



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



Chukat – 2019/5779

Parasha Summary:

This week's Parasha (Torah portion) begins with an unusual law known as the Parah Adumah (The red heifer). It is unusual because it is one of a number of Mitzvot (Commandments) for which we do not know the reason. In the times of the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) if someone became Tammei (spiritually impure) by being near a dead body, they would be sprinkled with the ashes of the Parah Adumah (red heifer) mixed with other ingredients and they would become Tahor (Spiritually pure). The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had roamed through the Midbar (wilderness) for almost 40 years and at the beginning of the 40th year they returned to a place called Kadesh. It was there that Miriam, the sister of Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) passed away.

After her passing, the well of water that had miraculously gushed forth water for all the people and their animals dried up. Once again, the people complained bitterly to Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) and God told Moshe (Moses) that he and his brother Aharon (Aaron) should speak to the rock and water would flow from it.

However, Moshe (Moses) became so angry with the people's constant complaining that he impatiently hit the rock with his staff. Since both Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) had not followed God's instructions, they were told that they would not be allowed to enter the land of Israel. Towards the end of this week's Parasha (Torah portion) Aharon (Aaron) passed away on Mount Hor and Moshe (Moses) appointed Aharon's (Aaron's) son Elazar as the Kohen Gadol (High Priest).

The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) once again complained bitterly about the lack of food and drink and God sent fiery snakes to bite the people who were complaining. Moshe (Moses) placed a brass snake on a pole and whoever looked at it was cured from their bite. The Parasha (weekly portion) ends with the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) camped on the east side of the river Jordan.

- The name of the Parasha (weekly portion) Chukat, means 'Statute' and in Judaism, this is a law for which we do not know the reason.
- The Parasha (weekly portion) begins with the Chok (statute) to use the ashes of the Parah Adumah (red heifer) to purify anyone who was spiritually unclean (someone who had come in to contact with a dead body). The Parasha (weekly portion) begins by telling us that the law of the red heifer is THE statute mentioned in the Torah, even though there are other laws we observe, for which we do not know the reason (Eg Kashrut laws of milk and meat etc). We are taught that the wisest of all men, King Solomon, knew the reason for all the statutes except the Parah Adumah (red heifer).

- The Bnei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had journeyed in the Midbar (wilderness) for almost 40 years and it was when they camped in a place called Kadesh, Miriam, the sister of Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) passed away. It was then that the rock which had given the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) water during all the years they had been in the Midbar (wilderness) dried up. The people complained bitterly and God told Moshe (Moses) to speak to the rock and it would start flowing again. But the people became enraged and started putting an immense amount of pressure on Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron), so much so, that Moshe ended up hitting the rock and as a result, both Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) were not allowed into the land of Israel.
- As the B'nei Yisrael neared the end of their journey to the Promised Land, they had to travel through the land of Edom and Moshe (Moses) sent a message to the king of Edom requesting permission to travel through his land. However, the king of Edom refused and the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were forced to take the longer route on the southern borders of Edom and it was here that Aharon (Aaron) died, on the top of a mountain called 'Hor'. Moshe (Moses) then installed Elazar, the son of Aharon (Aaron) as the next Kohen Gadol (High Priest)
- After repelling an attack by the king of Arad, the weary B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) complained bitterly about the lack of food and water. Consequently, they were punished with a plague caused by the deadly bite of fiery snakes. When the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) admitted their error, Moshe (Moses) put a brass snake on a pole and whoever looked at it was healed.
- The Parash (weekly portion) ends with the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) encamped on the east side of the river Jordan, on the borders of Moav, facing Jericho.

In this week's Parsha (Torah portion), the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) are given a Chok (Statute), a commandment for which they do not know the reason. Some of the 613 Mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah are laws for which we do not know the reasons and we follow these laws nevertheless, because we trust in God. The following game highlights the importance of listening to instructions.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

Red Light – Green Light – Blue Bakery Story!

- Tell the children that on traffic lights, a red light means stop and a green light means go and whenever you say the word 'red' they should freeze and when you say the word 'green' they should walk around. Then tell the children that you are going to add the colour blue and whenever you say 'blue' they should jump on the spot. Stress the importance of listening carefully to instructions, even the ones we may not understand and listening carefully to the story, in the same way as the Bnei Yisrael (Children of Israel) listened to instructions even though they didn't understand all of them.



Instructions

- Once upon a time there was a frog called Fishel who was green all over.
- His mummy didn't like him crossing the road by himself and he always had to hold her hand when crossing the main road called Red Road.
- One bright sunny day Fishel asked his mummy if he could go to the Blue Bakery to buy some bread for his lunch. Mummy said to Fishel, 'that's okay, but please don't cross any roads. Please walk on the pavement with the green grass next to it. Please don't cross Red Road.'
- Fishel put his green coat on and headed towards the bakery. He really didn't understand why mummy wouldn't allow him to cross the Red Road. He really didn't understand!
- So Fishel decided to leave the green grass his mummy had told him to walk next to and started walking towards the road. 'I can do this' he said, 'I can cross the road all by myself and I really do not understand why mummy doesn't let me?'
- As Fishel came closer and closer to the road, the roar of the traffic got louder and louder. The cars were getting faster and faster. The road was getting busier and busier and he felt a bit scared of the Red Road. He quickly turned around and headed straight back to the safe pavement with the Green grass next to it and he felt a lot safer.
- **Now** Fishel understood why his mummy didn't want him crossing the road by himself and he realised why she had given him those instructions, to stay away from the busy road.
- Fishel hopped to the Blue Bakery, bought the bread and hopped all the way home, being sure to stay well away from the busy Red Road.



The Little Red Rabbi

As the weather started to get better and the sun shone brightly in the sky, the Little Red Rabbi decided to buy some garden furniture from B & Q. He drove his car to the store and after spending time choosing the nicest garden table and the most comfortable set of garden chairs, he walked out of the shop and placed the boxes carefully into the boot of his car. He felt very pleased with himself.

When the Little Red Rabbi arrived home, he took the boxes straight to the back garden and carefully took out the instructions. He turned the pieces of paper this way and then that way, but he really couldn't understand them at all. So, he picked up the phone to his good friend Michael and asked him if he could spare a couple of hours to help read the instructions. 'I'm afraid I've got to take my son to cubs this evening and so I won't be able to help. So the Little Red Rabbi said, 'no problem, I'll do it myself'. Next, the Little Red Rabbi called his friend Michaela and asked her if she could help with the new garden furniture. 'So sorry' said Michaela, 'I've got to take my children to the hairdresser'. 'No problem', said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll do it myself'. Next, The Little Red Rabbi called Morris and asked if he could help put the new garden furniture together. 'I'm afraid I can't because I'm going to the dentist this evening' said Morris. 'That's no problem' said The Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll do it myself'.

The Little Red Rabbi looked at the instructions and although he really couldn't understand them, he followed them every step of the way, until at last, after 3 hours, his new garden furniture was ready. The Little Red Rabbi felt so happy and he ran to his phone and called Michael, Michaela and Morris and asked each one and their families to come over on Shabbat for lunch.

The following week on Shabbat, everyone was in the Little Red Rabbi's garden enjoying the food and drink and the comfortable garden furniture. The Little Red Rabbi Smiled the biggest smile you have ever seen. He stood up and said loudly, 'I'M SO PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE ALL COME TO SHARE MY WONDERFUL GARDEN TABLE AND GARDEN CHAIRS WITH ME. SHABBAT SHALOM EVERYONE!!

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Game/Discussion – What are the consequences? – In this game, the children will work out whether the consequences are positive or negative.

Write each of these statements on a slip of paper or on an Index card. Having asked the children to sit in a circle, give each child a statement to read out, one at a time. Once the statement has been read out, ask each child (going around the circle) to suggest the consequence for the action that has been read out. This should generate quite a discussion. Remind the children about the message on the Tribe Scribe this week, which highlights the consequence Moshe (Moses) had to face when he hit the rock, instead of speaking to it. He wasn't allowed to enter the land of Israel.



Suggest the consequences for these actions

- Crossing the road at a Zebra Crossing
- Eating a whole packet of chewy sweets
- Staying up late to finish my homework
- Staying up late to play on the computer
- Helping my parents lay the table on Friday night
- Washing my parents' car
- Not wearing an apron when painting in school
- Giving a little bit of money to charity each day (Except on Shabbat)
- Not wearing shin pads while playing football
- Reading to my younger sister or brother at bedtime

Tefillah Treasures



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ. עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכּוֹל

Blessed are You, Hashem, our God, King of the universe, who fashions light and creates darkness,
Maker of peace and Creator of everything

This blessing can be found on page 17 in the Tribe Siddur.

Our holy Rabbis of old teach us that the first people to say this blessing was none other than Adam and Eve, the first man and woman ever created!

When they ate from the tree of Knowledge, the only tree God told them not to eat from, God was very disappointed with them and told them to leave the Garden of Eden.

To add to Adam and Eve's feelings of regret, it started to get dark and they felt even worse about what they had done. They had to sit in darkness all night long, but when they saw the sun rising for the first time ever, they blessed God because the light had made them feel a whole lot better.

Ask the children how light makes them feel, particularly sunrise. Ask them how sunset makes them feel.

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



Song – Light A Candle by Sarit Hadad

Chorus: Light a candle, light a candle with me
A thousand candles in the dark will open our hearts
Light a candle, light a candle with me
A thousand candles in the dark will open our hearts

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=light+a+candle+song+sarit+hadad+lyrics&view=detail&mid=17448D833C285B9F519A17448D833C285B9F519A&FORM=VIRE>

Yom Zeh L'Yisrael

יום זה לישראל אורה ושמחה שבת מנוחה

This day of Shabbat is a day of light and happiness and comfort.

צוית פקודים במעמד הר סיני,
שבת ומועדים לשמור בכל שני,
לערוך לפני משאת וארוחה,
שבת מנוחה.



Yom zeh le'yisrael orah vesimchah, Shabbat menuchah. (Chorus in many versions).

Tzivita pekudim, bema'amad har sinai. Shabbat umo'adim, lishmor bechol shanai. La'aroch lefanai,
maseit ve'arucha. Shabbat menuchah.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=singing+of+yom+zeh+lyisrael&view=detail&mid=E0999C7D408F3849BC0FE0999C7D408F3849BC0F&FORM=VIRE>