

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Moshe (Moses) gathered the Jewish people and reminded them about the Mitzvah of Keeping Shabbat. Next he explains Hashem's (G-d) instructions for building the Mishkan (traveling temple). The Jewish people were eager to donate gold, silver and copper; dyed wool; goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moshe actually had to halt the donations as they gathered so much, so quickly.

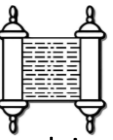
Betzalel and Ohaloav made the Mishkan and its furnishings (which were described in the previous parshiyot (Torah portions)): layers of roof coverings, 48 wall panels, 100 sockets, the parochet (veil) that separates two chambers, the masach (screen), the ark, and its cover with the keruvim (cherubs), the table and its bread, the menorah, pure olive oil, the golden altar, the incense, the anointing oil, the outside altar and all its tools, the artwork, poles and sockets for the courtyard, the basin and the pedestal made out of copper mirrors.

Discovery

Did you know that the day that Moshe gathered the Jewish people was the 11th Tishrei – the day after Yom Kippur.

Did you know that when the Jewish people reached the land of Israel, they were supposed to build a permanent temple and this was done by King Shlomo (Solomon).

Did you know that the keruvim that stood on top of the Aron faced each other when there was peace amongst the Jewish people and faced away from each other if the Jewish people were fighting.



Parasha Thinking



- 1) Why do you think the Jewish people were so eager to donate so many items to the Mishkan?
- 2) In your opinion, should Moshe have been the one to design the Mishkan?
- 3) How does the word, exact, link to the Parasha?

United Synagogue's Israel Shabbat

Facts about the Land of Israel

COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL NAME: State of Israel.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary Democracy.

CAPITAL CITY: Jerusalem.

POPULATION: 9,043,387 (2023 data)

AREA: 8,470 square miles.

LANGUAGES: Hebrew and Arabic.

CURRENCY: New Israeli Shekel.



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!)

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



“Twelve times!”

“Twice and I’m going again this summer!”

“I think five but maybe once more when I was a baby! So I’m going to say, six”

“I’ve been three times, for Pesach!”

“Eight – every year since I was two!”

“Ummm,” Zoe looked down and felt a little ashamed. “I’ve never been!” she said quietly. Everyone looked at her and gasped. “You’ve never been to Israel?” “No – not yet,” replied Zoe, “but I am going for a special trip for my Bat Mitzvah with my auntie.”

All the other children were very happy for her. Zoe continued, “My aunt has asked me to plan the trip. She wants me to research where to go and why? She’s asked me to work out where we’ll stay and how we get to each of the places. We have a list of family to see and of course, some great restaurants to check out! I’ve already started planning and I am really, really enjoying making our itinerary. So you’ve all been a bunch of times – are there any places you think are a must?”

Allie smiled and asked if Zoe had added Beit Ha’atzmaut – Independence Hall, in Tel Aviv, where David Ben-Gurion read Israel’s Declaration of Independence? Zoe was glad she’d asked her friends. That was exactly what she would want to do. She took note of the spelling so she could research opening times and all the other things she needed to know. Brittney asked if Zoe had thought about the Kotel tunnel tours? Zoe was confused, “I’ve got the Kotel down on my itinerary but what are the tunnel tours? I’ve never heard of that.” Britt explained what it was and Zoe was certainly intrigued. “We definitely must go there – how unbelievable to be able to see all those excavations from over 2,000 years ago? Thank you, Brittney.”

Asher obviously suggested attending a football match and Zoe, as the school team’s goalie, was in favour and she knew that her auntie was also a HUGE football fan and would love this idea. Eve suggested the caves at Rosh HaNikra, describing their beauty and their history. Maxine told Zoe about climbing Masada and explained that you actually have to wake up early to climb because of the sun. Tom listed all the restaurants that aren’t kosher in England but have kosher branches in Israel – you still have to check that they have a kosher certificate, though, he warned. Marnie and James both loved the kanyon (shopping mall) in Jerusalem and Jules told Zoe that the Knesset (parliament) is a must-see.

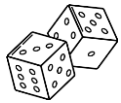
At the beginning, Zoe had felt left-out, being the only one that hadn’t been to Israel but when she changed her perspective, she realised that all her friends can really help her. In the end, with the help of her friends, she planned the most exciting and meaningful trip for her Bat Mitzvah.

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

2) Have your friends ever been able to help you with something because they have had an experience before you did?

3) In your opinion, how can Zoe help others once she’s been on her trip?

Games



1) I Went to Israel and I Packed

Player one starts by saying, “I went to Israel and I packed ...” they can choose whatever they wish e.g. a siddur. Player two says, “I went to Israel and I packed a siddur and ...” something else they choose e.g. sun cream. Player three repeats the previous two and adds their own. Each player repeats and adds. If someone forgets one of the items, they’re out.

2) West (W), East (E), North (N), South (S), Central (C)

Announce the following locations and landmarks and the children have to guess (or get points for knowing) where they are – W, E, N, S or C. Machtesh Ramon (The Ramon Crater) (S), Tel Aviv (W), Yerushalayim (C), dead sea (E), Rosh HaNikra Caves (N).

3) How many Israeli songs?

Divide children into two groups and ask them to quietly discuss how many Israeli songs (or songs containing the word Yisrael) they can come up with. Each group takes turns to sing their Israeli song or part of their song and gets two points for every song they share.