

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Bo

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 10<sup>th</sup> Sh'vat, 5784Gregorian date: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan,  
2024London Shabbat times: 16:12 –  
17:20

Special events: n/a.

Upcoming events in the week: Tu  
Bishvat – 15<sup>th</sup> Sh'vat (Thursday)Enquiries: [info@tribeuk.com](mailto:info@tribeuk.com)

Parasha Thinking

1) If there was such thing as a kosher pickled locust, would you try it?

2) The lamb that the Jewish people had to use for the sacrifice was the Egyptians' main god. How do you think they felt, using the lambs?

3) How does the word, save, link to the Parasha?

### Summary

In last week's Parasha, we heard about the first seven of the 10 Plagues and here we read about the final three. Ravenous locusts ate all the crops and greenery, leaving no plant food for the Egyptians to eat. Paro (Pharaoh) begged Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) to ask Hashem to stop the plague, promising to release the Jewish people from slavery but as soon as Hashem (G-d) sent a Western wind to blow away the locusts, Paro changed his mind. Next Hashem warned of a plague of darkness and Paro didn't flinch. A thick darkness covered the entire land and the pattern repeated itself, with Paro not allowing them to leave once the plague ended. Paro was given the warning of the 10<sup>th</sup> plague - at midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nissan, all the firstborn sons in Egypt will be killed.

The Jewish people were given their first mitzvah as a nation: to make a calendar based on the moon's cycle. They were also commanded to bring a "Pesach (Passover) sacrifice" to Hashem. A lamb must be slaughtered, and its blood should be sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of every Jewish home in Egypt, and Hashem will pass over these homes when He comes to kill the Egyptian firstborn. The meat of the sacrifice was to be eaten that night together with matza (unleavened bread) and bitter herbs.

At midnight, a scream was heard all over Egypt as people discovered their firstborns had died. When Paro saw the death of the firstborn males, Paro became scared because he was a firstborn himself and didn't want to die. He sent the children of Israel out of Egypt but Moshe waited overnight to lead everyone out. In the morning, there was no time for their dough to rise and in the heat of the sun, it baked quickly into Matza. Before they went, they ask their Egyptian masters for a salary for the span of 210 years that their family had been working for them as slaves. They left Egypt with great wealth, fulfilling the promise made to Avraham (Abraham) that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth.

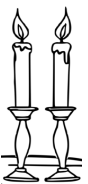
The Jewish people were commanded to recognise every firstborn male as being Holy for Hashem. Every year, we need to remember that Hashem freed us from slavery in Egypt, by removing all Chametz (leaven) from their homes and offices, eating matzah, and telling the story in the Hagada. We were also commanded to wear tefillin on the head and arm as a reminder of leaving Egypt and their faith in Hashem.

### Discovery

Did you know that some Egyptians caught locusts in jars and pickled them. At the end of the plague when the Western wind came, even those were blown away.

Did you know that during the plague of darkness, the Jewish people could see perfectly. They were commanded to go into the Egyptian homes and look around, though they were forbidden to steal anything. When they asked the Egyptians for a salary as they were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians said, "So sorry, I don't have anything valuable to give you!" and the Jewish people were able to say, well, actually, under the fourth floorboard, there is a sack of gems.

Paro was spared from death so that he could actually face what he'd done to his nation and see all the destruction he'd brought to them.





## Gratitude

Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

THANK YOU!

### Games

#### 1) Noughts and Crosses

Divide group into two teams and ask them quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. Each time a team gets a question right, they earn a nought or a cross and can place it down for their team.

Resources: four scarves for the noughts and crosses board, pre-printed noughts and crosses.

#### 2) Fruit basket

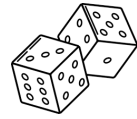
Link: Tu Bishvat is this week and in this game all tree fruit

Place a chair in a circle for each child, minus one. One child stands in the middle. Leader goes round the circle, giving child 1 in the circle, Avocado, child 2 – Mango, child 3 – olives and continue with these three names round the circle, until everyone but the child in the middle, has one of those three names. The child in the middle calls out one of those names and all the people in the circle with that name, must stand up and quickly change places. The child in the middle needs to try and sit in one of their chairs. Whoever is remaining without a chair, is the one who now stands in the middle and calls out the next name. If the person in the middle shouts out, 'fruit basket' then every child must move to a different seat.

#### 3) Sensory Blind Fold

Link: During the plague of darkness the Egyptians couldn't see

Gather a bag of Shabbat friendly items in advance and choose one child to be blindfolded. Pass them one item from your bag and see if they can guess what it is. Switch blindfold and pass that child a different item to identify. Others on the circle can help them out by giving clues, if they need them.



### Story

(One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)



Big discussions were taking place in the Ellis family's kitchen, whilst looking out to the back garden. They had a beautiful, old oak tree right in the centre and everyone seemed to have a different opinion about what it should be used for.

Jake wanted to tie a strong rope with an old tire to one of its strong braches, so that he and his friends could swing for hours. Gemma had big plans for the most exquisite tree house, which would sit perfectly and safely in the tree. Dad liked the shade that the oak tree gave, and enjoyed many a snooze, lying underneath it, in the summer afternoons. Lastly, Grandma wanted to ground all the acorns and make flour for breads, pastas, pancakes, pastries and even biscuits. Mum didn't get involved but everyone could tell she was thinking about something.

After a few days Gemma sopped everyone and said, "Hang on a second, I don't really understand why we're fighting! We can all win here! Let's use all the acorns for flour and at the same time, the tree can still provide fantastic shade. We can also have a tire swing on one side and a beaaaautiful tree house on the other." Everyone laughed and realised how foolish they'd been to argue. They could actually do what everyone wanted. Mum finally chipped in, "I would like to use it for a tree photography class. I can take photographs of the squirrels, close ups of the acorns as they grow and I can even take photographs in different seasons. Maybe I can take some before, during and after shots, too, when we actually get round to ordering the tree house and the rope."

1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to Tu Bishvat?

2) Have you ever had a disagreement with people and then realised you were all really on the same team?

3) In your opinion, why do you think they took so long to realise that they could make it work for everyone?