



Why We Study and Learn

Why Do We Study Phonics?

First I start with a very long introduction, leading up to a key point.

Resources I Recommend:

- *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, by Bill Cooper
- *The Sons of Zion versus the Sons of Greece*, by Miles Jones

Key Point: YHVH created language using a phonetic alphabet which portrayed sounds.

Mankind says:

“The alphabet is the greatest invention ever made by man.” (P.K. Hitti)

“Of all mankind’s inventions, with the possible exception of language itself, nothing has proven more useful or led to more inventions than the alphabet.” (Rober Logan, *The Alphabet Effect*)

YHVH says:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light” (Genesis 1:1-3).

- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, all people on earth can convey words and ideas.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can understand abstract concepts.

- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can translate one language to another and transfer inventions from one culture to another.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we have numbering systems which enable calculations, technology, architecture, and science.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can teach mathematical theory to our children.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we have higher order thinking, which differentiates us from the animals YHVH created. (We are made in the image of God.)
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can go beyond subjective thinking to objective truth.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can reason together with good logic (deductive and inductive).
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can name, categorize, and classify.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can use the scientific method, which is based on eyewitness accounts and objective reasoning.
- Because YHVH created a phonetic alphabet, we can have objective and true history.

Grammata lygra – lacking letters; illiteracy.

Benefits of Teaching Phonics:

1. Alphabet and alphabetic order – Classification
2. Reading – Deductive reasoning
3. Writing – Inductive reasoning
4. The Ability to access information
5. Rational thought, law and order, civilization

Sight Words – Pictographic

Phonics – Alphabetic

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:1-5).

"God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

Why Do We Learn Cursive?

Important Points:

- Children need instruction in order to learn to write.
- Writing helps us learn.
- Cursive has fewer shapes to learn than ball-and-stick manuscript.
 - Over stroke
 - Under stroke
 - Up and down

Myths about Cursive:

False: First graders do not have the motor skills or muscular dexterity to write in cursive.

Two parenting principles to keep in mind:

- Do not teach anything that later has to be unlearned. (Teach it right from the beginning!)
- Do not let a child develop a bad habit. (Start as you mean to go on!)

False: Learning cursive interferes with learning to read printed words.

Cursive actually helps a child learn phonics:

- Cursive helps prevent letter reversals.
- The movement of the hand teaches neurons of the brain.
- Cursive helps us write in the correct direction.
- Blending becomes more obvious.
- Reading by syllables becomes easier (which makes it possible to read an unlimited number of words, even unfamiliar words).
- Cursive writing has a flow and rhythm, which helps a child recognize that letters are arranged to become words, words are arranged to become sentences, and that words represent something.
- Cursive helps develop better spelling.

False: Cursive is more difficult to learn.

- In cursive, the paper should be tilted for easier writing.
- Tilted paper makes it easier for either a left- or right-handed writer.
- Cursive requires a lighter grip on a pen, which means that a child's hand tires out less quickly.
- Cursive helps develop writers who are happier to write for a longer period of time – because they don't wear out as soon!

Why Do We Learn Cursive?

1. Grammar is a way to display good manners to those who have to read our writing.

The messenger should not get in the way of the message.

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:14-15).

2. Grammar helps us to think logically and to analyze.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

3. Grammar helps us learn foreign languages.

“And Yeshua came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Why Do We Learn History?

1. Because all things started as the Bible describes (70 nations plus Yah's own special people of Israel).

“Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.
Ask your father, and he will show you;
Your elders, and they will tell you:

When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations,
When He separated the sons of Adam,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the children of Israel.
For the Lord's portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance" (Deuteronomy 32:7).

2. Because sin has consequences (and we can learn about that from history).
3. Because those nations that bless Israel are blessed, and those that curse Israel are cursed.
4. Because righteousness exalts any people.
5. Because we need to know who we are – our identity!

Key Points:

- Chronology is the most important piece of history, and only the Bible's chronology is true.
- Truth is identified at the mouth of two or three witnesses, which is why we need to teach our children how to read and understand primary sources (first-hand evidence).

Why does HomeschoolingTorah teach the history of Western Civilization?

1. We teach the history given in Scripture, which is the movement of the twelve tribes of Israel throughout the world.
2. Are there really separate histories, or is there actually just one story of how YHVH interacts with people?

Steps to Learning History:

1. Knowledge (stories, maps, timelines)
2. Analyzation (why people acted the way they did, comparing and contrasting with Torah)
3. Application (how should we then live?)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).