



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

# Korach – 2019/5779

## Parasha Summary:

At the start of this week's Torah portion, we are told how a group of Levi'im (Levites) led by a man named Korach and a group of men from the tribe of Reuven (Reuben) led by Datan, Aviram and On tried to start a rebellion against the leadership of Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron).



Moshe warned the people to stay away from Korach and his rebellion and he announced how God was the One who chooses leaders. No sooner had Moshe (Moses) finished telling the people about the nature of a true leader in Israel, when the ground swallowed Korach and his 250 followers. Those who were not swallowed by the ground started to complain to Moshe (Moses) once again and they too were struck with a plague which only stopped when Aharon (Aaron) walked amongst the people with a pan of incense. God then commanded the Nassi (Prince) of each tribe to bring a rod with his name on, in to the Ohel Moed (the tent of meeting).

All the rods, together with the rod from the tribe of Levi which had Aharon's (Aaron's) name on it were placed before the Aron Hakodesh (The Holy Ark). In the morning, Aharon's (Aaron's) rod was the only one to have miraculously sprouted buds, blossoms and almonds. Thus showing indisputable proof that Aharon (Aaron) had indeed been chosen by God, to be the Kohen Gadol (High Priest).

The Parasha (weekly Torah portion) concludes by listing the taxes and contributions which would be made to the tribe of Levi (both the Kohanim – Priests - and the Levites came from the tribe of Levi) as they would not receive a portion of land when it was divided amongst the other tribes upon the conquest of Cana'an.

- A group of Levi'im (Levites led by Korach) started rebelling against Moshe. They believed that Moshe should have chosen Korach to be the Nassi (Prince) over the tribe of Levi, instead of Elizaphan his cousin.
- Korach believed he should be the Nassi (Prince) over the tribe of Levi because his father, Yitzhar, was older than Elizaphan's father, Uzziel.
- Three men by the names of Datan, Aviram and On led their own rebellion against Moshe, claiming that because Reuven (Reuben) was

the oldest of the twelve brothers, the leadership of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) should have gone to their tribe.

- Moshe (Moses) told Korach and his 250 followers to appear before him the next day. When Korach and his followers came in front of Moshe (Moses) he told them that if they die unnatural deaths it would be a sign from God that He alone chooses leaders of Israel.
- Indeed, Korach and his followers and all their possessions were 'swallowed' by the ground on which they stood.
- Other people started to complain to Moshe (Moses), saying that the punishment meted out to Korach and his followers was unfair. A plague took the lives of an additional 14,700 people because they too had complained and it was only when Aharon (Aaron) walked through the camp of B'nei Yisrael with a frying pan of sweet smelling spices (Children of Israel) that the plague stopped.
- Then God told the Nassi (Prince) of each tribe to place his staff with his name on, in front of the Ohel Moed (Tent of Meeting) in the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The following morning, only the staff of Aharon (Aaron) had blossoms, buds and Almonds growing on it. This was proof that Aharon (Aaron) was the chosen Kohen Gadol (High Priest).
- God told Aharon (Aaron) to leave his staff in front of the Aron Hakodesh (Holy Ark) as a warning to future generations, to never challenge the right of Aharon's (Aaron's) lineage to the Kehunah (Priesthood).
- When the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) would enter and conquer the land of Canaan, it would be divided between the tribes. However, the tribe of Levi would not get a portion of land. Instead, God listed set contributions given to them by the people which would support them.
- Whilst given no land to use for farming, the tribe of Levi was apportioned 48 cities.



**In this week's Parsha (Torah portion), when Moshe's (Moses') and Aharon's (Aaron's) leadership was challenged, the Torah tells us that Moshe (Moses) didn't send messengers to call Datan and Aviram about the rebellion they had started, but that he actually went himself to search for them and try to placate them with words of peace. Moshe (Moses) put his position of importance as leader of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) to one side, in order to achieve peace. The following games focus the children on different aspects of promoting peace.**

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

### **Game – Compliment Relay**

Tell children that they are going to play a game in which they will be sharing compliments. If needed, explain what a compliment is or give some examples: "I like the way you \_\_\_\_\_," "Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_," or "You're really good at \_\_\_\_\_." Begin the game with players sitting in a circle.

This game enables children to practice verbal communication to share compliments with each other.

The object of the game is to pass compliments around the circle. One person will give a compliment to the person sitting next to them, who will say, "Thank you," and pass another compliment on to the next person, and so on. Model a good compliment by starting the relay around the circle.

Once the relay has gone around the circle once, play a second round by saying, "I'm going to count to 10 and everyone needs to find a new seat in the circle." (you may have to help children find a seat – it isn't a race!) Challenge the group by telling them that everyone must say something different.



## The Little Red Rabbi

One hot summer's day the Little Red Rabbi decided to invite his friends Michael, Michaela and Morris to a barbecue in his back garden.

So, the Little Red Rabbi went over to Michael's house and knocked on the door. Michael opened the door and invited the Little Red Rabbi inside. 'How are you Rabbi?' said Michael. 'Baruch Hashem (Thank God) I am well and how are you Michael?' said the Little Red Rabbi. 'Oh, very well Baruch Hashem (Thank God)', Michael replied. The Little Red Rabbi then asked Michael if he would like to come to his house for a barbecue on Sunday.

Michael said that he would love to come but...and he was suddenly silent! 'What's the matter' asked the Little Red Rabbi. 'I'm afraid I have some bad news about Michaela and Morris.' 'What is it?' asked the Little Red Rabbi. 'Well', said Michael, 'they just aren't talking to each other at the moment. They seem to have had an argument.'

The Little Red Rabbi thought for a moment, 'Hmmm', he said stroking his beard. 'Michael, will you help me make some invitations to give to Michaela and Morris inviting them to the barbecue?'

Now usually, the Little Red Rabbi's friends didn't want to help very much, but on this occasion Michael immediately and very loudly said 'YES – OF COURSE I WILL.' For the sake of peace Michael was prepared to do anything and to have Michaela and Morris at the party together, it would mean that they might talk and make up.

The very next day, Michael delivered the invitations and a few days later they all met in the Little Red Rabbi's back garden. It was amazing children, because both Michaela and Morris were talking to each other. 'I'm really sorry' said Michaela. 'I'm also really sorry' said Morris and at the very same time they both said, 'it's

so nice that we are friends again'. The Little Red Rabbi and Michael looked at each other with a great big smile on their faces. Michael was so very happy that he had helped the Little Red Rabbi deliver the invitations to Michaela and Morris. For the sake of Shalom-Peace he would have done anything.

## Children's Service: Years 3- 6

### **Game – We can Work Together – A game to encourage careful working in partnership.**



Place the children into pairs. Explain that they will play two rounds. In each round, one child will be the leader and one child will be the follower. Have pairs choose the leader for the first round. Explain that the leader will have 60 seconds, during which they should move slowly and deliberately, during which time their partner must mimic the movements, as if they are a mirror image. Players may make faces, wave their arms or legs, turn side to side, stand on one foot, re-tie a shoe, or anything they can imagine (within reason). It should be a silent activity, and leaders should move slowly and smoothly enough so that their “mirror images” can follow along in sync. After 60 seconds, the children should switch roles.

### **The Importance of Peace in our Tefillot (Prayers)**

The Amidah which we say during the week has 19 blessings and the very last one is about peace, when we ask God to make the world a peaceful place by sending blessings and goodness. It seems a bit strange at first, as to why we wait until the very end of the Amidah to ask for peace.



Of all the goodness a person can do in the world, God loves peace the most. If people are kind and caring God loves this behaviour. So, we wait until the very end of the Amidah and only then ask for peace because out of all the things we have asked for in the Amidah (forgiveness, health, a good year, wisdom and understanding etc) God will surely accept our prayers if, at the end of the day, He

sees us getting along together in peace and harmony.

## Discussion Points

Having read the Tribe Scribe to the children and having discussed its message about everyone having an important part to play in the world, discuss the following points;



- Why do you think Korach chose this moment to complain about the leadership?
- What is the main difference between the way leaders are chosen in our society and the way Moshe and Aharon were chosen to be leaders?
- Why do you think that difference exists?
- What qualities would you look for in leader of a country and what qualities would you look for in a leader of the Jewish people?
- What qualities do you have which you think could make a difference to the world and the people around you?

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

### Sim Shalom – sung by Dedi

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iccJbWL\\_JYI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iccJbWL_JYI)

שִׁים שְׁלוֹם טוֹבָה וּבְרָכָה  
חַן וְחֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים עָלֵינוּ. וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמֶּךָ:  
בְּרַכְנוּ, אָבִינוּ, כָּלֵנוּ. כְּאֶחָד בְּאוֹר פְּנִיךָ  
כִּי בְאוֹר פְּנִיךָ נִתְּתָ לָנוּ. ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ.  
תּוֹרַת חַיִּים וְאַהֲבַת חֶסֶד וְצִדְקָה וּבְרָכָה וְרַחֲמִים וְחַיִּים וְשְׁלוֹם:  
טוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמֶּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל יְעַת וּבְכָל שָׁעָה בְּשִׁלוֹמְךָ:  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' הַמְּבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשְׁלוֹם:

Sim shalom tovah u-ve-raħa  
Hen vachesed ve-raħamim aleinu ve-al kol Yisrael  
amekha  
Barkheinu Avinu kulanu ke-eħad be-or panekha  
Ki ve-or panekha natata lanu, Adonai Eloheinu  
Torat ħayim ve-ahavat ħesed, u-tzedaka u-ve-raħa ve-  
raħamim ve-ħayim ve-shalom  
Ve-tov be-einekha le-varekh et amkha Yisrael be-khol et  
u-ve-khol sha'ah bi-shlomekha  
Baruch atta Adonai, ha-mevarekh et amo Yisrael ba-sha-  
lom.

### **Shalom Chaveirim**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImAlzsLUq5g>

Shalom, chaverim,  
Shalom, chaverim,  
Shalom, shalom;  
L'hitra'ot,  
L'hitra'ot,  
Shalom, shalom.  
Shalom, o my friends,  
Shalom, o my friends,  
Shalom, shalom;  
Till we meet again,  
Till we meet again,  
Shalom, shalom.