

# Pnina Savery

### MA'AYAN AND EDUCATOR

An experienced Jewish educator, specialising in Tanach, Jewish history and women's issues. Currently working for the United Synagogue's Living and Learning department. Graduate of the Office of the Chief Rabbi's Ma'ayan Programme (London) and a graduate of Matan's Tanach programme (Jerusalem).

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# Suggested Mini-Series

# Is Nach Relevant to Us in the 21st Century?

- We will ask what is Tanach, why should we learn it and how can we do so.
- Using some lesser known case studies, we will show how delving into the fascinating world of Nach can teach us crucial messages about how to live our lives.

# Tanach Through the Lens of the Ancient Near East

- Viewing Torah in the context of the time in which it was given can provide deep theological lessons.
- We will look at ancient Near Eastern literature, laws and archaeology in order to understand what made, and continues to make, the Jewish religion distinct and unique.

#### **Hidden Women of Tanach**

- We know plenty about the matriarchs of Sara, Rivka, Rachel and Leah, but what about the lesser known women of Tanach?
- We will learn about Chuldah, Avigail, Yael, Eshet Manoach and the daughters of Tzelofchad, among others, to discover their stories and messages, which speak to us today just as strongly as in the times of Tanach.

## **Whistle Stop Tour of Tanach**

- Looking at one book of Tanach per session, we will gain an overview and insight into the messages within these important books.
- We can look at the whole Tanach, or focus on specific areas such as Trei Asar and Tehillim

Please be in touch with requests for other topics not listed.

# Suggested Classes

#### **TANACH TOPICS**

- Achaz King of Yehuda: Total Rasha, or Just Missing the Mark?
- · King Shaul and the Witch of Endor
- Shimshon's Birth Story What's the message?
- Tanach Through the Lens of the Ancient Near East
- Yechezkel's Vision of a Rebuilt Jerusalem

#### **WOMEN'S TOPICS**

- · Rosh Chodesh: A Day for Women
- Avigail and the Meaning of Sechel
- Chuldah the Prophetess: From Weasel to Gates of Jerusalem

#### **MISC**

· Environmentalism: Judaism or Idolatry?

#### **CHAGIM**

# Ellul/Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur

- Teshuva in Tanach: Can our actions really make a difference?
- Can our Teshuva really make a difference? Parable of the Potter Jeremiah 18
- Teshuva: Yona vs Yoel How to do the job properly
- Getting to Grips with Sefer Yona

#### Sukkot

- Kohelet How to cope now that the Chagim are over
- Bringing the Redemption One Sukkah at a Time

#### Chanukah

- Yosef and Chanukah Teaching the World Who's Really in Charge
- The Hidden Hope of Chanukah

#### **Purim**

- Megillat Esther Lessons in Diaspora Survival
- Megillat Esther The Historical Context

#### Pesach

· Maggid and the Real Story of the Seder

#### Shavuot

- Megillat Rut A Lesson in Chesed, Teshuva and Daily Geula
- Seeing double? Why are The Ten Commandments Repeated?
- From Har Sinai to Yechezkel: A Timeless Message

### Fast Days

- Megillat Eicha From Despair to Hope
- Coping with Tragedy Life Lessons from Iyov and Eicha
- The Churban Finding Hope in the Depths of Despair
- What is Asarah B'Tevet All About?