

## **A TRAINING COURSE FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MESSIANIC CONGREGATIONS IN ISRAEL**

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This project was designed to produce a teacher-training course that would be an effective instrument for recruiting and training teachers for children and youth in messianic congregations in Israel. To date no teacher-training course exists that is specifically designed for Israel's unique cultural and language (Hebrew) setting. Hence the goal of this project was to produce a training course as a tool to assist Israeli congregations in equipping their teachers for this critical ministry.

To assure greater nationwide suitability for the training course, four congregations were chosen as a sample target group from large urban areas in the northern, central, and southern sections of Israel. Interviews, surveys, and questionnaires from this sample target group provided data to develop a teacher's profile and needs assessment to determine the most needed course objectives, content, and delivery system. The course was designed for the widest possible use; it can be used for independent or group study. Its self-study format provides practice items and immediate feedback for students to check their progress. Each lesson can also stand alone for those leaders who expressed the desire to present their teachers with specific topics at different times.

A field test conducted with teachers and leaders in Israel confirmed that those who took the course gained highly significant assistance for evangelizing and discipling the next generation in Israel as well as practical skills and ideas for presenting dynamic and relevant lessons to their students. The process of working with local congregations from beginning to end to meet their needs was edifying and unifying for the designer and the leaders and teachers who participated. It also created a wider credibility for the course's use and a greater

likelihood for its success. This project provides a model for others designing courses to establish and strengthen God's work worldwide.