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- 1) Have you ever had a respectful disagreement with someone?
 - 2) In your opinion, should the four types of locusts be kosher or just remain non-kosher, like all the other insects? Would you be brave enough to try one?
 - 3) How does the word, scales, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information



Summary

In last week's Parasha Aharon (Aaron) and his sons had their training to be Kohanim (priests) and passed. This week's parasha begins on the eighth day, where Aharon and his sons begin their work as kohanim. Hashem came to dwell in the Mishkan (travelling temple) and Hashem (G-d) sent a fire to the altar, so they could do sacrifices.

Aharon's oldest two sons, Nadav and Avihu, got into trouble because they offered a sacrifice that they were not allowed to give and they died immediately. Aharon remained silent when they died.

Moshe (Moses) and Aharon had a disagreement about Hashem's laws about the offerings but Moshe agreed that Aharon was correct.

Hashem gave us the laws of keeping kosher, showing us which animal species are acceptable to eat; land animals that have fully split hooves and chew the cud, may be eaten; fish must have fins and scales; non-kosher birds are listed, as well as a very small list of kosher insects.

Discovery

Did you know that Nadav and Avihu's intentions were good but they totally overstepped the mark by pushing ahead with the forbidden sacrifice?

Did you know that the argument that Moshe and Aharon had, didn't involve shouting or insulting each other. This was not a matter of ego, either. Their disagreement was purely to find out the right things to do, for the sake of Hashem. This is called l'shem shamayim.

Did you know that the kosher insects are four types of locusts?

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) Animal Charades

Link: We learn about Kosher and Non-kosher animals in Shemini

Children take turns to act out different animals and have others guess what they're pretending to be. They could also act out the animal noises. If it's a kosher animal they must all move towards the door, acting as that animal and if it's not, they must move to the window the way that animal moves.

2) In the Pond

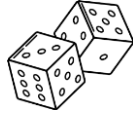
Link: Kosher fish (in the pond and elsewhere) have fins and scales

Resources: pre-cut string, scarves or skipping ropes

Mark a big circle on the ground with pre-cut string, scarves or skipping ropes. This is the pond. The whole group stands around the edge. The leader is the referee. When the leader shouts "In the Pond," they all jump into the circle. When the leader shouts "On the Bank," they all jump out. But sometimes the leader will try and trick everyone by saying "On the Pond" or "In the Bank". Anyone who moves, on a wrong order, is out of the game.

3) EIGHT

Explain that the goal is 8. When the leader says 'Go!', one child must stand up and say the first number (one). Then, another participant must stand up and say the next number (two). And so on until they get to eight. Any child can stand up at any time they want. If two participants stand up at the same time and say the same number, then they lose and it starts once more, from one. Children may not plan who will say which number.



Story

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



"I'm so excited!" squealed Tommy. "Miss Cohen is doing a science competition with us this morning and the winning group will be going to the kosher pizza restaurant for lunch! I just know that my group is going to win. In fact, I'm so sure of it, that I'm not even going to bring packed lunch – I will be at the restaurant, with my team, enjoying the most delicious school-day lunch anyone has ever had!"

"I love the enthusiasm and the certainty you're displaying. That's a winning attitude, son, but I'm still going to insist that you take something for lunch, just in case," advised Dad.

"Just in case what?" asked Tommy, sounding slightly disappointed, "do you not think I have the ability to win this? I was born to win this."

Dad looked over at Tommy. "That's not what I meant, son. What if you go to the restaurant and it's shut? What if the school minivan breaks down and you don't get there? What if the science equipment breaks and you can't do the experiment? What if there are roadworks around your school and the minivan can't maneuver round them safely? Sounds ridiculous but what if there's a fire alarm at your school and no one is allowed in or out until the fire brigade has checked the building thoroughly, and you miss the lunch hour? There are so many different things that could happen – why don't you just take a packet of crackers? That way, if something does go wrong, at least you'll have something to peck on. I know we're not hoping for anything to go wrong but just in case it does, you're prepared."

Tommy nodded, "You're right, Dad. I don't want anything to go wrong but it could happen and I should be prepared. I will take crackers but mark my words, I will be bringing them back home tonight, unopened."

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

2) Have you ever had a disagreement with someone, where you were both trying to respectfully work out the best solution in a situation, rather than insulting each other?

3) In your opinion, was Tommy's Dad correct or should he have shown the same level of faith as Tommy, that he'd be the in the class's winning group?