

- 1) Have you ever wanted to talk about someone but managed to stop yourself?
- 2) In your opinion, why could it be risky to say good things about people, too?
- 3) How does the word, branches, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information



Summary

Last week we discussed that someone who had spoken badly about others was given tsara'at – a pink or whit blemish on their skin or a red or green spot on their clothing or home. This week's Parasha explains how someone with tsara'at was purified after the tsara'at had healed. The Kohen (priest) would run a special service with two birds, spring water in a clay pot, cedar wood, a thread of scarlet and a bunch of hyssop branches.

If someone finds tsara'at on their home, it can last for up to nineteen days. If the Kohen checks and it has returned, the Kohen instructs the people to destroy the home.

Discovery

Did you know that if someone is harming you, harming others or harming themselves, you **MUST** speak out and get help? It is not considered evil speech if you are protecting yourself or others.

Did you know that you are not allowed to roll your eyes or make a face behind someone's back either, as this could be counted as l'shon hara.

Did you know that when their homes were destroyed, they sometimes found gems and jewels that had been hidden in the gaps between the bricks? This was Hashem's reward to them for doing proper teshuva (repentance).

Pesach is so close. What are you the most excited for?



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) Chinese Whispers Actions

Link: gossip spreads and is often changed along the way.

Children stand in a line, all facing the back. The second person turns around to face the first person and the first player does an action or series of actions, such as swimming and finding a message in a bottle, climbing to the top of a ladder and back down etc. Child one turns to face the wall and then child two and three face each other. Child two acts out what they saw to child 3 etc. The message gets passed to the end of the group.

The last player acts the message they heard, to the group.

How wrong was it? Where did it go wrong?

2) Don't say that

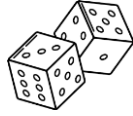
Link: we have to be careful about the way we speak

Children challenge each other to describe something with out a certain word. Can you describe 'light' without using the word, 'electricity?' These can be as easy or hard as the group can manage.

3) How many birds?

Link: the purifying process was with birds.

Divide group up into two smaller groups. How many birds can you name? Parrot, eagle etc. Group with the most names of birds wins.



Story

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

“He missed three goals today!” Grumbled Harry.

“Only three? I thought it had to be at least twenty seven, he’s soooo bad!” Added Leo.

“Truth,” quipped Dean “Adam used to be a decent goalie but lately, he’s lost all his talent and it makes me MAD!”

“Me too,” admitted Lila. “I used to love watching he school team play but now it’s just painful with Trev in goal. I just don’t know why Coach Cole keeps him on the team? He just lets in goal after goal – it’s kind of like he’s doing it on purpose!”

The others nodded in agreement.

That Wednesday, Magen David Academy came to their school for an inter-schools match each team saw the other team warm up and they played a friendly 5 minute game, to get going before the real game started.

The other team sussed Adam out right away, seeing how poor he was at saving goals and they worked out their tactics to shoot as many goals as possible.

Only thing was, this was actually a great tactic from Coach Cole! Adam was in fact AMAZING at keeping goals and coach had told him to start missing goals on purpose until the big game to make people think he wasn’t up to it and then he’d scare them on the day, with his precision and unfailing goal keeping.

Magen David Academy certainly got a shock when Adam started playing for real and you know what’s going to happen, Adam was the one that got to hold the cup on behalf of his entire team. Harry, Leo, Lila and Dean were sorry they’d grumbled about Adam and that they had doubted him. Now, the were ‘winners, winners, chicken dinnerssss’.

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

2) Have you ever thought something about someone and then realised there was more to the story?

3) In your opinion, how is society better if we don’t talk negatively about each other?

