



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe Parasha activity sheet that will help you bring Judaism to life in a varied and exciting way. I'd like these activities to enthuse the children and show them how the Torah given almost 3500 years ago is still as relevant and as exciting in our lives today.

Thank you for offering to run a Children's Service, for all the hard work you put into it and for making a real difference to so many young people. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark gives you an overview of the weekly Parasha, songs, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the Parasha or important event that week. Every Children's Service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I am sure the children at your shul will benefit from Spark. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if we can be of any help. Thank you again for the work you do in enabling so many young Jews to access their heritage and traditions in such an exciting way.

All it takes is a small spark of interest, to ignite a flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)  
Spark Editor and Education Consultant

## Bechukotai

### 5779

#### Parasha Summary:

As we are currently in a leap year (Shana M'uberet), this week's Parasha is read by itself, when usually, it is read together with Behar (last week's Parasha). In the middle of the Parasha (the third portion) there is quite a long section about the warnings God gives the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) and the Ba'al Koreh (reader of the Torah) sings this part in an undertone. It's also important to note that this Shabbat leaves us only 1 week to Shavuot!

- The Parasha begins with Moshe telling the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) of all the wonderful rewards they will receive if they follow God's Torah. The land of Israel will see an abundance of produce and there will be overall success for all its inhabitants. God will protect the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) from their enemies.
- On the other hand, if the people do not follow God's Mitzvot (commandments), then there will be famine and God won't protect the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) from their enemies. The Children of Israel will not stick together as a unit and will argue. But if they do Teshuvah (say sorry) God will forgive them.
- The Parasha continues with a discussion about the laws involving people making a promise to give contributions to the Mishkan (Tabernacle). A person can dedicate animals or money...
- ...however a firstling animal (B'chor) cannot be dedicated to the Mishkan (Tabernacle) as it already belongs to God.
- The Parasha concludes by making it clear that all the commandments were given by God to Moshe (who commanded the B'nei Yisrael) on Har Sinai (Mount Sinai).
- This is the week before the festival of Shavuot, when we celebrate receiving the Torah on Har Sinai (Mount Sinai).
- The 3 days before Shavuot, so Thursday, Friday and Shabbat are called the Sheloset Y'mai Hagbalah (literally: 'The 3 days of

boundaries'). On these days in the Midbar (wilderness), the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) paid extra special attention in preparing themselves for Kabbalat Hatorah (receiving the Torah).

## Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

***Starting with a Quiz** – It is a good idea to start with a small quiz about the Jewish practices in the game below to familiarise all children to the facts in preparation for the activity. (EG How many Challot do we have on Friday night? What is the roof of a Succah called?)*

### **Activity: All of us [working] together (Kulanu B'Yachad)**

In the Parasha this week we learn about what will happen if we don't work together. Not working together and constantly opposing each other could lead to disaster. Tell the children that by working together we can achieve more. Working as a team generates better results and productivity. 2 individuals working together completes the set!

The following makes up a set in Jewish practice

- 2 candles on Friday night and festivals
- The Lulav and Etrog on Succot
- 9 branches of the Chanukiyah
- The Sechach (roof) of a Succah
- 2 Challot on Friday night and Shabbat lunch
- The sweet smelling spices at Havdalah (when Shabbat ends)

Prepare pictures of the above list (These pictures have been downloaded and are at the bottom of the Tribe Spark document). Give the children the individual parts of each Mitzvah (EG Give one child 1 Shabbat candlestick and another child the 2<sup>nd</sup> candlestick). The children mustn't know who their pair is and the name of the game is to find their pair. Once they have found their pair, you can swop it around and give children another Mitzvah. (EG The child with the Etrog has to find the child with the Lulav; the child with the Challah has to find the child with the other Challah)



**Activity: Can you listen to instructions?**

**Before the activity and without the children knowing, hide some boxes of raisins (parents are sometimes reluctant to allow their child/ren to eat sweets, so raisins are a better option) around the room.**

**Get the children in to 2, 3 or 4 teams (depending on numbers) and assign one child the responsibility of guiding their teammate to where the box of raisins is hidden. You can do this a few times. By children listening to the instructions, they will hopefully find the raisins. Stress the idea that by the Jewish People listening to G-d's instructions, we will find the reward!**

After the activity ask the children to share examples of when they have listened to an instruction from a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher or friend. Are they pleased that they did listen to that instruction?

## Children's Service: Years 3- 6

- Please check the activities written in the age group above as some of them may be suitable for your service too.

### Activity – The Importance of Listening to Instructions



Sit the children in a circle.

Each child will get a slip of paper with a direction written on it. **The catch is** that they can **ONLY** follow their direction after another child completes theirs. So they **must be paying close attention!**

If you only have five kids, you can use any five directions but they must be in subsequent order for the game to work.

LEADER BEGINS: Run in place.

After someone runs in place, stand up and jump three times.

After someone jumps three times, stand up and spin around twice.

After someone spins around twice, stand up and stamp your feet.

After someone stamps their feet, stand up and shout your name.

After someone shouts their name, stand up and flap like a chicken.

After someone flaps like a chicken, stand up and bark like a dog.

After someone barks like a dog, stand up and whip your hair back and forth.

After someone whips their hair back and forth, stand up and clap your hands.

After someone claps their hands, stand up and take a bow.

After someone takes a bow, stand up and say "THE END!"

## Discussion Points



We are told in this week's Parasha how a person can promise to make a contribution to the Mishkan (the portable Temple which accompanied the Jewish people during their time in the Wilderness).

- Have you ever made a promise to give something to someone?
- Were you able/unable to keep your promise?
- What was the reaction of the person you promised to give it too?
- Do you think we should be making promises?
- If not, why do you think people could promise to give a gift to the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple)?

**Songs – The links have been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children these songs.**

'Hine Ma Tov Umanayim, Shevet Uchim Gam Yuchud'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvKcSKITkPA>

'Torah Tzivah Lunoo'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwVpYWVpiFk>







