



CHARACTER AND VALUES

Our character, values, and statement of faith form the foundation of our work. They define our organization and shape the Torah Club leadership. First Fruits of Zion's kingdom objective will be achieved only through consistency, shared commitment, and our love toward others.

PICTURED: DAMIAN EISNER, TORAH CLUB DIRECTOR; BOAZ MICHAEL, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR;
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Every movement is irrevocably defined by its initial direction. I am a strong believer in organizational DNA. A huge part of who we are, on a fundamental, a DNA level, is to be respectful. For nearly thirty years we've been a disrupter: We are a disruptive movement with a lot of challenging and disruptive ideas. But remember this piece of wisdom, "A good name is better than great riches" (Proverbs 22:1).

Our every word and deed resonates into the future as those who receive our message also adopt our culture and imitate our actions.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that the culture we're passing on is a culture of blamelessness, humility, and integrity.



Boaz Michael

Session 8, "What Is Your IQ"

2022 FFOZ Friends & Leaders Summit

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

In 1992, we founded our mission on these key principles of restoration—restoring the message of the kingdom and encouraging God’s people to return to a proper biblical foundation rooted in Torah, Israel, and the Messiah. These principles remain firmly in place, and, as a Torah Club Leader, you will be working to accomplish these restorations.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

First Fruits of Zion’s statement of faith represents our commitment to the Word of God and our calling as Jewish and Gentile disciples of Yeshua. We ask that you, as an extension of this work, be in alignment with the following summary points of profound biblical foundations.

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Our character and values represent the character and demeanor of our organization and Torah Club Leaders. We want to have a good name even with those who oppose us. We can achieve this only through consistency in our love toward others, our integrity, and our ability to be gracious and kind. We always seek to affirm the good in others and not condemn—we completely respect and trust the work of God in people’s lives.

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RESTORE A JEWISH MESSIAH

We want to restore a clear understanding of Yeshua’s relationship with the Jewish people and His relationship with the land of Israel. Yeshua is Jewish. When He comes again, He will still be Jewish. Yeshua’s life was rooted in the land and the Judaism of His day. Although He is Jewish, His message applies to everyone. He is expanding the commonwealth of Israel by gathering all the nations into the blessing and spiritual family of Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

RESTORE THE GOSPEL

We want to restore the original good news (gospel) preached by Yeshua: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This gospel message focuses on the coming kingdom of heaven and demands a response in the form of genuine repentance. It entails contrition, the forgiveness of sins, and personal transformation in Yeshua’s name. The true good news calls upon everyone to seek first the kingdom: the Messianic Age (Matthew 6:33).

RESTORE THE TORAH

We want to restore the Torah’s authority as God’s unchanging standard. The Torah is the universal revelation of God’s will and wisdom through His people Israel. It contains commandments pertaining to both Jews and Gentiles. The Torah defines sin and points humanity toward righteousness and godliness. Until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Torah until all is accomplished (Matthew 5:18).

RESTORE ISRAEL

We want to restore Israel’s status as the people of God among the disciples of Yeshua by eliminating replacement theology and Christian anti-Semitism. The Jewish people are God’s people—the chosen people, a holy nation, and a kingdom of priests. From Genesis 12 to Revelation 22, the Jewish people are at the center of the Bible and God’s concern. The LORD has not abandoned His people, nor has He exchanged them for another. So long as the sun, moon, and stars endure, the people of Israel will never cease to be a nation before the LORD, nor will He cast them off (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

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POINTED SUMMARY STATEMENTS

God There is one God: "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). "He is God; there is no other besides Him" (Deuteronomy 4:35), the unbegotten God, first cause, and single source. He discloses Himself in the testimony of creation and through the Scriptures of the Jewish people, and He reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, interacting with His creation as the Father working through the Son and in the power of the Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:4-6).

Yeshua Yeshua is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Eternal One in whom all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and Who is the Word Who became flesh and dwelt among us, and Whose glory we beheld, the glory of the uniquely begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-14; Colossians 2:9).

The Holy Spirit The Spirit of God comforts, teaches, leads, indwells, and empowers all whom God regenerates (Acts 9:31; 1 John 2:27; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:7).

The Bible The Bible, both the Tanach (Old Testament) and the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament), are the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Sin All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Salvation Yeshua's death and resurrection accomplished atonement for all who place their faith in Him. Whoever trusts in God, in His work alone, is made a new creation in Yeshua, is indwelt by the Spirit of God, and is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His own Son (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5-6).

Good Works One is justified by faith through the grace of God alone and not by human efforts. One may not earn, merit, or keep this eternal salvation by his own efforts. A new creation is the work of God alone (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 8:29-39).

The Church All believers in Yeshua the Messiah enjoy spiritual unity and equality (Ephesians 2:11-22).

Israel God's covenants with the Jewish people, the physical people of Israel, are still in force (Jeremiah 31:35-36 and parallel passages). Part of the fulfillment of these covenants is the physical return of the Jewish people to their promised land (Deuteronomy 30).

The Nations All non-Jewish people who trust in Yeshua are grafted into Israel. While this does not make them Jewish, they are full and equal participants in the covenants of promise (Ephesians 2:12; Romans 11:11–24; Jeremiah 31:33).

The Torah The Torah is a revelation of the righteousness of God and a description (along with the rest of Scripture) of the lifestyle of the redeemed community (Matthew 5:17–19; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The Second Coming The Messiah will literally, physically return to rule and reign upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. This will happen before the prophesied thousand-year kingdom begins (Zechariah 14; Revelation 19–20).

IDEOLOGIES THAT ARE NOT IN ALIGNMENT WITH FIRST FRUITS OF ZION

As a Torah Club Leader, you represent First Fruits of Zion and our message, not teachings or theological positions in conflict with our mission and theology. These are some errant theologies that can appear to support similar biblical positions but are not in alignment with our doctrinal positions.

1. **Replacement Theology:** The belief that the disciples of Yeshua replace the Jewish people as the new Israel.
2. **One Law Theology:** The belief that there is no distinction between Jewish people and Gentile disciples or differentiation in their respective obligations to the Torah.
3. **Sacred Name Theology:** The belief that God's Hebrew name must be pronounced as spelled in Hebrew and circumlocutions rejected.
4. **Two House Theology:** The belief that participation in Israel is predicated on ancestral genealogical connection with the lost tribes of Israel and that Gentile believers most likely represent the lost tribes today.
5. **Alternate Calendar:** The observance of festivals and holy days on an alternate lunar or solar calendar intended to correct the traditional Jewish calendar.

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- The fundamental goodness of all God's people
- Learning, doing, and giving
- Presenting a confident and forthright message with grace, integrity, and peace
- Teamwork, interdependence, and mutual accountability
- Solid academic work made accessible on a popular level
- Consistency between our personal lives and the public message we represent
- Excellence and professionalism
- Responsible and careful use of our teaching platforms

BIBLICAL SUMMARY VERSE

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:9–13)

DEMEANOR & APPROACH

- **I will play a significant role in ensuring that all Torah Club communications are positive, enthusiastic, and warm.**

Torah Club is a family, and you will be a vital partner in helping to make your students feel included in it. Torah Club Leaders should express excitement about the kingdom, the Bible, and about bringing people into the Torah Club learning community and family. We want Torah Club Members to feel they have found a place to belong. Therefore, you should speak of Torah Club as a place where one is spiritually nurtured.

- **I will be committed to the kingdom of heaven and seeing it grow among the disciples of Yeshua.**

It is essential to consistently point out the good in situations and keep your communications pointed toward optimism and confidence in Yeshua. Your language should be Yeshua-centric, revolving around creative ways to exalt the name of the Master and to remind our brothers and sisters of their shared faith.

- **I will cultivate an environment that is non-judgmental by modeling high standards without criticism of others.**

We want to express respect for all God's people. We can express confidence in our message and our teachings without having to be defensive, reactionary, or abrupt with people. Instead, we remember that a person's dignity is more important than a clever rejoinder or rebuke and that nothing is served by putting someone in their place. Our approach will be never to criticize people and/or ministries by name. It is fair to criticize ideas and theology, but not people. When contrasting ourselves against other ideologies, we should seek not to use names at all.

- **I will express love and care for all Torah Club Members and the broader Torah Club family.**

We want to invest in all members of the family and see them succeed in every area of life. We want to be intentional about creating a culture of love and acceptance without compromising our principles.

- **I will consistently invest time in prayer and petition for my Torah Club and its members.**

We know that kingdom work must begin with prayer and be sustained on prayer. Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. We need our Torah Club Leaders to be people willing to move Heaven through the simple power of prayer.

AS A TORAH CLUB LEADER, YOU VALUE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES

- **Advocating for faith from a post-supersessionist perspective.**

You value the Jewish reading and interpretation of the Bible and want to see those perspectives take root and bear good fruit in the lives of all disciples. You realize that replacement theology has had a negative effect on God's people, and you are devoted to returning disciples to biblical truth and a Yeshua-centered, kingdom-based interpretation of the Bible.

- **Being a person of serious study.**

You love learning and are committed to a lifestyle of lifelong learning. You love the Word of God. You love having a clearer understanding of the Bible and prioritize seeking God and His wisdom as a foundation in life.

- **Cultivating loving fellowship and friendships that are based on God's Word and godly living.**

You realize the importance of gathering with other disciples to study God's Word and sharing in each other's lives to create a place to belong and build the kingdom. You recognize the spiritual loneliness and isolation people are experiencing in the world today, and you want to work to create genuine connections and relationships with others.

- **Living out the idea that disciples are responsible for infusing this world with godliness.**

You demonstrate by your daily life that you are humbly committed to shining the light of Messiah in both your actions and your words.

- **Respecting the Jewish people and the religion of Judaism.**

You are not afraid to see faith in Yeshua expressed in a manner consistent with the Jewish people and within the context of Judaism. You realize that Yeshua and Yeshua-faith need to be restored to their Jewish matrix.

- **Respecting other Christians and the religion of Christianity.**

You remain connected to the church as brothers and sisters in Messiah, resisting the temptation of spiritual conceit. You humbly work to build and spiritually strengthen the whole body of Messiah's disciples.

- **Understanding Messianic Judaism as a prophetic and revolutionary movement.**

You represent First Fruits of Zion on a local level as part of our broader global outreach to restore our Master's reputation and His teachings. You understand that your leadership in Torah Club is part of a prophetic, spiritual, and revolutionary movement for restoring truth and the spiritual health of God's people. You share the Torah Club vision—"Communities of disciples all over the world seeking the kingdom together"—and are committed to the Torah Club mission—"To establish local families of disciples within a larger, global learning-community working together to seek first the kingdom, spread the knowledge of God, and raise disciples for Messiah."



Torah Club Leadership

To learn more or to start a Torah Club
visit: torahclub.org



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