



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

Welcome



Bereishit - 5780

This week's Parasha (Torah portion) is the first of the Chamisha Chumshai Torah (The 5 Books of the Torah). The first Parasha (Torah portion) of each book of the Chumash (Pentateuch) has the same name as the book itself. Therefore, this week's Parasha (Torah portion) is Bereishit (Genesis), the first portion of the first book of the Chumash (Pentateuch). There are 54 Parashot in total which are spread out over the course of the year. Some of the Parashot (Torah portions) are read together, but this never occurs when reading through the book of Bereishit (Genesis), when all the portions are read individually.

'Bereishit' literally means 'In the beginning...' and states that in the beginning God created heaven and earth. During the first 6 days, God shaped, made and placed everything in the universe into its proper functioning position.

On the 7th day God 'rested' from His work and made it holy, calling this day Shabbat (The Sabbath).

Adam was the first person to be created on the 6th day and God decided that it was not good for him to be alone. So, God made Adam sleep, during which He took one of Adam's ribs and formed it to make a woman. Her name was Eve, which in Hebrew is Chava.

God placed them both in Gan Eden (The Garden of Eden) and they were told they could eat from any tree except the Tree of Knowledge. However, because of the influence of the Nachash (Snake), they ate the forbidden fruit and were forced to leave Gan Eden (The Garden of Eden).



Adam and Chava (Eve) gave birth to 2 sons, Cayin (Cain) and Hevel (Aibel) and as a result of Cayin (Cain) being angry and jealous with Hevel (Aibel), he killed his brother!

Adam and Chava (Eve) had other children and among them, another son who they called Shet (Seth). As each new generation came, so the numbers of people on the earth increased.

There were 10 generations from Adam to Noach (Noah), however people started to turn evil and practiced immorality and violence. But, Noach was a righteous man.

The Parasha - In a Nutshell!



- The Torah begins by stating that in the beginning God created from nothingness the heaven and the earth. However, the world was still without shape or order and during the first 6 days God made and placed everything in the universe, putting it in to its proper position.
- The order of God's creation of the world was as follows;
 - Day 1 – The Creation of light and darkness
 - Day 2 – The separation between the heavenly and earthly waters
 - Day 3 – Accumulation of the waters allowing the dry land to be visible
 - Day 4 – The creation and placement of the sun and the moon in the sky
 - Day 5 – The creation of sea life and birds
 - Day 6 – The Creation of reptiles, animals and finally human beings
- On the seventh day, God admired His work of the first 6 days and sanctified this day as Shabbat (The Sabbath).
- God did not want Adam to be alone and he brought all the animals and birds before Adam, who gave them all their names but could not find a mate for himself amongst these animals. So, God cast a deep sleep upon Adam, during which He took one of Adam's ribs, shaped, developed and made it into a woman called Chava (Eve).
- God told Adam and Chava (Eve) to enter Gan Eden (The Garden of Eden) and that they could eat any fruit from

- any tree except for the Tree of Knowledge, whose fruit they were forbidden to partake of.
- But the Nachash (serpent) was crafty and evil and persuaded Chava (Eve) that it would be absolutely fine to eat from the forbidden fruit. She ate some of the fruit and gave some to Adam too.
- At that point God told them to leave Gan Eden (The Garden of Eden) and begin to experience the hardships of working the land and working to earn their sustenance.
- The Nachash (serpent) was also punished by having to crawl on the ground and eat the dust of the earth.
- Adam and Chava (Eve) gave birth to 2 sons; Cayin (Cain) and Hevel (Aibel). Cayin (Cain) worked hard on the land and Hevel (Aibel) became a shepherd. Both Cayin (Cain) and Hevel (Aibel) brought offerings of their produce to God. Hevel (Aibel) was sincere in his offering and offered to God from the best of his flock, whilst Cayin (Cain) was insincere and brought his worst produce as an offering.
- God accepted Hevel's (Aibel's) offering and He sent a fire from heaven which burnt his offering. But this did not happen to Cayin's (Cain's) offering and this made Cayin (Cain) very angry and very embarrassed. While they were both together in a field Cayin (Cain) killed his brother Hevel (Aibel).
- When God asked Cayin (Cain) the whereabouts of his brother, he replied, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Cayin (Cain) was severely punished and was made to wander around the earth.
- Adam and Chava (Eve) gave birth to a third son who they called Shet (Seth), as well as additional children.
- However, God began reconsidering His act of populating the world with mankind, but God was pleased with Noach (Noah), who we are introduced to at the end of this week's Parasha (Torah portion).



Activity

When Adam and Chava (Eve) were in the Garden of Eden, the Nachash (serpent) persuaded Chava (Eve) to take fruit from the Tree of Knowledge and eat it and also give it to Adam to eat.

This activity teaches the children how powerful (or otherwise) someone persuading you can be.

Give the children a number, either 1 or 2. Ask all the numbers 1s to pair up with a number 2 child and sit down with them. Then the number 1 children need to tell the number 2 children about their favourite food and try to convince them that it really is better than any other food. Then they can swop over and the number 2s need to persuade number 1s that their favourite food is the best.

Try it now with pets. The 2 children in the pair need to try and persuade each other why a certain animal would make the best pet. Then they can talk about and persuade their partner as to why their school/class teacher is the best.



Story – ‘The Little Red Rabbi’ (based on the well-known story of ‘The Little Red Hen’ ...but with a difference!!).

It was the day after Simchat Torah and the Little Red Rabbi sat down to prepare something to say on the Shabbat which was only a few days away, Shabbat Bereishit, when we read the very first Parasha in the Torah.

The Little Red Rabbi thought and thought, but simply could not think of something which would interest everyone in the Shul. Suddenly, the Little Red Rabbi had an idea, ‘I’m going to create a picture for every day of creation!’ Now, thought the Little Red Rabbi, how many pictures will I need? (*children to help you count at this point*). So, the world was created in 1...2...3...4...5...6 days and God rested on the seventh day! Then I’ll hold it up for everyone to see and the different things God created will become really clear!

But the Little Red Rabbi could not do all the pictures by himself in just 3 days, so he called his good friend Michael. ‘Hi Michael, would you be able to come over this evening to help me paint some pictures of the different things God created when He created the world?’ ‘Yes of course’, said Michael, ‘I simply love painting. It’s just so much fun!’ ‘Brilliant’ said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘I’ll see you at 7 o’clock this evening.’



Then the Little Red Rabbi called Michaela. 'Hi Michaela, would you be able to come over this evening to help me paint some pictures of the different things God created when He created the world?' 'Yes of course', said Michaela, 'I simply love painting pictures. It's just so cool!' 'Fantastic' said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll see you at 7 o'clock this evening.'

After that, the Little Red Rabbi called Morris. 'Hi Morris, would you be able to come over this evening to help me paint some pictures of the different things God created when He created the world?' 'Yes of course', said Morris, 'I simply love painting pictures. It's just so amazing!' 'Super-duper' said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll see you at 7 o'clock this evening.'

So that evening, the Little Red Rabbi, Michael, Michaela and Morris met in the Little Red Rabbi's house. The little Red Rabbi divided up the days of Creation; he gave Michael day 1, painting light and dark and day 2, painting the sky. He gave Michaela day 3, painting the land and the sea and day 4, painting the sun, the moon and the stars in the sky. The Little Red Rabbi then gave Morris day 5, painting the sea creatures and birds and day 6, painting animals and Adam and Eve.

Then the Little Red Rabbi decided that he would paint a beautiful picture of Shabbat. What do you think he put in his painting of Shabbat. (*Ask the children at this point*)

Finally, the paintings were all ready and the Little Red Rabbi put them out to dry and took them with him on Friday night when he went to Shul.

On Shabbat morning the Little Red Rabbi took the paintings and showed them to the whole community. There was a big
WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

Everyone was so amazed by the excellent work that had been created by the Little Red Rabbi and his three friends, Michael, Michaela and Morris.



As the Little Red Rabbi finished explaining about what God had created, he gave a big THANK YOU SO MUCH to his 3 friends.

Everyone went home from Shul that morning talking about the 6 days of creation and of course the amazing Yom Shabbat (Shabbat day).

Story Time



Activity

At the bottom of this week's Spark you will find images which depict each day of creation.

Dividing the children up into groups of 7, give each group 7 images which illustrate what God created on each of the 6 days of creation and then Shabbat (The Sabbath).

However, just before you give the groups their pictures, tell them what God created on each day and that He 'admired' His work on the seventh day.

Once you have told the children what was created on each day, give out the 7 pictures and ask the children to order themselves correctly, in accordance with what was created on each day. Some of the pictures will depict what was created on a certain day more subtly.

The first group to be sitting in the correct order with their hands in the air wins. You'll need to check that the children really have got the order of creation correct, before declaring them the winners.

Parasha Quiz



1. On which day of Creation did God create the sea creatures and the birds? **(5th Day)**
2. Who named all the animals and birds? **(Adam)**
3. How did God form Chava – Eve? **(He put Adam to sleep and taking one of his ribs, God formed it in to Chava – Eve)**
4. Which tree was the only tree God told Adam and Chava – Eve not to eat from? **(The tree of knowledge)**
5. What persuaded Chava – Eve to eat the fruit of this forbidden tree? **(Snake/Serpent)**
6. How did God punish the snake? **(It had to crawl on its stomach and eat the dust of the earth)**
7. Name 2 of Adam and Chava's (Eve's) sons **(Seth, Cain and Aibel)**
8. Why did Cain kill Aibel? **(he was jealous that his offering had not been accepted)**
9. How many generations were there from Adam to Noah (Noah) **(10 generations)**
10. Which famous character are we introduced to at the end of this week's Parasha (Torah portion), who was very different from everyone else? **(Noah)**

The Sun, the Moon and the Stars – How they teach us to be Modest



The Midrash, which is a commentary on the Chumash and other Jewish books, teaches us that the sun and the moon were originally to be as large as each other. However, the moon complained to God saying, 'is it really possible that there can be 2 of us who are the same size?

God answered the moon and said, 'are you saying that you and the sun cannot be the same size? Very well then, since you feel that one of you (the sun or the moon) has to be smaller than the other, you will be the one who is diminished in size and power. The sun will continue to burn as brightly as it did when I created it and will radiate light and warmth throughout the day. On the other hand, you will provide only a small amount of light during the darkness of the night.

Upon hearing this, the moon was so very sorry and deeply regretted protesting about the sizes of the sun and the moon. The moon begged God to forgive him.

In His everlasting compassion, God realised how sorry the moon was and told the moon that He would lighten His decision. Although the moon will indeed be the smaller of the two, God decided to surround it with countless luminous stars which will add to its light.

What does this Story Teach Me?

Discussion Points



- Why do you think the moon in the story did not act in a proper way?
- What do you think the moon could have said to God instead of complaining?
- What does the story teach us about the way we should behave?
- Do you think the consequences for the moon were too harsh? Explain your reasoning.
- Do you think the compromised consequence was fair? Explain why.
- This is of course, only a story to teach us an important lesson about how to behave in life. But what do you think the world would have looked like if both the sun and the moon had equal brightness!?!?



Bereishit – **Genesis - Chapter**
4 verse 13

וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל-ה' גְּדוֹל עֲוֹנִי מִנְשׂוּאָה

*And Cain said to G-d 'Is my sin
too great to bear?'*

In this week's Parasha (Torah portion) we find the first example of prayer in the Torah – No intermediary, no angel as the messenger. It was 'pure prayer from the heart'.

It was communication from the heart to God and this is the essence of prayer. This is what prayer was and is STILL meant to be.



Shabbat shalom! By Joshua Aaron

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=shabbat+songs&view=detail&mid=AEEE29E2DB1BAE2DA0DDAE29E2DB1BAE2DA0DD&FORM=VIRE>

When the sun has set on a Friday night
Bringing peace into your home
Families will gather all around singing, "Shabbat Shalom!"

Shalom!

Every day is a gift from God, so put a smile upon your face
He's got the whole world in His hands, so obey His commands
And you will know peace

Shalom!

Lai, lai!

Shalom!

Songs







