



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.

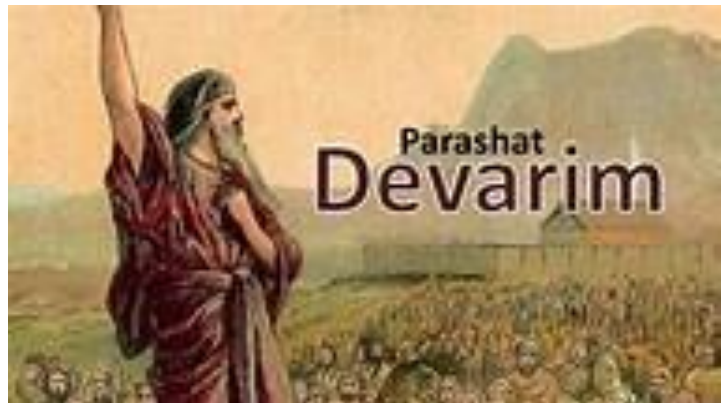
With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)
Spark Editor and Education Consultant

Devarim – 2019/5779

Parasha Summary:

This week's Parasha is the first of eleven Parashot (Torah portions) in the fifth book of the Torah, Devarim (Deuteronomy) and begins with Moshe (Moses) addressing the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) on the banks of the River Jordan. As they were almost at their final destination, the Land of Canaan, Moshe (Moses) knew that he would not be able to enter the Land with the people.



Moshe (Moses) reviewed with the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) the events and experiences they had encountered during their time in the Midbar (Wilderness).

Moshe (Moses) recalled how the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had camped at Mount Seir for a lengthy period. They had been told to continue their travels by passing through the land of Edom, but they were not to engage in battle there, as this land had been promised to the descendants of Esav (Esau – Jacob's brother). The B'nei Yisrael were also not to attack the residents of Moav (Moab) as this land had been reserved for the children of Lot (Abraham's nephew). However, they had defeated Sichon the King of Cheshbon and Og the King of Bashan.

Moshe (Moses) then recalled how Gilad, on the east side of the Yarden (River Jordan) had been given to the tribes of Reuven (Reuben), Gad and part of the tribe of Menashe (Menasseh).

- The Parasha begins with Moshe (Moses) addressing the B'nei Yisrael as they neared the Promised Land (Canaan and later to be called Israel).
- Moshe (Moses) reminds the people of the travels they have been through over the past 40 years in the Midbar (Wilderness). He recalls how at Mount Choreb (another name for Sinai) God had commanded

them to break camp and march towards their destination, the land of Canaan.

- Moshe (Moses) reminded the people how he had been unable to bear the burden of leadership unaided, so judges and administrators were appointed to help him.
- Moshe (Moses) goes on to recall how the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had been on the verge of entering the Promised Land, but they were dismayed by the report of the Meraglim (Spies) and complained bitterly. This terrible lack of faith in God resulted in the extended wandering in the Midbar (Wilderness) for another thirty eight and a half years.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had camped at Mount Seir for a long period of time. Once they were told to move on towards the Promised Land, they were given specific instructions about which nations they should do battle against and which nations they should not wage war with.
- Moshe reminds the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that although the tribes of Reuven (Reuben), Gad and part of Menashe (Menasseh) would live on the east side of the Yarden (River Jordan), they would nevertheless join their fellow Israelites in the conquest of Canaan.
- The Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) ends with Moshe (Moses) encouraging Yehoshua (Joshua) not to fear and to have courage (as he was to lead the people across the River Jordan and into Canaan after Moses' death).
- The Jewish date of this Shabbat is 9th Av, when we remember the destruction of the Batei Mikdash (2 Holy Temples which stood in Jerusalem) and it is usually a fast day. However, because we do not fast on Shabbat (except for Yom Kippur), Jewish people around the world will be observing the Fast of Av tomorrow (Sunday 11th August).
- *See Tribe Scribe - Parashat Devarim - for other details about the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple).*

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

This activity will highlight the human character trait of 'Courage'. Just like Yehoshua (Joshua) was told to have 'courage' as he led the Israelites across the River Jordan and into the Promised Land, so too, we should have the courage to trust our friends.

Instructions

Line up the children in two parallel lines, arms extended toward the opposite



line. Choose one child to walk through the path between the two lines. The child who is about to walk should ask, "Zipper ready?" with the group responding, "Ready!" When the child feels ready, they can announce that

they're ready to go.

As they move through the line, each member of the group will drop their arms just before the child gets there. The faster the child goes, the more confidence and trust they have in the group.

At the beginning of this week's Parasha, Moshe (Moses) begins to speak to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) about their travels in the Midbar (Wilderness) over the past 40 years and tells them that he will not be with them as

they enter the Promised Land. Moshe (Moses) delivered a speech which had a resounding impact on the populace. We are taught that Moshe's (Moses') words had this effect on the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) because they were words of Truth (Emet). Here is another 'Little Red Rabbi' story to emphasise this point.



The Little Red Rabbi



One day, as the Little Red Rabbi was mowing the lawn and carefully pruning the flowers, he had an idea! He was going to invite his good friends Michael, Michaela and Morris for a barbecue.

He reached into his pocket and took out his Mobile phone. First he called Michael. 'Hi Michael, it's the Little Red Rabbi speaking. My wife and I would love you and the family to come for a barbecue this evening'. 'That would be lovely' said Michael, 'thank you very much indeed Little Red Rabbi'.

Next, the Little Red Rabbi rang Michaela. 'Would you and the family like to come for a barbecue this evening?' 'That would be great', said Michaela, 'my husband and I will be around at about 5pm after we've picked up the children from a party.' 'Fantastic' said the Little Red Rabbi.

Finally, the Little Red Rabbi called his friend Morris and asked him if he would like to come for a barbecue. Morris was so excited and told the Little Red Rabbi that he would love to come.

Five o'clock came and Michael, Michaela and Morris and their wives and children knocked on the Little Red Rabbi's front door. When the Little Red Rabbi opened

the door, they were all so delighted to see each other and the Little Red Rabbi and his wife Sarah, invited all 3 families into the garden for the barbecue.



The Little Red Rabbi carefully put his Mobile phone on a garden chair and started the barbecue.

Everyone was having such a fantastic time. The adults were all talking and laughing with each other and the children were playing on the climbing frame and the swings.

One of the children, Miriam came over to the barbecue to pick up her drink as she was feeling rather thirsty. But do you know what happened? Miriam, one of Michael's daughters spilled her drink on the Little Red Rabbi's phone!

She looked at the empty cup and the Mobile phone and began to cry. She didn't know what to do. If she walked away, no one would ever know it was her who had wet the phone.

Miriam thought for a few minutes as she watched the Little Red Rabbi standing by the barbecue, singing and cooking with a huge smile on his face. Miriam walked up to the Little Red Rabbi and said to him, 'Little Red Rabbi, can I tell you something?' 'Of course you can' said the Little Red Rabbi, noticing she had been crying. 'I'm so sorry', said Miriam, 'I spilled my drink over your mobile phone and I think I've broken it'. The Little Red Rabbi walked over to his phone, picked it up, dried it off and pressed the buttons. It was working! The Little Red Rabbi's Mobile phone was waterproof! 'Not to worry at all Miriam', said the Little Red Rabbi. Everything is fine, but do you know what...? Miriam, you are such a good girl, because you told the truth and that is an amazing thing to do. I am so very proud of you.

All the people at the barbecue had a most wonderful time and as they left the Little Red Rabbi's house, Miriam smiled a great big smile. She was so proud of herself that she had told the truth.

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Activity – 'Human Knot'

One of the main reasons the Second Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) was destroyed was because the Jewish people could simply not get along with each other or work together. This activity requires the children to really work together to untangle the 'human knot' they will create.

All the children should stand in a circle and join their hands together to form a knot out of their arms. The goal of the game is to untangle their arms without letting go of the hands they are holding, so that once all the arms have been untangled, the children will be standing in a circle again. You could add a challenge whereby the children should attempt to untangle the human knot even faster than the time before.





Points for Discussion

- As Rabbi Yochanan was walking past the ruins of the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) with his student Rabbi Yehoshua, the latter started to cry. Rabbi Yochanan asked Rabbi Yehoshua, 'why are you crying?', to which Rabbi Yehoshua replied. 'Where can we now go to pray to God. The Temple has been destroyed?' Rabbi Yochanan replied, 'God says, 'It is your kindness that I desire and not your offerings.'
- What do you think Rabbi Yochanan meant by this?
- Do you think God prefers prayers, or for there to be peace in the world?
- We are taught that the great Aharon the Kohen Gadol (Aaron the High Priest) loved peace and ran after peace. He would go out of his way to make peace between two people who were arguing.
- Have you ever made peace between friends who were having an argument?
- How did you manage to get your friends to make up?



Tefillah Treasures

The Blessing for Peace – 'Sim Shalom' שִׁים שָׁלוֹם

שִׁים שְׁלוֹם טוֹבָה וּבְרָכָה, חַן וְחֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים, עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוּךְ

Grant peace. Goodness and blessing, grace, lovingkindness and compassion to us and all Israel Your people

Q We say the 'Sim Shalom' prayer, in which we ask God for peace, at the very end of the Amidah. Surely it should be one of the first blessings we say?

A We say many blessings in the Amidah, called 'Bakashot' – 'Requests' in which we ask God for a blessed year, for wisdom and understanding, for good health and for justice etc. When all is said and done however, there has to be peace amongst us in order for God to answer our prayers.

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



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hbh7Tgxp9qM>

The words for this song are 'Sim Shalom' above

Hevenu Shalom Alechem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB4RMIWroMY>