



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

Welcome

Ki Tissa – ‘The Parasha in a Nutshell’:



This week, a special portion is read from a second Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll). It is called ‘Parashat Parah’ (The Portion of the Cow – The Red Heifer) and appears in Parashat Chukat (The Torah Portion of Chukat in the 4<sup>th</sup> book of the Torah, Bemidbar)

On the Shabbat following Purim we read “Parashat Parah,” the portion which discusses the Parah

Aduma, the Red Heifer. The Parah Aduma (Red Heifer) was a completely red cow whose ashes were used to spiritually purify someone. For example, someone who came in to contact with a dead person or animal, was required to have themselves sprinkled with the ashes of a Parah Aduma (A Red Heifer), to make them spiritually pure again.

Our Rabbis of old instituted the reading of the Parah Aduma (The Red Heifer) at this time of year so as to remind us that this process of purification was a part of the Pesach (Passover) preparations. Someone who was impure was not only forbidden from entering the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) but was also not allowed to partake of the Korban Pesach (The Paschal Lamb).

Yep!

This week’s Parasha is Ki Tissa which means ‘when you take...’ and refers to the census which was taken of all the male Israelites over the age of twenty who were therefore eligible for military service in Biblical times. Each man made a token payment of half a Shekel of silver to be used for the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

A brass washbasin was to be made and used by Aharon (Aaron) and his sons for washing their hands and feet before they carried out their holy service inside the Sanctuary.

Oil was to be made, with which to anoint the Cohanim and incense was to be made and prepared for use inside the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

Betzalel and Ohaliab were chosen by God, to supervise the Mishkan’s (Tabernacle’s) construction.

Moshe (Moses) had been on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights and fearing he would never return, the Children of Israel wanted to make a visible object which they could worship. They persuaded Aharon (Aaron) to make a molten image of a golden calf out of their jewellery. Seeing this, God’s anger was aroused and he sent Moshe (Moses) down to the people, informing him of what they had done and declaring that He would destroy the Jewish nation. Moshe (Moses) pleaded with God to forgive the people and God did, indeed, give the Jewish people a new lease of life.



When Moses descended to the foot of the mountain, holding the Luchot (Tablets of stone) upon which were written the 10 Commandments, he witnessed the behaviour of the people and threw the Tablets to the ground. Moshe (Moses) then threw the golden calf in to a fire, after which he ground it into a powder and threw it in to a stream. He made the people drink the powdered water and all those who wilfully sinned were punished.

Moshe (Moses) was told that no mortal could see God and live, nevertheless he was allowed a glimpse of the Divine Radiance from behind a cleft in the mountain rock.

Moshe (Moses) ascended the mountain again, carrying 2 new tablets of stone he had been told to prepare. After spending an additional 40 days and 40 nights on the mountain, Moshe (Moses) descended and returned to the camp. Moshe's (Moses') face shone with a divine glow and from that time onwards, he covered his face with a mask, only taking it off when he was speaking to God.

The Parasha - In a Nutshell!

### Parasha Overview – In a Little More Detail

- God commanded Moshe (Moses) to take a census of the Jewish adult male population (those over the age of 20) by collecting half a silver shekel from each individual. The collected silver was used to make the sockets for the beams of the Tabernacle. God then instructed Moshe (Moses) to make a copper washbasin for the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The priests used this washbasin to clean their hands and feet before their service.
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- God told Moshe (Moses) the recipe for making holy anointing oil which was prepared with various herbs and fine spices and was used to anoint and sanctify the Mishkan (Tabernacle), its vessels, and Aharon (Aaron) and his sons.
  - God then gave Moshe (Moses) the ingredients of the Ketoret (incense) which was to be offered twice a day in the Mishkan (Tabernacle). God bestows on to Betzalel, the wisdom with which to oversee the building of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and all its fine details. He also appointed Ohaliab to help him with this important project.
  - God told the Jewish people to observe the Shabbat, as an everlasting sign between Him and the Jewish people.
  - After God had revealed Himself at Mount Sinai, Moshe (Moses) went back up to the top of the mountain for forty days and nights. Whilst at the top of the mountain, he studied the Torah and received the Luchot (Tablets of stone). However, the Jewish people miscalculated Moshe's (Moses') return date, and when he did not return on the day they had thought he would come back to them, they became impatient and demanded that Aharon (Aaron) make them a golden calf.
  - Aharon (Aaron) went along with the people's request, but intended to delay things, thus buying time until Moshe's (Moses') return. Despite Aharon's (Aaron's) intentions, a Golden Calf was formed.
  - Moshe (Moses) begged God to forgive the Jewish people for what they had done and indeed, God accepted Moshe's (Moses') pleas and did not carry through His plan to destroy the Jewish people.



- Then, Moshe (Moses) descended the mountain, holding the Luchot (Tablets of stone) and witnessed for himself the people dancing around the golden calf, at which point he broke the Luchot (Tablets of stone). Moshe (Moses) asked the Tribe of Levi to mete out the consequences to those who had worshipped the idol and three thousand idol worshippers were punished on that day.
- Moshe (Moses) once again, ascended the mountain, to ask for complete forgiveness on behalf of the Jewish people. God told Moshe (Moses) to lead the Jewish people towards the Promised Land, but told him that an angel would lead them, rather than God Himself.
- Moshe (Moses) pleaded with God to reconsider the matter of the angel leading them instead of God Himself and God agreed to leading them Himself once again.
- Moshe (Moses) asked to be shown God's glory, but God told Moshe (Moses) that he would only be able to see the back of Him and not His face.
- God told Moshe (Moses) to carve new tablets upon which He would engrave the Ten Commandments. Moshe (Moses) took the new tablets up Mount Sinai, where God revealed His glory to Moshe (Moses).
- God then made a covenant with Moshe (Moses), assuring him again that His presence would dwell with the Jewish people. He instructed them to destroy all idolatry in the land of Canaan and then commanded them not to make false gods and to celebrate Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost) and Sukkot (Tabernacles). He also commanded them not to eat Chametz (Leaven) on Passover, to set aside as holy, male firstborn humans and cattle, and not to cook meat and milk together.
- Moshe (Moses) came down Mount Sinai with the second set of Luchot (Tablets of Stone) and a radiant face. From that time onwards, Moshe wore a mask, but removed it when speaking to God.

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

#### 'Help Me Across the Swamp'

Explain to the children that at the beginning of this week's Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) the people are told to contribute a half Shekel to the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Why were the people asked to give



half a Shekel? Why not a whole Shekel? One reason for this, is to teach us that we achieve more when we work as part of a team and 2 people had to donate their half a Shekel, to make a whole! This game encourages the children to work as a team.

For this activity, you will need 2 blindfolds, large sheets of paper for obstacles and a start and finish line. Divide the children in to 2 teams and choose a team leader for each team.

The team leaders should stand at the finish line, while the rest of the team line up at the start.

Then place the sheets of paper on the floor between the start and finish line and tell the children that the sheets of paper are crocodiles and the floor area is a swamp.

The team leader, standing at the 'finish line' must guide their teams, one at a time through the swamp. If a player touches a 'crocodile' they must go to the back of their team and await their second try.

The first team who all cross the finish line wins.

Story for Younger Children – ‘Even Aliens Can Work Together’



One night, a hedgehog was scanning the sky with his telescope, when he saw what seemed to be a spaceship flying to the moon. When he managed to properly focus on it, he found out that it was a spaceship belonging to an unfortunate Alien who seemed to have had an accident and had to make an emergency landing on the moon.

The hedgehog realised that surely only he himself had seen this, so he decided to try to save the Alien. He called together a few animals to help. They couldn't think what to do, so they called for more and more animals to join in. In the end, practically everyone in the forest was involved. It occurred to them that if they stood on top of each other, they could build a big tower and perhaps reach the moon!

That proved somewhat difficult, and most animals ended up having a finger in their eye, someone's foot in their ear, and numerous bumps on the head.

However, after trying and trying, they finally reached the moon and rescued the Alien. Most unfortunately, while he was coming down the tower of animals, the bear couldn't help sneezing. He happened to be allergic to moon dust!

The whole tower crashed to Earth with a big noise and howls, roars, and other animal cries. Seeing all this, the Alien thought that the animals would be very angry with him and they would blame it all on him.

But it was just the opposite. As they recovered from the fall, the animals jumped and clapped with joy, happy to have achieved something so difficult together. The whole day was spent partying.



The Alien observed everything and when he returned to his planet in outer space, the other Aliens were astonished at what had happened. And so it was that those simple and helpful animals taught the Aliens from outer space the importance of working together, joyfully, in a team. Since then, Aliens no longer travel alone during their journeys through space. Now they go in groups, always willing to help each other whenever necessary.

1. How did the animals work together to help the Alien?
2. Do you think the hedgehog could have saved the Alien by himself?
3. What did the animals teach the Alien?
4. What did the Aliens always do from then on?

# Story Time

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

**Activity – We Can Grab it First!** – Once again, explain to the children that the command to donate half a Shekel to the Mishkan (Tabernacle) showed each person that they could not achieve as much as an individual, as they could working as a team. The following game will require teamwork and very good listening skills!

To begin with, you will need some household items such as toys, books, shoes, etc. Divide the children into 2 teams and ask them to stand in a row facing each other and standing face-to-face. Create a gap between their two lines and place a household object anywhere in the gap. Assign numbers to each member of the two groups in a sequence that corresponds to their counterpart group member (that is, the number 1 player on one team is correlated to the number 1 player on the other team). Call out a random number and whichever member (with the assigned number) manages to grab the object the fastest, wins. You could even use tennis balls or something very simple, but the team with the most objects wins.





### Quiz Time – ‘Which number shall I hold up’?

Here is a quiz for all ages, but instead of asking individual children a question, all the children can take part at the same time. There are numbers at the end of the Spark, as answers to each question and the children can answer by holding up the correct number.

1. How many Luchot (Tablets of Stone) did Moshe (Moses) bring down Mount Sinai? (2)
2. How many Mitzvot (Commandments) were written on each Tablet? (5)
3. How many Mitzvot are there altogether in the Torah? (613)
4. How old did a man have to be to enter the army in the days of the Bible? (20)
5. How many half shekel coins were given as a donation by each person? (1)
6. How many whole Shekels would there be if 12 people each gave half a shekel each? (6)
7. How many times did Moshe (Moses) go up Mount Sinai? (3)
8. How many Regalim (Foot Festivals) do we celebrate each year? (3)
9. How many days and nights did Moshe (Moses) spend on top of Mount Sinai? (40)
10. How many Sifrei Torah (Torah Scrolls) do we read from, this Shabbat? (2)



## What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week

In this week's Tribe Scribe, you'll find another great lesson that we can learn from the Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) of Ki Tissa.

### 'Whole in One'

Give the children copies of the Tribe Scribe and read the story with the children, pointing out the captions and the illustrations.

In this week's Tribe Scribe Dan and Dina tell us about the 613 Mitzvot (Commandments) in the Torah. Dan reminds us that as individuals 'we can't do it all. But when we combine our roles and our talents, and come together as a community, we can do ALL 613 Mitzvot.'

Dina reminds us that, 'it's only when we come together as a community that we are truly whole.'

1. How many Mitzvot are there in the Torah?
2. Is it possible for a person to perform every Mitzvah (Commandment)?
3. So, why have so many?
4. We are told in this week's Scribe that some Mitzvot (Commandments) are only for women. Can you think of one?
5. We are told in this week's Scribe that some Mitzvot (Commandments) are only for men. Can you think of one?
6. How does the Half Shekel donated by an individual, show us the importance of working together? Why didn't each individual just give a whole Shekel?
7. Can you give an example of a time when you have worked together as a team, a group or a pair to achieve something? Do you think that you were able to achieve more?

What do Dan and Dina Teach  
us this Week?



# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

KI TISSA: WHOLE IN ONE!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE 613 MITZVOT? ARE YOU THINKING, 'THAT'S LOADS, TOO MUCH, I DEFINITELY CAN'T DO ALL THAT.'



YOU'D BE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! YOU CAN'T DO ALL 613 MITZVOT BECAUSE NO SINGLE PERSON CAN. GOD GAVE EACH OF US DIFFERENT ROLES.

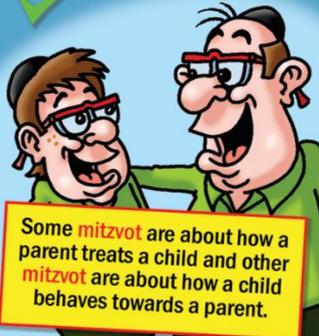


SOME MITZVOT ARE FOR EVERYONE AND OTHERS DEPEND ON WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU DO.

There are some mitzvot that are only for women... and other mitzvot that are only for men.



Some mitzvot are about how a parent treats a child and other mitzvot are about how a child behaves towards a parent.



There are mitzvot for pupils and mitzvot for teachers.



There are mitzvot for soldiers for and mitzvot for civilians.

YOU'VE GOT MY HEAD ON UPSIDE DOWN!



AS INDIVIDUALS, WE CAN'T DO IT ALL. BUT WHEN WE COMBINE OUR ROLES AND OUR TALENTS, AND COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY, WE CAN DO ALL 613 MITZVOT.



IN THIS WEEK'S PARASHA EVERY PERSON HAD TO BRING HALF A SHEKEL AS PART OF THE CENSUS. HALF A SHEKEL, NOT A WHOLE SHEKEL, BECAUSE IT'S ONLY WHEN WE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE TRULY WHOLE.

Page Editor: Rabbi Nicky Goldmeier Writer: Shira Chaik Cartoonist: Paul Solomonis

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**tribe**  
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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.

What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week?



### What does this Story Teach us?

In this week's Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) we learn about the importance of unity, through the donation of the half (as opposed to a whole) shekel. The following story will highlight the need to always maintain the unity between our fellow human beings.

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious argument in the past 40 years of farming side by side. They had been sharing machinery, trading a labour and goods as needed without a hitch. They had worked together as a single unit and achieved so much. Then the long partnership fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference which exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on the elder brother's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I am looking for a few days of work", he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes!" said the elder brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbour, in fact, it's my younger brother and we don't get along. Last week he dug a wider passage for water into his farm. But he ended up creating a very wide creek in between our farms and I am sure he did it just to annoy me. I want you to build me something so that we don't have to stand and see each other's face from across the creek."

The carpenter said "I think I understand the situation. I will be able to do a job that will please you." The elder brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he went out for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing and nailing.

At sunset when the elder brother returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The elder brother's eyes opened wide and his jaw dropped. It was not what he had even thought of or imagined. It was a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, beautiful handrails. And to his surprise, his younger brother across the creek was coming to meet him with a big smile and arms wide open to hug him.

"You are really kind and humble my brother! After all I had done and said to you, you have shown me that we need to always be united and work together as a team! I am truly sorry for my behaviour", the younger brother said as he hugged his elder brother. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I have a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

What does this Story Teach Me?



**“I’d love to stay on”, the carpenter said, “but, I have many more bridges to build!”**

- 1. What did the brothers have between their 2 farms?**
- 2. Why was the elder brother upset with his younger brother?**
- 3. What did the elder brother ask the carpenter to do?**
- 4. What did the carpenter actually do?**
- 5. Do you think he did this on purpose, to bring the brothers back together again?**
- 6. What is the connection between this story and the half shekel in our Parasha (Torah Portion)**

**What does this Story Teach Me?**

Song – The link has been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children this song.

Ki Tissa Song

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/549322/jewish/Ki-Tisa.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/549322/jewish/Ki-Tisa.htm)

The Jews were waiting they counted the days wrong  
It seemed as if Moshe (Moses) was away so long  
"Where is Moshe (Moses)? We all want to know"  
B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) cried to Aharon (Aaron) so  
  
Aharon (Aaron) told the Jews, he wanted them to wait  
He knew that Moshe (Moses) was not late,  
He asked them all to bring jewellery of gold  
They quickly did all that they were told  
  
Aharon (Aaron) threw all the gold and jewellery into the flame  
Then an egel (Golden Calf) it became  
Moshe (Moses) was angry at the Jews when he came down  
He threw the luchot (Tablets of Stone) onto the ground  
  
Moshe (Moses) begged God, Bnei Yisrael (Children of Israel) to forgive  
Those that did teshuva (asking for forgiveness), should live





