



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



Behar 5779

Parasha Summary:

As we are currently in a leap year (Shana M'uberet), this week's Parasha Behar is read as a single Parasha, although in most years it is read together with next week's Parasha Bechukotai. The Parasha begins with Moshe (Moses) instructing the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel), that once they have taken possession of the land of Canaan, they are to observe every seventh year as a Shemittah (Sabbatical) year for the land. They were also told that every Fiftieth year was to be a Yovel (Jubilee) year. The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) are also told not to charge interest to anyone they have lent money to and if a person had to hire himself out as a servant because of money he owed, the master must treat his servant with respect. The servant would automatically go free during the Yovel (Jubilee) year.

- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) are instructed to observe a Sabbatical year for the land, known as the 'Shemittah' year, when they were not to sow their fields or prune their vineyards. They were also not allowed to reap the harvest which grew by itself.
- The laws of Shemittah (Sabbatical) continue to this day, although we do not have a Beit Mikdash (The Holy Temple in Jerusalem). Every seventh year, farmers in the land of Israel leave their fields and orchards fallow.
- The Yovel (Jubilee) year was to be observed every fiftieth year and the people were reminded about the forthcoming Yovel (Jubilee) on the Yom Kippur at the beginning of that year. During the jubilee year the farmers were not allowed to sow their fields.
- Although we observe the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year nowadays in Eretz Yisrael (Land of Israel), we don't observe the Yovel (Jubilee) year.
- The Parasha continues with some of the laws of selling and

- redeeming property.
- Moshe (Moses) continued with his instruction by explaining to the B'nei Yisrael (Jewish people) that if they lend money to a Jewish person, they are not to charge them interest when they repay the loan. Just like the laws of Shemittah, the laws of not charging interest to someone we lend money to, apply even nowadays.
 - The Parasha concludes with God's clear instruction to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that they are not to serve idols.
 - The Parasha also reiterates the importance of Shabbat and respecting the Beit Mikdash (The holy Temple in Jerusalem).

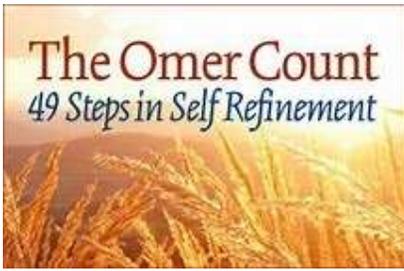
Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

As the Parasha begins with the laws about the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year, it is a good opportunity for children to recall the names of the fruit/produce which the Torah names as 'The 7 types of Fruit of Israel' (Shivat Haminin) and which could not be tended to during the 7th year (The Shemittah year).

At the end of the Tribe Spark you will find pictures of the Shivat Haminin (The seven types of fruit of Israel). You will also find seven images of other fruit and vegetables. You will need to prepare 2 labels for this game.

Activity - 'Fruit of Israel' Game

Start the game by reminding the children of the names of the 7 fruit/grains of Israel (Wheat, Barley, Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives, Dates) and show them the picture of each fruit. Give the children a picture of a fruit/vegetable and ask them to decide 'in their mind' whether or not it is one of the 'fruit of Israel'. Set up 2 tables, one labelled 'Fruit of Israel' and the other labelled 'Other Fruit'. Ask the children to place their fruit/vegetables on the correct table. You can then muddle them up and ask children to find a 'Fruit of Israel' or 'Other Fruit' and put it back on the correct table.



Story – We are in the midst of counting the Omer which we started counting on Pesach. We will complete the counting on the day before Shavuot. This story highlights how we can use the days of the Omer to improve ourselves.

Many years ago the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt and Moshe (Moses) was chosen by God to lead them out of Egypt after all the wonders and miracles which he had performed for them, across the Red Sea and in to the Midbar (the Wilderness). When the Jewish people came out of Egypt, God told them that in 7 weeks, He was going to give them the most fabulous gift ever. 'I'm going to give you the Torah' said God. The Jewish people were really excited and couldn't wait to receive this fabulous present from God.

The Jewish people were so excited that they began to count the days leading up to getting their amazing present. Every day they would tick off the day showing that they were a day nearer to getting the best present in the whole world.

But the Jewish people also said to themselves, 'to make sure we are given this great present, we must show God that we are ready to get it. We must show God that we deserve to get the present.' So every day the Jewish people did little things to show they were ready. If they gave 2 pence to Tzedakah, they would give 5 pence the next day. If their mummy and daddy told them to tidy their room, they would do it straight away and if their friend asked them for some of their snack they would most certainly give it to them.

When the time came to stand at Har Sinai (Mount Sinai) and receive the Torah, the Jewish people had counted 49 days and they felt ready!

When we count the Omer we count upwards (1, 2, 3, 4...) until

number 49 and each day of the Omer we can try to do something to improve, whether it's tidying our bedroom, loading the dishwasher or going to bed when we are told to, being kind to our friends or playing with someone in the playground who looks lonely and has no one to play with. That way, we can reach the Festival of Shavuot (The time the Torah was given) and feel special because we have improved each day.

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 – This is a 'trust' game, which will highlight to the children, the trust the Jewish farmers in Israel have in God, when it is the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year and they can't work their fields.

You will need a bit of space for this activity and several paper plates (These can be re-used for future games, **but not to eat from** as they will probably get trodden on). Place the paper plates randomly on the floor. The children should be put in pairs, with one of the pair blindfolded and the other the instructor. The one who is blindfolded must try and walk from one side of the room to the other, without stepping on any of the plates. Therefore, the child who is not blindfolded must give clear directional instructions to his/her partner and the blindfolded child must **TRUST** his/her partner.

Discussion Points



The Parasha (weekly portion) starts by listing the laws of the Shemittah year, the 7th year when all land in Israel should not be worked. No ploughing, no sowing and no reaping the harvest!

- Why do you think God wants us to observe the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year?
- Why do you think the Shemittah (Sabbatical) takes place every 7 years?
- In your opinion, why is the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year still observed in Israel nowadays, even though we do not have a Beit Mikdash (Holy Temple in Jerusalem)?
- The farmer who observed the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year had to show tremendous Emunah (faith) and Bitachon (trust) in God. Why do you think that might be?
- We learn from the Shemittah (Sabbatical) year, how important it is to trust God. Are there times you would like to share, when you have put your trust in God.
- Can you think of another law that we still observe nowadays, even without a Beit Mikdash (Holy Temple in Jerusalem)? **[ANSWER - Pidyon Haben – redeeming a first-born boy when he is 30 days old, from a Cohen, so that he doesn't have to serve in the Beit Mikdash (Holy Temple in Jerusalem)**

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



1. 'V'ahavta I'rayacha Kamocha' – 'And You Shall Love Your Friend Like Yourself'

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

V'ahavta I'rayacha Kamocha

Zeh K'lal Gadol Batorah



2. **'Eretz Zavat Chalav Udevash' (A Land flowing with Milk and Honey)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjFPzN6oGE8>

Eretz Zavat Chalav, Chalav Udevash
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