



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service, for all the hard work that 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 parsha, a song, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the parsha 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 hope you and the children at your service 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 your amazing work.

With best wishes,
Sharon Radley

KEDOSHIM 5779

Parsha Summary:

- This week's parsha contains many mitzvot, a selection of which has been included here:
- We are commanded to revere our parents and to observe Shabbat.
- Offerings need to be eaten within their designated time.
- When harvesting one's field or vineyard, certain produce needs to be left over for paupers to take free of charge.
- One must not steal, lie, cheat or hold back wages overnight.
- One may not place a stumbling block in front of a blind person.
- A judge is not allowed to favour any litigant.
- One must not gossip or seek revenge.
- You shall "love your neighbour as yourself".
- Eating the fruit of a tree during the first three years of its growth is forbidden.
- There is a mitzvah to stand up in the presence of a Torah scholar and an elderly person.
- One must have accurate scales, weights and measures.
- Cursing one's parents is forbidden.
- The punishments for forbidden relationships are detailed.

- Keeping the laws of kashrut will enable us to remain a distinct and distinguished nation.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

- Tip: The information in the parsha summary above can be used as the basis of a quiz. Make sure if you do decide to have a quiz that it's inclusive and fair. Think through carefully before your service to decide if a quiz is a suitable activity for the dynamics of your group.

Activity: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'

These famous words are to be found in the parsha this week. In order to promote friendship in your group, play the following game:

Sit your participants in a circle and ask them to take a good look around for about thirty seconds. Blindfold one child and quietly ask one child to leave the room without mentioning their name aloud. Remove the chair of the child who has gone out the room and close up the circle.

Take the blindfold off the other participant and ask the child who was blindfolded to see if they can work out who is missing. Give the child two or three guesses and then bring in the 'missing' child. See who is able to work it out. Play the game two or three times.

Discuss:

- How can we love our neighbour as we love ourselves?
- What kind of things should we do or not do to another person?
- What do we like and not like being done to us?
- How do you feel when someone is kind to you?

Activity: Guess the Mitzvah!

This week's parsha contains many mitzvot. If you have time before Shabbat print off the list below and cut out the mitzvot. Split your service into pairs or threes and give each group the name of one mitzvah. Give them a few minutes to practise miming it and then bring all the groups together again. Sit them down so that they will all be able to see the mimes being acted. Ask each group to mime their mitzvah to the rest of the children. See if the children are able to guess the mitzvah. It's a good opportunity to explain some of the mitzvot with which they are less familiar. If you don't have time to prepare before Shabbat, then just whisper the name of the mitzvah to each group. Some of the mitzvot may need explaining or be too complex for your participants – choose the most suitable for your group.

List of mitzvot:

RESPECT YOUR PARENTS /GUARDIANS	KEEP SHABBAT
WHEN HARVESTING YOUR FIELD LEAVE SOME CROPS FOR THE POOR	DO NOT STEAL
DO NOT LIE	DO NOT CHEAT
PAY YOUR WORKERS ON TIME	DON'T PLACE A STUMBLING BLOCK IN FRONT OF A BLIND PERSON
DO NOT GOSSIP	DON'T TAKE REVENGE
KEEP KASHRUT	BE A GOOD JUDGE

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF	DON'T EAT THE FRUIT OF A NEW TREE ITS FIRST THREE YEARS
STAND UP WHEN AN ELDERLY PERSON ENTERS THE ROOM	HAVE ACCURATE WEIGHTS, SCALES AND MEASURES IN BUSINESS

PS: A little more detail about the mitzvah of leaving your crops for the poor:

Firstly, every farmer has to put aside a corner of his field for poor people. This Mitzvah is called *PAY-YA*. How much of the field? Well, the average is one fiftieth of the field. If you're more generous, 1/40 and if you're feeling on the cheap side but you still want to fulfil the Mitzvah, 1/60th will do.

Now, let's say you've got a worker collecting stalks of grain and he drops one or two. You're not allowed to pick them up. God wants you to leave them for poor people. This Mitzvah is called *LEKET*.

The third part of the Mitzvah is that once the stalks have been bundled up, if one bundle is accidentally left in the field it goes to the poor. This is called *SHIK-CHA*.

These three Mitzvot apply to grains, olives and grapes, but not greens or vegetables.

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.
- Tip: The information in the parsha summary above can be used as the basis of a quiz. Make sure if you do decide to have a quiz that it's inclusive and fair. Think through carefully before your service to decide if a quiz is a suitable activity for the dynamics of your group.

Activity: Do not place a stumbling block

One child stands in the middle of the circle blindfolded. The other children pass something noisy such as a bunch of keys around the circle. When the child in the middle thinks they know where the keys are they shout 'stop!' and point in that direction. If they are correct they win that round and a new child is chosen to be blindfolded. If they are incorrect another round is played.

Discussion points:

- How did the person who was blindfolded feel?
- Did the children holding the keys try to deceive the blindfolded child?
- The parsha this week tells us not to 'put a stumbling block before a blind person'. What do they think this means? (Explain literal meaning.)
- What else do they think it could mean? Take suggestions.

Explain

Rashi, a famous rabbi who understood the Torah very well and wrote about it, explains that this commandment also means that

we should look after people and we shouldn't deceive, trick them or give them wrong advice. An example of this could be if Fred asks you what time the bus is coming. You know that it's arriving at two but you tell Fred it's at three. Guess what? You've just 'tripped a blind man'.

Ask the children if now that they have heard the explanation of Rashi, they can suggest any more examples of not putting a stumbling block in front of a blind person.