



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 raging flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)



## Ki Tavo 5779

### Parasha Summary:

This week's Parasha (Torah portion) begins with Moshe (Moses) continuing to tell the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) about the laws they would need to keep when they had settled in the Land of Israel. Moshe (Moses) told them about the Bikkurim, the first fruits of the seven Minim (special foods for which Israel is praised).

Moshe (Moses) then reminded the people about the Ma'aser (tenth of the crop) which was to be given to the poor.

Moshe (Moses) and the Elders continued to tell the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) about other ceremonies they would need to observe (see below for more details) once they had crossed the River Jordan into the Land.

The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were once again reminded of the consequences of their behaviour, be it good or bad. They were reminded about the protection God had given them during their 40 years travelling in the wilderness and were told not to forget God's kindness.

- At the beginning of the Parasha (Torah portion) Moshe (Moses) tells the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) about the ceremonies to be performed in the Promised Land involving the Bikkurim (the first fruits of the 7 species, which include, Wheat, Barley, Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives, Dates).
- The first fruits were to be brought to the Kohen (Priest) in the Beit Mikdash (The Holy Temple) in Jerusalem and as he handed them over to the Kohen (Priest), the donor recited a prayer of thanksgiving, recalling how God had delivered the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) from slavery in Egypt and brought the new generation to a Land flowing with milk and honey.
- The Ma'aser (tenth of the crop) of each third year of the 7 year cycle was to be set aside for the poor, after which the donor

would say a special prayer, declaring that he had obeyed the commandment to set aside a tenth of the produce for the poor, for the Levite, for orphans and widows.

- Moshe (Moses) and the Elders told the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that they were to set up large stones on Mount Eival in the Land of Israel and clearly inscribe on to them all the words of the Torah law.
- Then, they were to build a Mizbeach (Alter) made of stones and offer burnt-offerings and peace-offerings on it.
- In addition to this, 6 tribes were to stand on Mount Gerizim, representing the blessings, while the remaining 6 tribes were to stand on Mount Eival, signifying the curses. The Levites were to stand in the valley between the 2 mountains and they pronounced curses on those who committed sins and blessings upon those who did not sin.
- These specific sins included;
  1. Idolatry
  2. Dishonouring one's parents
  3. Removing a neighbour's boundary line
  4. Misleading the blind
  5. Acting Unjustly towards the Ger (Convert), orphan and widow
  6. Behaving in an immoral fashion
  7. Murdering someone in secret
  8. Taking a bribe to give false testimony
  9. Failing to observe the commandments in general
- As each of the blessings and curses were pronounced by the Levites, the other 12 tribes responded 'Amen'.
- Moshe (Moses) felt it was his duty to emphasise to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) the numerous blessings they would receive if they followed in the ways of God. Their crops and livestock would be healthy. But Moshe (Moses) also stressed the importance of not disobeying God's word, as this would ultimately bring about disaster.
- Moshe (Moses) then began his final discourse to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel), telling them that God would always protect them, as He had done when delivering them from Egypt.



### Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

We learn in this week's Parasha (Torah portion) that the farmer brought his first fruit to the Beit Mikdash (The Holy Temple) and gave his basket of first fruit to the Kohen (Priest). When he did so, he said the words, 'V'ata Hinei Heveiti' 'And now behold I have brought'. Our sages teach us that the words 'And now' means 'right away, with enthusiasm'. The word 'behold' signifies happiness and the words 'I have brought' indicates that one gives of himself. The farmer is declaring his willingness to perform God's laws quickly, eagerly and selflessly. This is the way we should all approach the fulfilment of God's commandments.

The activities which follow will be focussed on these themes.

#### **Activity – 'Enthusiasm'**

The children should be sitting in a circle. Ask the children, 'Who likes going on holiday in the summer?' Explain to the children that you will only be convinced that they really like going on holiday, if they say 'I love going on holiday in the summer' with great enthusiasm and with great drama. If you feel there are children who have a quieter character, it might be an idea to pair these children with more vocal children and then ask the pair the question. Go around the circle, asking the children the same question. If they answer with enthusiasm, tell them to stand up! Tell them that if you are not sure they really like going on holiday, they'll have to answer the question with more enthusiasm!

Other questions to ask are;

1. Do you like ice-cream? 'Yes, I love ice-cream'
2. Do you like to get presents on your birthday? 'Yes, I simply love getting presents on my birthday'
3. Do you like going to birthday parties? 'I absolutely love going to parties'
4. Do you like to go on outings with the family? 'Outings with the family are just so brilliant'

Explain to the children, that when the farmer brought his first fruits to the Kohen (Priest), they gave it to him with great enthusiasm, just like the answers they have just given.

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



As Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year) was fast approaching, the Little Red Rabbi said to himself, 'it will soon be Rosh Hashana, then shortly after that it will be Yom Kippur and then only five days later we will be celebrating the festival of Sukkot!'

As he said the word 'Sukkot' he suddenly remembered that he would need to build his Sukkah. So, he went out to the back garden and looked in the shed. The poles for the sukkah were all there where he had left them last year and all the decorations were also lying there, waiting to be used once again this year. I

know, he thought to himself, I'll ask my three good friends, Michael, Michaela and Morris if they will come around and help me put up the Sukkah.

So the Little Red Rabbi called his good friend Michael. 'Hi Michael, are you able to come around to my house and help me build my Sukkah?' asked the Little Red Rabbi. 'Of course I can come. I would love to help you build your Sukkah.' Said Michael.

Then the Little Red Rabbi phoned Michaela. 'Hi Michaela, are you able to come around to my house and help me build my Sukkah?' asked the Little Red Rabbi. 'Of course I can come. I would love to help you build your Sukkah.' Said Michaela.

Finally, the Little Red Rabbi phoned Morris. 'Hi Morris, are you able to come around to my house and help me build my Sukkah?' asked the Little Red Rabbi. 'Of course I can come. I would love to help you build your Sukkah.' Said Morris.

The Little Red Rabbi was so happy that his friends had agreed to help him build his Sukkah and about an hour later there was a knock at the door. The Little Red Rabbi opened the door and standing on the doorstep were his three friends, Michael, Michaela and Morris and they all had a great big smile on their face.

The 4 friends got to work straight away and absolutely loved building the Sukkah. They put up the poles with such enthusiasm, they excitedly covered the poles with canvas and they eagerly put up the decorations. When the Sukkah was complete, the four friends were so happy.

'I'm so grateful that you were able to help me put up my Sukkah. Don't forget to come over on Sukkot and sit in my Sukkah', said the Little Red Rabbi. Michael, Michaela and Morris looked at each other and said in a big loud voice, 'of course we'll come around. We'd love to sit in your fabulous Sukkah' and they walked back home smiling, laughing and joking and feeling very happy indeed.

You see children, not only did the Little Red Rabbi's three friends help him to build the Sukkah, they helped him with such enthusiasm and excitement, just like the farmers in our Parasha gave the Kohen (Priest) the first fruit with such excitement and enthusiasm!

## Children's Service: Years 3- 6

### **Activity: What makes you happy?**

Use a picture of a smiley face (there is one at the end of the Spark) to pass around the circle. As each child receives and holds the smiley face, they should tell the group what makes them laugh the most.

### **Activity - Bippity/Boppity:**

Everyone stands in a circle. One person chosen as "It" approaches one of the circle-members and says either 'Bippity' or 'Boppity'. If 'It' says Bippity, then the circle member must respond with Boppity. If 'It' says Boppity, the circle member says Bippity. The child who is 'It' may repeatedly say both words to anyone any number of times. i.e. you can go up to someone and say "bippity bippity boppity bippity" and the circle member must make the proper response (ie 'boppity boppity bippity boppity), then move on to someone else. When a circle member says the wrong response they become 'It'. The children should like this game and it should promote lots of laughter, which is connected to the idea that the farmer gave the Kohen (Priest) the first fruit with joy and happiness.

### **A Story to Discuss**

Many years ago in a village far away, there lived a young man who had been living in this same village all his life. He had grown up there and had never gone more than a hundred metres outside the village.



One day he decided that at long last he would like to go and explore the world. So he prepared his suitcase with all the provisions he would need for the long journey and he went to say goodbye to all his friends.

One of his good friends asked him if he had remembered a map so that he wouldn't get lost. 'Don't be silly' said the young man, 'I don't need a map'. 'But what if you get lost?' asked the friend. The young man was so confident that he simply pretended to ignore what seemed like a plausible question.

As the young man left his village, he turned around to wave goodbye to all the well-wishers who had come to see him off safely. He happily sang a song to himself as he walked down the road. The young man had walked and walked, for many miles and for a number of days. Indeed, he used his common sense and followed all the signposts to the places he wanted to visit.

One day, as he came to a crossroads, he looked up at the sign to see in which direction he should go. However, the pole with the 4 signs attached to it was lying on the ground. It had clearly been blown over by the wind. Now the young man was stuck. He had no idea which way to go!

As he sat there sad and dejected, he suddenly had an idea. He ran over to the pole, knowing precisely the name of the town he had just come from, picked it up and stuck it firmly in the ground. At once, the other three directions automatically fell into place. As the young man had known from where he had come, he now knew where he was heading.

The episodes and laws of the Torah are signposts and if we make ourselves knowledgeable about our Jewish history, we will have no problem knowing in which direction to continue.

***If you know where you have come from, you know where you're going***

## Discussion Points



- How did the young man find out the correct direction?
- How does knowing about past events help people prepare for the future?
- Discuss how you think the episode of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) coming out of Egypt helps us to live our lives nowadays?
- Can you give an example of how Jewish history has helped the Jewish people work out the correct direction to go.
- What might make someone lose their way in life?

# Tefillah Treasures



**There are 3 prayer services which are said daily.  
They are called;**

- 1. Shacharit – Morning Prayer**
- 2. Mincha – Afternoon Prayer**

### 3. Maariv – Evening Prayer

Each one of these prayers were established by our Forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Over the next 3 weeks, we will learn about each one, starting with Avraham (Abraham) establishing the morning prayer.

וַיִּשְׁכַּח אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר אֶל־  
הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־עָמַד שָׁם  
אֶת־פְּנֵי הַי

‘And Avraham (Abraham) arose early in the morning to the place where he had stood before God.’ (Bereishit 19:27)



**Avraham (Abraham) got up early in the morning and stood before God. This 'standing' refers to prayer.**



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

### **Yom Zeh Mechubad**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9QvuukOOIQ>

יום זֶה מְכַבֵּד מְכַל יָמִים, כִּי בּוֹ שַׁבַּת צוּר עוֹלָמִים

שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלַאכְתְּךָ  
וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לַאלֹהֶיךָ  
שַׁבַּת לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה בּוֹ מְלָאכָה  
כִּי כֹל עֲשָׂה שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים

יום זה מכבד מכל ימים, כי בו שבת צור

Yom Zeh Mechbad Mikol Yamim, Ki vo shavat tzut  
olamim

Yom Zeh Mechbad Mikol Yamim, Ki vo shavat tzut  
olamim

Sheshet Yamim Ta'aseh M'lachtecha  
V'yom Hash'vi'I Ielohecha  
Shabbat lo Ta'ase bo melacha  
Ki chol asa sheshet yamim

Yom Zeh Mechbad Mikol Yamim, Ki vo shavat tzut  
olamim

Yom Zeh Mechbad Mikol Yamim, Ki vo shavat tzut  
olamim

Crown of days, above all blessed,  
The Rock of Ages chose you for His rest.

Six days are for toil created  
But the seventh God has consecrated.  
Do no labour! Thus He bade us;  
In six days a world He made us.

Crown of days, above all blessed,  
The Rock of Ages chose you for His rest

## Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd0uQx69CA8&list=PL3f6jlhuKP\\_vZn9XR0I1UtPDjH1VTgd5Y&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd0uQx69CA8&list=PL3f6jlhuKP_vZn9XR0I1UtPDjH1VTgd5Y&index=3)

**TORAH TZIVAH LONU MOSHE MOROSHOH KEHILAS YAAKOV**

תּוֹרַה צִוָּה לְנוּ מֹשֶׁה מוֹרְשָׁה קְהֵלֵת יִעֲקֹב

**The Torah that Moshe commanded us is the heritage of the  
congregation of Yaakov." ([Deuteronomy 33:4](#))**

Torah Torah Torah,  
Torah, Torah, Torah  
Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe

Torah Torah Torah,

Torah, Torah, Torah  
Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe

Morasha kehillat Yaacov  
Morasha kehillat Yaacov  
Morasha kehillat Yaacov  
Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe



