



*(A Little Boy's Prayers)*

In the story below, some of the English words are replaced with Hebrew. If you don't know what the words mean, look at the list of Hebrew words and pictures. Remember that Hebrew is read from right to left. An English key is on page 7.

## *A Jewish Folk Tale*

*Re-told by David Niedrauer*

Once upon a time, there was a **יֵלֵד קָטָן** named Yoshi. Yoshi was only a very **יֵלֵד קָטָן**, but he liked to do the same things grown-up people do. Yoshi was a very good **יֵלֵד קָטָן**, and with his mother's and **אָב**'s help, Yoshi learned the whole **אֶלֶף-בֵּית**.

It was Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, when Jewish people go to synogogue **לְהַתְּפַלֵּל** and hear the **שׁוֹפָר**. Yoshi and his family walked to the synagogue along with all their Jewish friends. Yoshi sat on a long wooden bench with his **אָב**. Yoshi watched the **חַזָּן** leading the service. Yoshi saw his **אָב** and the other men stand up **לְהַתְּפַלֵּל** with their **סְדוּר**s. Yoshi stood up with them. He wanted **לְהַתְּפַלֵּל** too. But poor Yoshi didn't know how to read a **סְדוּר** and he didn't know any **תְּפִילוֹת**. Yoshi only knew the **אֶלֶף-בֵּית**. What could he do?

This is what he said:

“Dear Hashem, maker of all, I am only a **יְלֵד קָטָן**. I really want **לְהִתְפַּלֵּל** but I don’t know what to say. I cannot read the **סְדוּר**. I only know the **אַלְפ־בֵּית**. I will pray the letters of the **אַלְפ־בֵּית** and You can make them into **תְּפִילוֹת**. Alef, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, Hey.....”

It was time to blow the **שׁוֹפָר**, but the **חֲזָן** stopped the service and said: “This **יְלֵד קָטָן** has prayed the whole **אַלְפ־בֵּית** and Hashem is busy making **תְּפִילוֹת** out of them for him. We must let Hashem finish and then we will blow the **שׁוֹפָר**.”

Yoshi’s **אָב** smiled down at him. Yoshi was happy. He was glad that even though he didn’t know any **תְּפִילוֹת**, God heard him. He wished that he could hear the **תְּפִילוֹת** that God had made. Yoshi was sure they would be more wonderful than anything in the **סְדוּר**.

