

Additional Honors/Readings for B'nei Mitzvah

This sheet provides some additional options, beyond aliyot, kiddush, motzi and ark openings, should you want to include family members in other ways.

Additional Honors/Prayers

Prayer for Our Country

O Guardian of life and liberty,
may our nation always merit Your protection.
Teach us to give thanks for what we have
by sharing it with those who are in need.
Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation,
and alert to the care of the earth.
May we never be lazy in the work of peace;
may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals.
Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance.
May they govern with justice and compassion.
Help us all to appreciate one another,
and to respect the many ways that we may serve You.
May our homes be safe from affliction and strife,
and our country be sound in body and spirit.
Amen

Prayer for Israel

We pray for the land of Israel and all of its peoples.
May its borders know peace, its inhabitants tranquility.
May the bonds of faith and fate, which unite Jews of all lands
Be a source of strength to Israel and to us
all.
May Israel find peace in the world...and in our lifetime.
Amen

Prayer for Peace

Dear God, we pray for peace in our lifetime.
The peace that comes when nation stops fighting nation.
The peace that comes when strangers don't hate strangers
Based on their religion or the color of their skin.
We pray for peace of mind,
Knowing that our children will grow up
In a world that is safe and caring,
On a planet that is nurtured, not abused.
We pray for peace in our hearts,
That we may feel Your love
Through our connection to our community,
Our family and our friends.
Blessed are You, O God, the Eternal Source of Peace.

Blessing of Becoming

At this moment, when your Jewish journey is just beginning,
I hope that you will remember this day as a holy moment in your life and in the life of our family.

Chanting from the Torah means that you accept the challenge of teaching Torah to others.
We are links in a chain that connects us to each other, and also to God.

So today, as you become B'nei Mitzvah, I offer you a Blessing of Becoming:
That you will continue to teach others that one person can make a difference;
That you will keep doing mitzvot – not for recognition, but because it is right;
That you will understand what you say and do impacts everyone around you;
And that you will always know, as you grow, I am/we are here to help.
May your life as a Jew continue the legacy that you have been given this day.

Amen

Humanist Prayer for Peace

Eternal Wellspring of peace
may we be drenched with the longing for peace
that we may give ourselves over
as the earth to the rain, to the dew
until peace overflows our lives
as living waters overflow the seas.
As we bless the source of life
so we are blessed.

Be Yourself, Melanie Katz

Be yourself,
For you are the only one who truly knows you,
The only one who can express your genuine feelings,
The only one who can find the sincere meaning of your life.
Be yourself,
Not who someone else wants you to be,
Someone whom you do not agree with,
Someone that is not you.
Be yourself,
Don't be afraid to show your true colors,
To be independent
Or reveal to others what you are all about.
Be yourself,
It does not matter who accepts you and who doesn't
Or how many friends you have,
For the ones that love you for you are the only ones that matter.
Be yourself,
No matter what your race or religion,
Your gender or age,
You should never hide yourself.

Be yourself,
Because groups and cliques deserve no meaning,
Diversity and variation have great importance,
And there should never be anything holding you back.
Be yourself,
Because everyone serves a purpose,
Everyone shines bright,
But only you know who you truly are.