



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

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Parasha Summary:

The Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) starts with Moshe (Moses) continuing his address to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel). He assures the people that their observance of the Mitzvot (Commandments) would lead to prosperity and success. They would have no need to fear the Canaanites and the conquest of the land would result in the destruction of idol worship.

Moshe (Moses) commented that the hardships the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had undergone in the Midbar (Wilderness) over 40 years had disciplined them to learn that everything they have comes from God. Moshe (Moses) described the bountiful Land of Israel, including the Shivat Haminim (The 7 species of fruit). Moshe (Moses) describes Eretz Yisrael (The Land of Israel) as a land flowing with milk and honey.

Moshe (Moses) then reminded the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) of their earlier acts of rebellion, including the Egel Hazahav (The Golden Calf), after which Moshe (Moses) went back up Mount Sinai to receive a second set of Luchot (Tablets of stone, with the Ten Commandments engraved in them).

All that God requests from the Jewish people, said Moshe (Moses) is for them to love, fear and carry out His Mitzvot (Commandments). The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were reminded of the miracles they had witnessed during their forty years in the Midbar (Wilderness) and they were reassured that their adherence to the Mitzvot (Commandments) would result in a prosperous life in Eretz Yisrael (The Land of Israel).



- The Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) begins with Moshe (Moses) reassuring the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that despite the vast numbers of Canaanites they would encounter, they would have no need to fear as God would be with them.
- When they had eventually conquered the land, the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) would have to destroy all the idols across the land.
- All the trials and tribulations the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had undergone whilst in the Midbar (Wilderness) served to test the people's loyalty to God's commandments and the hardships they had experienced had made them learn that, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds from the mouth of God.'
- Moshe (Moses) reminded the people how he had gone up Mount Sinai to receive the Torah but had returned to see the people worshipping a Golden Calf. Moshe (Moses) had broken the Luchot (Tablets of stone), destroyed the Golden Calf and punished those who had participated in its worship.
- God wanted to destroy the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) but Moshe (Moses) had interceded on their behalf.



- Moshe (Moses) also recalled four other instances of the people's disobedience at 4 different places, namely; Tavera, Massa, Kivrot Hata'ava and Kadesh Barnea, from where the spies were sent to scout out the land of Canaan, but came back with a negative report which the people believed.
- God then told Moshe (Moses) to return to Mount Sinai to receive a second set of Luchot (Tablets of stone), which were to be placed in the Aron Hakodesh (Holy Ark).
- The Kohanim and Levi'im (Priests and Levites) had been appointed to perform the services of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and permission had been given for the people to continue their journey from Sinai towards Canaan.



- The Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) concludes with the second paragraph of the Shema, in which the Jewish people are told to love and fear God. By committing to the Mitzvot (Commandments), the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) would ensure rain in its proper season and bountiful crops, all of which would be withheld if the people became disobedient.

- The Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) ends with Moshe (Moses) assuring the people that observing the word of God would ensure victory over the Cananites, 'with no man to stand up against you.'

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

Activity – 'Which One is Missing?'

The book of Devarim (Deuteronomy), from which the Parashot (Weekly Torah portions) are from at this time of year, is replete with Moshe telling the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) about the goodness of the Land Of Canaan (later to become The Land of Israel). This game is both a good learning and memory game and will encourage the children to learn and remember different towns and cities in Israel.



Introduce the children to the names of 6 towns/cities in Israel (see end of the Spark document). You may want to reinforce the towns/cities to help the children with the game. Place the names on the floor, in the middle of the circle and ask 2 children to go outside the room, or turn around, while you take away one of the cities/towns. The 2 children have to guess which town has been taken away.

‘What Would You Feel if you didn’t have...’ Game.

This game can be played with any age group of children but in my experience, has worked well with younger children as well as older children.

Ask the children what they would feel like if they didn’t have various items. They will be surprised how different life would be without some of the things they consider “normal” to have. With everyone in a circle, you should start the discussion by saying how **you** would feel if **you** didn’t have a bed to sleep on at night. Then go around the circle and ask children how **they** would feel. Other items to talk about around the circle include;



- How would you feel if you didn’t have a shower or bath at home.
- How would you feel if you didn’t have a toothbrush to clean your teeth?
- How would you feel if you didn’t have teachers to teach you at school?
- How would you feel if you didn’t have a computer?

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

One morning in the middle of the summer holidays, the Little Red Rabbi woke up, said ‘Modeh Ani’ and went to the bathroom to wash his hands. He then took his toothbrush, squeezed some toothpaste on to the toothbrush and started cleaning his teeth.

While cleaning his teeth, the Little Red Rabbi was thinking about all the lovely places he could take his family for an outing. We could go to the seaside, we could go to the park, we could play crazy golf, we could go for a walk through the woods or we could go climbing. The Little Red Rabbi liked all his ideas but as they were all outdoor activities, what happened if it rained?



The Little Red Rabbi finished cleaning his teeth, got dressed and went downstairs.

The Little Red Rabbi told his wife about all his brilliant ideas of the different places they could go to on a day trip, but he was worried about the rain!

‘Don’t worry, Little Red Rabbi’ said the Little Red Rabbi’s wife, ‘we just have to be positive and think to ourselves, ‘it’s not going to rain!’

The Little Red Rabbi thought that a walk in the woods would be the best and most enjoyable outing for everyone. ‘I know what’ he said to himself, ‘I’ll invite my friends and their families to join us on our walk in the woods’.

So, the Little Red Rabbi called Michael. ‘Hi Michael, would you and your family like to join us for a walk in the woods next week?’ Michael paused for a moment. ‘We’d love to but I’m a bit worried that it’s going to rain and we’ll all get soaked.’ ‘Don’t worry’ said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘we must think positively. We must think to ourselves that the sun will shine, the sky will be completely blue, the birds will be singing and there won’t be a cloud in the sky.’



Michael listened to the Little Red Rabbi and after a couple of minutes said, ‘of course we’ll come for a walk in the woods.’

Next, the Little Red Rabbi called Michaela. ‘Hi Michaela, would you and your family like to join us for a walk in the woods next week?’ Michaela paused for a moment. ‘We’d love to but I’m a bit worried that it’s going to rain and we’ll all get soaked.’ ‘Don’t worry’ said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘we must think positively. We must think to ourselves that the sun will shine, the sky will be completely blue, the birds will be singing and there won’t be a cloud in the sky.’

Michaela listened to the Little Red Rabbi and after a few minutes said, ‘of course we’ll come for a walk in the woods.’

Finally, the Little Red Rabbi called Morris. ‘Hi Morris, would you and your family like to join us for a walk in the woods next week?’ Like Michael and Michaela had done, Morris paused for a moment. ‘We’d love to but I’m a bit worried that it’s going to rain and we’ll all get soaked.’ ‘Don’t worry’ said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘we must think positively.

We must think to ourselves that the sun will shine, the sky will be completely blue, the birds will be singing and there won't be a cloud in the sky.'

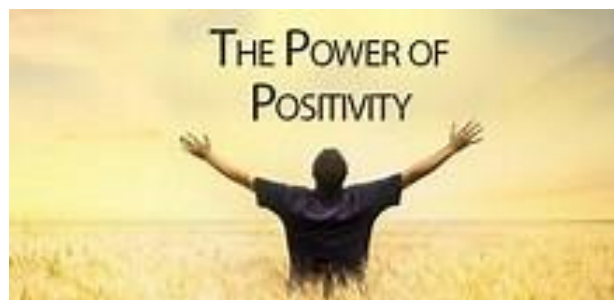
Morris listened to the Little Red Rabbi and after a few minutes said, 'of course we'll come for a walk in the woods.'

The day of the outing to the woods came and Michael, Michaela, Morris and the Little Red Rabbi looked out of their windows. The sky was grey and not even a little bit of blue could be seen. Can you imagine what was going through Michael's, Michaela's and the Little Red Rabbi's minds? 'It will be fine' said the Little Red Rabbi. 'We must be positive and think only the best. We must think that the sun will shine, the sky will be completely blue, the birds will sing and there won't be a cloud in the sky.'

All 4 friends and their families got into their cars, drove to the woods and met in the car park. As they got out of their cars, a small piece of blue sky appeared, then another piece of blue, then a third, a fourth...and before long the clouds had drifted away, the sky was completely blue, the birds were singing AND IT WAS ACTUALLY QUITE WARM!

As the 4 families walked through the woods on a glorious summer's day, they all laughed and felt really happy.

'It really does feel good when you think good!', said the Little Red Rabbi.



Children's Service: Years 3- 6

This Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) is full of words of positivity, with Moshe (Moses) encouraging the people to serve God and by doing so, all will be well when they enter and settle in the Land of Canaan. Here's a 'Positivity' game which you could play with the children.

Activity – All you need for this activity is some kind of medal or trophy! (it shouldn't be valuable!! It's just a symbol of positivity)

This game encourages children (*of all ages*) to focus on positive things which have happened to them over the course of the week.

Start by sitting the children in a circle. Read the list below, explaining in more detail, the points you would expect younger children to understand. Pass a medal or a trophy (this should not be expensive, but simply serves as an icon of success) around the circle. As each child receives the object they should say something positive about their week in relation to the list you previously shared with them (see the list in **BOLD** below).

For example; 'I helped my friend pick up all his colouring pencils when they dropped on to the floor and **THAT MADE ME FEEL GOOD**.

Or, 'I learnt how to skip with a skipping rope this week and **THAT MADE ME FEEL GOOD**.

Once you have been around the circle once and there is time, you could go round again.

- **Helping someone (Younger children)**
- **Standing up for a peer**
- **Standing up for something you believe in (older children)**
- **A learning accomplishment**
- **A skill mastered**
- **Learning something new (Younger children)**
- **An act of kindness (Younger children)**
- **A good conversation (Younger children)**
- **Finishing a project (Older children)**

Points for Discussion

In this week's Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) Moshe (Moses) reminded the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that God had sent Manna from Heaven (food which fell from the sky each day – except on Shabbat) during their 40 years in the Midbar (Wilderness).



- What would you have felt about the miracle of the Manna, miraculously falling from the sky each day?
- Why do you think some of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) complained about the Manna?
- We are taught, that Moshe (Moses) was told to put a portion of the Manna in a flask inside the Aron Hakodesh (Holy Ark). Why do you think he was told to do this?
- What do you think the Jewish people would have felt, entering the Land of Israel and no longer having 'food from heaven', but having to plant, grow and reap their own produce.
- How do you think the Manna might have prepared the Jewish people for life in the Land of Israel?

Tefilla Treasures



In the first paragraph of the 'Shema', we are commanded; '...you **(Singular)** shall love the Lord your **(Singular)** God with all your heart...'

In the second paragraph of the 'Shema', we are commanded; ... you **(Plural)** shall love the Lord your **(Plural)** God with all your heart...'

Why does the first Paragraph use the 'Singular' form for 'you' and the second paragraph the 'Plural' form for 'you'?

Our sages explain that the second paragraph of the 'Shema' refers to the observance of God's Mitzvot which are accomplished most effectively when performed by the group. For example, praying in a Minyan (a quorum of ten men over the age of 13) or saying grace after meals as a group. Whilst these Mitzvot (Commandments) can certainly be performed individually, they take on an added importance if performed in a group.

On the other hand, the first section of the 'Shema' deals with the individual love every person creates between him/herself and God and so the singular form is used.

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

Shabbat is Coming! (for younger children)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxznI5nziHU>

Shabbat is coming, we're so happy,
We're gonna sing and shout out loud!
Six days a week we wait for Shabbat,
A gift from Hashem
And we're so proud!

CHORUS:

So let's sing together – Shabbat!
Whisper together- Shabbat!
Let's shout together- SHABBAT!
Tell it to the world- Shabbat!

Shabbat is coming,
Let's light the candles,
Let's get the Kiddush cup and the wine.
Let's set the table, everyone is helping,
To welcome the Shabbat right on time!

CHORUS:

So let's sing together – Shabbat!
Whisper together- Shabbat!
Let's shout together- SHABBAT!
Tell it to the world- Shabbat!

Gam Zu Letovah (This is also for the Best) – A great song for promoting positivity (for older children)



<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=8th+day+gam+zu&&view=detail&mid=F3BC3660CFD1589AECC0F3BC3660CFD1589AECC0&&FORM=VRDGAR>

This song is fairly long, so it would be worth teaching it to the older children in stages, once you have had the opportunity to listen to it during the week and familiarise yourself with the tune. It's quicker to learn if you have the lyrics on screen and the YouTube video on the background.

Cold winter nights, Came and stole my flame
Took my lights, Whispering my name
Midnight storm shattered all my dreams to the ground
Scattered memories

When the clouds go dark
And it's raining grey
I'll need that spark

Like Nochum (a famous person mentioned in the Talmud who would always be positive and say 'This is also for the best') would say

If I knew then what I know now
Would I feel so Down?

[Chorus:]
Gam zu,
Heaven's looking down for you – Gam zu
Every single thing you do – Gam zu
In your reflection

Gam zu,
He really wants the best for you – Gam zu
One day He'll make it all come true - Gam zu
In your reflection

Gam zu,
Heaven's looking down for you – Gam zu
Every single thing you do – Gam zu
In your reflection

Gam zu,
He really wants the best for you – Gam zu
One day He'll make it all come true – וְיָבִיט
Gam zu letovah

It's hard to know
What's those Heavens rhymes
Is this life
A riddle all the time?

When your clouds go dark
And it's raining gray
You'll need that park
Like Nochum would say

If I knew then what I know now
Would I feel so Down?

[Chorus:]
Gam zu,
Heaven's looking down for you – Gam zu
Every single thing you do – Gam zu
In your reflection
Gam zu,
He really wants the best for you – Gam zu
One day He'll make it all come true – וְיָבִיט
In your reflection

Gam zu,
Heaven's looking out for you – Gam zu
Every single thing you do – Gam zu
In your reflection
Gam zu,
He really wants the best for you – Gam zu
One day He'll make it all come true – יא דא
Gam zu letovah

They say, I think it's gonna snow
They say – cancelling the show
They say – see, I told you so
I say – you never, never know
They say – I think its gonna snow
They say – cancelling the show
They say – see, I told you so



Jerusalem



Tel Aviv



Be'er Sheva



Eilat



Haifa



Tiberias