

Baal Vihar 2010-2011.
6-8th grade group.
Outline.

During this academic year, the focus for the middle grades group will be broadening their knowledge of the foundations of Hinduism. Many of our children, by this time, are already familiar with the practices of Hinduism, including what festivals we celebrate and who are our deities are. This is also the age during which the public schools teach about Hinduism as part of their curriculum. As such it is important that during these years, children receive accurate instruction about the theoretical foundations of our religion from us. Therefore the focus this year will be more on the “why” of Hinduism, rather than the “what”.

The book to be followed is “Hinduism for Schools” by Sita Lakhani. Edited by Jay Lakhani, from the Vivekananda Center in London. ISBN: 0-9549567-0-2, published in 2005.

A list of topics to be covered this year include:

- Who are we and what do we believe in?
- Concepts of *Brahman* and monotheism.
- Four Vedas.
- What is the Hindu concept of God?
- What are our shared beliefs and values such as karma and ahimsa?
- How do we practice religion in our daily life?
- What are basic Hindu ethics such as self-sacrifice, the place of individuality and the role of women in society?
- How does Hinduism view wealth and poverty?
- What is the relationship between Hinduism and other religions?