

# The Jewish Lifecycle

**Grade Level:** 1-12

**Time Duration:** 45 – 90 minutes

## Overview:

The Jewish Lifecycle is filled with growth physically and spiritually and at each stage a person changes, Pirkei Avos 5:24 describes the Jewish Lifecycle.

## Objectives:

- A. To introduce students with the description of the Jewish life lifecycle found in Pirkei Avos 5:24
- B. To familiarize students into the concept of change that occurs during the lifetime of a Jewish person
- C. To allow students to explore and discuss the different aspects and changes during the Jewish Lifecycle

## Materials: Handouts

Pirke Avot 5:24  
Lifecycle Book

## Activities and Procedures:

Have the students read or share with them Pirke Avot 5:24

Discuss the importance of each stage of the lifecycle and how people change throughout their lives.

Make a “Lifecycle Book” based on the passage from Pirke Avot

## Pirke Avos 5:22

## פרקי אבות ה:כב

הוא (יהודה בן תימא) היה אומר: בן חמש שנים למקרא,  
בן עשר למשנה, בן שלש אשורה למצות, בן חמש עשרה  
לתלמוד, בן שמונה עשרה לחפה, בן עשרים לרדוף, בן  
שלשים לכח, בן ארבעים לבונה, בן חמשים לעצה, בן  
ששים לזקנה, בן שבעים לשבה, בן שמונים לגבורה, בן  
תשעים לשוח, בן מאה כאלו מת ועבד ובטל מן העולם

*Hu hayah omer ben chamesh shanim lamikrah. Ben eser shanim lamishnah. Ben sholosh esray lamitzvos. Ben chamesh esray latalmud. Ben shmoneh esray lachupah Ben esrim lerodef. Ben sheloshim lako'ach. Ben arbayim labinah. Ben achmishim la'atzah. Ben sheshim laziknah. Ben sh've'im lasayvah. Ben shemonim lag'vurah. Ben tishim lasuach. Ben meah K'ilu mais v'avar ovatul min olam.*

He used to say: Five years old for Scripture. Ten years old for Mishnah. Thirteen years old for the commandments. Fifteen years old for the Talmud. Eighteen years old for the (marriage) canopy. Twenty years old to pursue. Thirty years old for strength. Forty years old for understanding. Fifty years for advice. Sixty years old for maturity. Seventy years old for old age. Eighty years old for power. Ninety years old for meditation. At one hundred years old, it is as if he were already dead, gone, and departed from the world.

**At 5 years old for learning Torah**

**At 10 years old for learning Mishnah**

**At 12/13 years old for Bar/Bat Mitzvah**

**At 15 years old for learning Talmud**

**At 18 years old for marriage**

**At 20 years old to pursue livelihood**

**At 30 years old for strength**

**At 40 years old for understanding**

**At 50 years for advice**

**At 60 years old for maturity**

**At 70 years old for old age**

**At 80 years old for power**

**At 90 years old for meditation**

**AT 100 years old, it is as if he were already dead, gone, and departed from the world**

