

# Lilith's Ark

## Teenage Tales of Biblical Women

### Educational Leaders' Guide

#### *What is Lilith's Ark?*

Building on textual sources, **Lilith's Ark** focuses on the teen years of 10 women in Genesis. **Lilith's Ark** melds text, biblical commentaries, and historic details about the ancient world with the experiences of modern girls and women and the author's own imagination.

The women of Torah grew up at a time when gender roles were rigidly defined and girls were considered women at an early age. Still, the Torah hints that young biblical women faced challenges similar to those that teenagers encounter today: first loves, burgeoning identities, developing sexualities, and blossoming spirituality. **Lilith's Ark** is a book that will speak across time to the anxieties and aspirations of today's growing girls.

#### *Facts for the Educational Leader*

⌘ A detailed discussion guide is included in **Lilith's Ark**. This guide includes pertinent verses from Torah, chapter themes, discussion questions, activity suggestions and ideas for mother-daughter dialogue.

⌘ Although **Lilith's Ark** was written primarily for teenage girls, the book is very appropriate for mother-daughter groups, adult education programming, and book clubs and discussion groups for women. In conjunction with other material, **Lilith's Ark** can be used effectively in classroom settings with boys and girls and is an excellent compliment to a teen textbook on topics such as Torah study, Jewish values, midrash, and teen issues.

⌘ **Lilith's Ark** contains some mature content in its chapters on Dinah and Tamar, and is recommended for ages 12 and above.

⌘ Individual chapters can be read and discussed independently of one another. The chapters are relatively short (between 10-20 pages) and are easy to read.

#### *Program Suggestions*

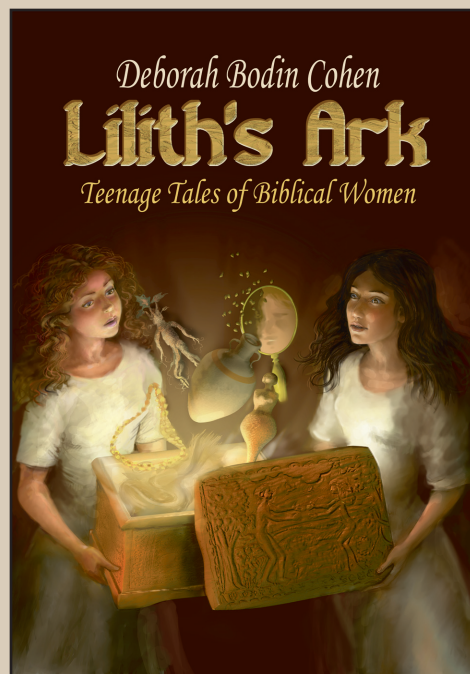
##### *Course Ideas for Supplemental Schools and Day Schools*

**Lilith's Ark** can form the basis of a semester-long course at a synagogue for B'nai Mitzvah or post-B'nai Mitzvah students. Each chapter would be covered in one or two weeks.

**Lilith's Ark** can be included a curriculum on English literature or Jewish texts in a day school setting.

**Lilith's Ark** can be a supplemental text to a teenage Torah study class.

**Lilith's Ark** can be used as an example of modern midrash with teenagers. It can be incorporated as an example text in a creative writing class for teenagers. Some creative writing exercises are suggested in the discussion guide.



##### *Teen Rosh Hodesh Group*

**Lilith's Ark** would be an excellent text for a Rosh Hodesh group for teens. There are nine main chapters to **Lilith's Ark**, matching well with the nine months of the school year. The discussion guide provides ample suggestions to fill a Rosh Hodesh session for each chapter. If your congregation does not have such a group, consider starting one, using **Lilith's Ark** for the first year of programming. If the group does not want to spend a

full year focused on the book, several chapters could be discussed in one session. For example, the book could be discussed in the months during which *Genesis* is read.

##### *Mother-Daughter Book Discussion*

**Lilith's Ark** would be perfect for mothers and daughters to read together. The discussion guide includes questions for mother/daughter dialogue. Consider asking your congregation's Sisterhood or PTO to sponsor such a discussion.

##### *Mother-Daughter Brunch*

Hold a Mother-Daughter brunch with **Lilith's Ark** as its program. A member of your congregation could read a section of the book aloud. Questions could be posed for each table to discuss. Each table could be identified with the name of a Biblical personality in the book. A follow-up program could be a Mother-Daughter book discussion for those inspired to read the whole book.

##### *B'nai Mitzvah Program*

Provide **Lilith's Ark** to B'nai Mitzvah students whose ceremony falls during the reading of *Genesis*. A student chanting from Haye Sarah, for example, could be assigned the Rebekah chapter. Since **Lilith's Ark** is written with teens in mind, it would help the student better relate to his or her parashah.

##### *On-line Discussion*

Design an on-line, facilitated discussion for teenagers in your community reading **Lilith's Ark**. The facilitator would pose questions to the group and participants could respond using a listserv format. One chapter a week could be discussed on-line.

##### *Camps, Youth Programs, and Other Informal Education Groups*

The intimacy and informality of a camp or youth group setting would enhance discussion of **Lilith's Ark** and the issues that it addresses. A camp unit, bunk, or CIT program could choose to read **Lilith's Ark** together. Likewise, a youth group could utilize **Lilith's Ark** for the study component of its programming.

