



TriBE Vision Statement

Imagine hundreds of congregants gathering regularly in small groups to learn and laugh, to rest and rejuvenate, and to deepen connections to one another, to Temple, to the Jewish people, and to the rhythms of Jewish time and life. TriBEs will help Temple Beth El realize this future of a connected, committed membership through the formation of small groups which will:

- Focus on the lives and significant concerns of our members.
- Organize around shared interests, life stages, and geographies.
- Feature shared Jewish celebrations, learning, and experiences lead by lay leaders.

What are TriBEs?

TriBEs are small groups of individuals, couples, or families that help make our big community feel small. TriBEs build a vibrant, inclusive community where members feel strongly connected to our congregation and to each other. TriBEs are regular gatherings of five to fifteen congregants in people's homes, offices, or anywhere around Charlotte that promote relationship building. They are led by TriBE Leaders with the frequency, dates, and locations of meetings determined by the group in its first meeting. Some TriBEs will connect around common interests, affinities, geography, demographic, or profession. Other TriBEs will gather to discuss topics of deep concern or importance to their lives. All will engage in meaningful conversations and learning through curriculum provided by Temple Beth El.

Belonging to a TriBE encourages us to:

- **T**ry new experiences that open our hearts and minds to new ideas.
- **R**elate the wisdom of Jewish tradition and values to our everyday lives.
- **I**nvest time and energy to connect more deeply to one another and to our Temple Beth El community.
- **B**e a part of something that encourages personal growth.
- **E**xamine who we are, who we want to be, and how we want to live.

What a TriBE is not:

A TriBE is not a class. Many of us love learning and lectures, and text study will be a part of our time together. A TriBE Leader is not there to teach, but rather to facilitate a meaningful conversation based on the full participation of all group members. Likewise, while the clergy and professional staff of the synagogue will offer support and provide suggested content for your conversations, this is an opportunity to learn from one another, not the "professionals."

A TriBE is not a social club or dinner party. Don't get us wrong - our groups ARE centered on relationships, and we hope you will make many new meaningful connections. The focus of our time together is not purely social. A TriBE is about living a holistic Jewish life where we learn together, pray together, play together, act together, care for one another, and are accountable to each other.

A TriBE is not group therapy. People in your TriBE will offer their personal stories, and you should be prepared to listen, be present, and offer support as they do. But this is not a time to give advice, troubleshoot, or "save."

For more information, please contact Andy Harkavy
Director of Congregational Engagement, aharkavy@templebethel.org or call 704-366-1948