter** and **purpose within the service** makes a prayer communal more than anything else.

This prayer could arguably be a little of both, but it does lean a little in one direction.

3. Do you think this more a personal or a communal prayer? _____

Why do you think so? _____

4. This prayer has a set of opposites in Line 2. What are they?



5. The prayer lists four things God created. What are they?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

6. When you imagine God as the Creator, what do you see or think of? _____

7. How is light created? _____

8. How is dark created? _____

9. Think beyond the literal meanings of the words, and instead think of big ideas these words can represent. What can light and dark symbolize besides just daylight and night time? _____

Reading Questions

1. Count the number of times you see a vowel that makes an “oh” sound. How many did you find? _____
2. How many vowels in the prayer make an “oo” sound? _____
3. Sometimes, depending on the font or print style of the siddur, the last word in Line 2 will have a “double-duty” dot and be written like

this: חִשְׁךְ What two “jobs” does the dot have in the word?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Practice, Practice, Practice!

1. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
2. יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֲשֶׁךְ
3. עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל.

Practice Online:



In **ShalomLearning**, practice with the JiTap soundboard directly in your browser!

Or open the **JiTap app** and search for “**Yotzer Or**” to find the Tap-and-Hear soundboard to practice.

Or search **YouTube** for “**Yotzer Or Prayer Karaoke**” – the videos should have a white background and black→blue letters.

Note: Yotzer Or has a few different tunes, and some communities read it with no tune! If you can read the words really well, you can join in reading it with the community or follow any tune your community uses!

Yotzer Or: Get Creative!

Alone or with a *chevruta* partner, write one more “verse” for the prayer: what other things are you thankful to God for creating, **besides what is already mentioned in the prayer**? Feel free to use words other than Creator and Maker, too!

Include at least four ideas in each verse, and **make at least one pair of them opposites** for each other!

Then illustrate at least part of your verse below or on the back of the page.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Creator of _____, _____ of _____,
Creator of _____, _____ of _____.