

- 1) The kiyor had low taps because the kohanim had to wash their hands and feet at the same time and needed to crouch, to achieve this. Can you think of any other solution that would allow them to wash their hands and feet at the same time?
- 2) In your opinion, should Aharon have asked for the gold jewellery even if he did so because he believed that Moshe would return by the time it would actually take to make an idol?
- 3) How does the word, law, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

The Jewish people were still in the desert and were camping when they were told to and travelling when Hashem gave instruction for them to move. Moshe was up Har (Mount) Sinai and due back on the 40th day. They were asked to donate a half shekel coin for the Mishkan (travelling temple). They are also taught how to make the kiyor (water basin) for the Mishkan, the anointing oil and the incense. Betzalel and Aholiav who are both wise and extremely talented artists, are placed in charge of the Mishkan's building and furnishing, and the Jewish people are commanded again to keep Shabbat (Sabbath).

When Moshe (Moses) didn't return from Har Sinai on the day they thought he would, the Jewish people created a golden calf and danced around it. It was the Erev Rav (group of Egyptian d that became Jewish to avoid suffering in Egypt) that started this feeling of unease but almost everyone, except for Aharon (Aaron) and Yehoshua (Joshua) got drawn in. Hashem (G-d) wanted destroy the nation, but Moshe stepped in on their behalf. Moshe came down from the mountain carrying the two tablets of the testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments. Noticing the people dancing around their idol, he broke the tablets, destroyed the golden calf, and the main instigators did not survive. He then returned to Hashem to say: "If You do not forgive them, blot me out from the Torah that You have written."

Hashem forgave the Jewish people, but warned that the ripples of this sin will be felt for generations to come. Hashem wanted to send an angel to protect the Jewish people as they continued on their journey through the desert but Moshe asked that Hashem Himself should accompany His people to the Land of Israel.

Moshe prepared a new set of tablets and whilst he was up the mountain, Hashem wrote the covenant upon them. Up the mountain, Moshe was also granted a vision of Hashem's thirteen attributes of mercy.

When Moshe returned from the mountain, his face was glowing so much that he had to cover it with a veil. He only removed it to talk to Hashem and to teach the laws to the people.

Discovery

Did you know that during the day, they followed a cloud to know where to go and when to settle. In the night time, they followed a (non-dangerous) fire.

Did you know that when Aharon was asked to make an image for them to look up to, he asked for the gold jewellery in order to delay as much as possible until Moshe returned as a) he believed that some people would protest giving up their gold jewellery and this would slow things down and b) he knew that gold has a very high melting point and thought that it would therefore take a long time to form it into the shape of a calf. Despite this, the gold was gathered quickly and the golden calf was made hastily.

Did you know that the reason Moshe didn't come back when they expected was because they counted day 1 as the day he left but it hadn't been an entire day yet, so that day was still zero. When they reached day 40, it was really still 39.



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!)

Games

1) Say it WRONG and say it STRONG

Divide group into two teams. Call up one player from each team and they have to stand opposite each other. Ask them a quiz question based on the Parasha summary. They have to purposely get the answer wrong and they have to answer convincingly. E.g. How long was Moshe supposed to be up Har Sinai? They can answer 40 hours to get it wrong, they can answer 39 days to get it wrong, they can answer as long as it takes them to walk to school etc. Whoever says the answer first and convinces you the most, wins a point for their team. Rule: 1) Their answer can't be outrageous. 2) If their answer is wrong because they simply can't remember what you've taught them so they make something up, they don't get a point. 3) if they don't know an answer they can run back and ask their team for help but time is not paused.

2) Around the Mountain

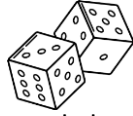
Link: Moshe climbed Har Sinai and brought back the luchot

Place chairs in a circle upside down so they look like a mountain. There must be a significant gap between each chair. Each child says a statement, such as, "around the mountain if you have ever ... (given in your homework late) anyone who has, walks around their chair. Next child says, "around the mountain if you (like spicy food). Anyone who does, walks all the way round their chair. Etc. Who walks round the most and who walks round the least?

3) Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

Link: Not everyone wanted to build a golden calf but they copied the Erev Rav

Group sits in a circle and chants "Ali Baba and the 40 thieves," twice, while tapping their own knees. On the next chant, the group leader changes the action and then on the next chant, the person beside him/her does that action. The action follows its way around the circle and the whole time the group is repeating the phrase. The group leader must change the action on every repeat, so that every person in the circle eventually ends up doing a different action.



Story

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

It was two weeks into the new school year and Mrs White had spent the last fortnight getting to know all the characters in her class. It was time to give out the monitor jobs. "You're good at music – you'll give out all the recorders and clean them at the end of the lesson, Janey!" said Mrs White. "Now let's see, ah, Patrick, you're good at P.E., so I want you to be the P.E. cupboard monitor. After every lesson, you must ensure that everything is returned to its place – ok?" Patrick nodded and smiled – happy with his job but equally happy that Mrs White said he was good at P.E.

"Natasha, you're our class artist – you can give out the paint brushes at the start of the lessons and at the end of art, please can I rely on you to wash up the brushes and paint pots, to get them ready for the next lesson?" "I'd love to!" smiled Natasha, chuffed with her class task.

Brayden was chosen to take the register back to the office because he was responsible, Julie got the lunchtime bread because she finished her work quickly so the teacher could trust her to leave the classroom to collect it and not miss anything. Zeke, the class mathematician was the symmetry mirrors monitor but next topic, he'll be the calculators monitor – whatever resources were needed, Bella the amazing linguist was the French dictionary monitor, Enid the football star was the class captain, who will make sure that the break time teams were always fair. Louise, the coding genius was the tech monitor. Matthew, who was the best at Jewish Studies was the chumash (printed Torah) monitor. David who had a beautiful singing voice was the Tefillah (prayer) monitor. Dina was the tidiest person who ever came to the school and she was the classroom tidiness monitor.

Everyone was delighted with their jobs but Rebecca looked around glumly. I know I'm kind to people but I'm not the best mathematician, I'm not the best at sports, music, computing or anything – there's nothing for me. Mrs White continued to give everyone a job until there was only one left. Rebecca, I have something very unusual for you but I know you will be so good at this. Rebecca looked up curiously and waited for Mrs White to explain. She began, "Rebecca, you are so kind to everyone in the class and I can see that you always show people that you care about them. Would you like to be the monitor that calls somebody if they're off sick, to wish them better?" Rebecca almost couldn't answer, she was so happy and she grinned and gave Mrs White a double thumbs up. Mrs White really knew her class well and she had now given them all the most fantastic and suitable classroom job.

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

2) Have you ever been chosen to do something based on your strengths?

3) In your opinion, should Mrs White keep the same monitors all year?

