



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



We are also celebrating the 6th day of Chanukah this Shabbat. We usually take out 1 Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) from the Ark, but this Shabbat we will be taking 3 Sifrei Torah (Torah Scrolls) out of the Ark.

From the first Sefer Torah (Torah scroll) we will read the Parasha (Torah portion) of Mikeitz which is from the first book of the Torah (Bereishit-Genesis). From the second Sefer Torah (Torah scroll) we will be reading about the offerings offered on Rosh Chodesh (new month) in Temple times which is from the book of Bemidbar (Numbers). From the third Sefer Torah we will be reading the special portion read on the 6th day of Chanukah, also from the book of Bemidbar (Numbers).

Parashat Mikeitz means 'At the end of...' and refers to the period of 2 years to the day since the release of the chief butler from prison.

Pharaoh had 2 unusual dreams which disturbed him greatly and none of his advisors could ease his worry with their interpretations. It was at this point that the chief butler remembered Yoseph's (Joseph's) skill in interpreting dreams and told Pharaoh about him.

Pharaoh immediately summoned Yoseph (Joseph) and explained to him what he had dreamt. Yoseph (Joseph) listened to the dreams and then interpreted them.

Essentially (the dreams of Pharaoh will be elaborated on below), Yoseph (Joseph) interpreted the dreams to mean that Egypt would have 7 years of economic prosperity, followed by 7 years of severe economic depression, resulting in a famine.

Yoseph (Joseph) advised Pharaoh to appoint a wise person to administer the land of Egypt during these years and particularly for managing the first 7 years. Pharaoh immediately chose Yoseph (Joseph) and at the age of 30 he became Egypt's royal viceroy.

Yoseph (Joseph) married Osnat and they had 2 children, Menashe and Ephraim. Yoseph (Joseph) began to store the food which was in abundance, in preparation for the following 7 years of famine.

As the 7 years of famine began, people came from far and wide to purchase food, as the famine hit the whole area. Indeed, Yaakov (Jacob) and his sons also experienced the famine in Canaan and Yaakov (Jacob) sent his sons to buy food from Egypt.





When Yoseph (Joseph) saw his brothers he immediately recognised them, but they did not recognise him.

Yoseph (Joseph) accused the brothers of being spies and put them all in prison, after which he told the brothers to bring back their youngest brother and he would keep Shimon (Simeon) hostage in Egypt until they arrived back with their brother.

After much persuasion, Yaakov (Jacob) agreed to send Binyamin (Benjamin) with the brothers after Yehudah (Judah) assured his father that he would take responsibility for Binyamin (Benjamin).

The brothers arrived back in Egypt and went to Yoseph (Joseph), with whom they dined. Yoseph (Joseph) ordered his servants to place his silver cup in Binyamin's (Benjamin's) sack, after which the brothers set off for home. As they set off for Canaan, Yoseph's (Joseph's) steward came running after them, accusing them of taking the royal cup. Eventually it was found in Binyamin's (Benjamin's) sack and despite the brothers' protests, Yoseph (Joseph) said he would only detain Binyamin (Benjamin) and the other brothers were free to go back to their father.

The Parasha - In a Nutshell!

Parasha Overview – In a Little More Detail

- Two years after the chief butler was freed from prison, Pharaoh had two unusual dreams. In one dream he saw seven lean cows eating seven well-fed cows but remaining lean. In the second dream he saw seven thin ears of grain swallowing seven full ears of grain yet remaining thin.
- Pharaoh was disturbed by these dreams and was not put at ease by any of the explanations offered by his advisors. It was at that point that the chief butler recalled Yoseph (Joseph) and how he had correctly interpreted his dream.
- Yoseph (Joseph) was summoned and Pharaoh told him that no one had been able to interpret his dreams, but he had heard that Yoseph (Joseph) had the amazing ability to interpret dreams.
- After making sure that Pharaoh understood that it was not his wisdom that interprets dreams, but it is God who interprets dreams, Yoseph (Joseph) proceeded to listen to Pharaoh's recounting of his dreams and to interpret them.
- He explained to Pharaoh that the dreams had the same meaning; what God was about to do. The seven well-fed cows and the seven full ears of grain represented seven years of prosperity for Egypt. The seven lean cows and the seven thin ears of grain represented severe economic depression, resulting in a famine, following the seven years of plenty. Yoseph (Joseph) continued by explaining that the duplication of the dream meant that the beginning of the seven years was imminent.
- Yoseph (Joseph) advised Pharaoh to appoint a wise person who could oversee the food stores collected during the first set of seven years. Pharaoh appointed Yoseph (Joseph) as viceroy of Egypt and made him in charge of the store houses.
- Pharaoh officially installed Yoseph (Joseph). He placed his own royal signet ring on Yoseph's (Joseph's) finger, dressed him in garments of fine linen, placed a gold necklace on his neck and placed him on the viceroy's chariot. Pharaoh then gave Osnat as a wife for Yoseph (Joseph) and she later gave birth to two sons, Menashe and Ephraim.
- Yoseph (Joseph) started to store food in the cities during the seven years of plenty and amassed so much food that records of amounts became meaningless and were no longer kept.
- Now came the years of famine as Yoseph (Joseph) had predicted and he opened all the storehouses. People came from neighbouring lands to purchase food.
- Back in Canaan the famine was severe and this compelled Yaakov (Jacob) to send his sons to Egypt to buy food, but he kept the youngest son Binyamin (Benjamin) at home, in case anything should happen to him on the way.

- Whilst Yoseph (Joseph) recognised the brothers immediately, they did not recognise him and he acted towards them as a stranger. He spoke harshly to his brothers and accused them of being spies, which they strongly denied. They explained that they were brothers who had come to Egypt to buy food. They explained to Yoseph (Joseph) that they were twelve brothers. One had gone and the youngest brother was at home with their father.
- Yoseph (Joseph) told his brothers that he still didn't believe that they were not spies. He told them that Shimon (Simeon) would remain in Egypt as a hostage, while the other brothers must go back to Canaan and bring their youngest brother to Egypt.
- Yoseph (Joseph) then secretly commanded his servants to fill his brothers' vessels with grain and to replace their money inside their sacks of grain. As the brothers were travelling home one of them opened his sack of food and found inside the money he had paid for the food. Not knowing that Yoseph (Joseph) had ordered the money to be put back in their sacks, the brothers were afraid that they would be accused of theft.
- When the brothers returned to Canaan they each found the money they had paid for the grain, back in their sacks. But soon the grain they had brought from Egypt was gone and they knew they would have to go back to Yoseph (Joseph) in Egypt. Yehudah managed to persuade his father, Yaakov (Jacob) to let Binyamin (Benjamin) go to Egypt, as he would personally take responsibility for him. Yaakov (Jacob) reluctantly agreed.
- The brothers arrived in Egypt and were escorted to Yoseph (Joseph). There they met Shimon (Simeon) and dined with Yoseph (Joseph). Yoseph (Joseph) ordered his steward to supply the brothers with food and to once again, restore each brother's money. He also ordered that his silver cup be placed in Binyamin's (Benjamin's) sack.
- The brothers were on their way home to Canaan, when they were overtaken by Yoseph's (Joseph's) stewards who accused them of ingratitude by stealing their master's cup. They protested their innocence and agreed to be searched. When the silver cup was found in Binyamin's (Benjamin's) sack, the brothers tore their clothes in grief and returned to the city. Yehudah (Judah) offered to have himself taken as a slave, but Yoseph (Joseph) insisted that only Binyamin (Benjamin) should be imprisoned and the other brothers should return to their father.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3



Activity

Is this face **REALLY** Sorry?

This activity is linked to the way we see Yoseph (Joseph) conducting himself towards his brothers. According to many commentators on the Chumash (5 Books of Moses), Yoseph (Joseph) behaved this way in order to determine whether or not the brothers were truly sorry for the way they had treated him. As we see from the unfolding episodes in the Parasha (weekly Torah portion), the brothers' actions demonstrate that they are truly sorry.

Remind the children about what Yoseph's (Joseph's) brothers did to him (took his coat, threw him in a pit, sold him to Egypt, pretended he had been killed by a wild animal). At the end of the Spark, there are a selection of emojis with different expressions. It's probably better if you prepare these as individual pictures rather than showing them all at once and asking children to home in on one. It will be easier for the children to be looking at only one image at a time.

Sit the children in a circle and show each child an image, asking them whether they think the image shows that this emoji is truly sorry or not.

Once you have gone around the circle, go around the circle again, asking the children if they would like to show you a 'sorry' face! Explain to the children that the brothers of Yoseph (Joseph) probably had a 'sorry' face when they stood in front of him in Egypt.

Children's Service: Years 3- 6



Activity –

'Guiding Dreams' (You will need to prepare the questions, for children to refer to during the game)

Continuing with the 'Dream Theme', this activity will continue to make children think about their dreams and aspirations.

Sit the children in a circle and then divide them into pairs. Give each pair a 'question card' with 5 questions on it. Each one of the pair should ask the other these questions and then feedback to the whole group after about 10 minutes. The child who is being spoken about can remind the other child of any information s/he may have left out, while s/he is talking.

Questions

- Tell me about something you are good at.
- What did you do to become good at it?
- How long did it take?
- What is something you would like to be better at?
- Why is this goal important to you?

Chanukah Quiz for all Ages



1. For how many nights do we celebrate the festival of Chanukah? **8**
2. What was the name of the small Jewish army who defeated the Ancient Greek?.
Maccabees
3. What was the name of the king who led the Ancient Greek rule over the Jewish people? **Antiochus**
4. What was the name of the man who led the Maccabees? **Judah**
5. With which candle do we light all the other candles? **Shamash**
6. When the Jewish people cleaned up the Holy Temple after the Ancient Greeks had been defeated, how much oil did they find? **Enough for only 1 day**
7. Which special prayer is added on Chanukah, into the Amidah (Silent prayer) and Birkat Hamazon (Grace After Meals)? **Al Hanissim**
8. Why do we have a custom to eat doughnuts and latkes on Chanukah? **They are fried in oil and the oil lasting for 8 days was one of the Chanukah miracles**
9. What is the name of the spinning top we play with on Chanukah? **Sevion or Dreidel**
10. Which 4 letters appear on each of the 4 sides of the Sevion/Dreidel? **Nun, Gimmel, Hay, Shin or Pay**

What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week?

In this week's Tribe Scribe at the back of the Daf Hashavua, you'll find another really great lesson that we can learn from the Parasha (weekly portion) of Mikeitz.

The Card Tower champion hands Dina leftover cards and says to her: 'Phew! I'm exhausted! Can you hold these while I go to the café to get a drink?'

In this week's Parasha, we are told how Pharaoh asks Joseph to interpret his dreams. But Joseph makes it very clear to Pharaoh that it is not his own ability, but the ability gifted to him by God which enables him to correctly interpret dreams.

Give out to the children a few copies of the Tribe Scribe and ask them to work in groups. Each group should discuss what they would do if they found themselves in the same situation as Dina found herself.

The children should be given the opportunity to share what they would do with the other children.



What does this Story Teach us?

This Parasha (Weekly Torah portion), as well as the previous one (Vayeishev) has a number of dreams. Yoseph (Joseph) had dreams, the chief butler and the chief baker had dreams and Pharaoh had dreams. This story is about a different kind of dream and will allow the children to discuss their thoughts!

Follow Your Dreams!



The first time Luca heard talk of the 'Island of Inventions', he was still very young, but the wonders he heard about sounded so incredible to him that they were forever engraved in his memory. Ever since he was a little boy, he never stopped searching for clues to investigate. Clues which might lead him to that place of wonder. He read hundreds of adventure books, histories, volumes of physics and chemistry; even music.

Taking a little from here, a little from there, he arrived at quite a clear idea of what the 'Island of Inventions' was really like. It was a secret place, where all the great wise people of the world would meet to learn and invent together. Access to the island was totally restricted. To be able to join that select club, you had to have created some great invention for humanity. Only then could you receive the unique and special invitation - which came with instructions on how to get to the island.

To be in with a chance, Luca spent the years of his youth studying and inventing. Every new idea he got, he made it into an invention, and if there was ever anything he didn't understand, he would seek out someone who could help him. Soon he met other young people, brilliant inventors too, and he told them of the secrets and marvels of the 'Island of Inventions'. These fellow young inventors would likewise dream of being sent 'the letter', which is how the invitation was referred to.



As time passed, the disappointment of not being sent the letter gave rise to even greater collaboration and mutual help between the young inventors. Their interesting individual inventions were put together, creating some incredible contraptions. They met in Luca's house, which ended up looking like a huge warehouse for machines and spare parts. Their inventions became known throughout the world, and managed to improve every aspect of life.

But even after all that, no invitation came.

They did not lose heart. They continued learning and inventing every day, trying to come up with more and better ideas. Fresh young talent was added to their group, as more and more inventors dreamed of getting to the island. One day, a long time later, Luca, already very old, was speaking with a brilliant young lady who had written to him to try to join the group. Luca told the young lady the great secret of the 'Island of Inventions' and of how he was sure that some day they would receive an invitation. Surprised, the young inventor interrupted Luca:

"What? You mean this isn't really the Island of Inventions? Isn't the letter you sent me the real invitation?"

And, as old as he was, Luca looked around him, and realised that his dream had become true in his very own house. He realised that no island could exist which would be better than where he was now. No place of invention would be better than what he and his friends had created. Luca felt happy to know that he had always been on the island, and that his life of invention and study had been a truly happy one.

1. What had Luca always dreamed about?
2. Do you think the 'Island of Inventions' was a real place?
3. By speaking to the young lady at the end of the story, what did it make Luca realise?
4. What do you think this story is telling us?
5. Would you like to share some of your dreams for the future?

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.

Mikeitz Song

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/519433/jewish/Mikeitz.htm

One night Paroah had a dream
"What can it be," he did scream
He saw seven cows all well fed
Then seven thin ones, Paroah said

The fat cows were eaten by the lean
Paroah thought what can this mean
Later that night, another dream he had
He dreamed of corn some good and bad

Yosef was taken out of jail
To explain the dreams he didn't fail
Now Paroah knew the meaning
Of what he was dreaming

For seven years, food you must store
Hunger will be for seven years more
Paroah listened to everything
Then he gave Yosef his ring

Chanukah Activity – (Once again, this activity can be played with all ages)

Chanukah Charades



Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4 for this game. Show the children the 4 symbols of Chanukah which are at the end of the Spark. Give each group their own copy of the symbols and briefly explain each symbol (the explanations are underneath each symbol).

Then ask the groups to mime each one and the other children should try and guess which symbol they have been miming. For example, the children might want to spin around so as to portray the Sevivon/Dreidel.

A Chanukah Poem

Outside, snow is slowly, softly
Falling through the wintry night.
In the house, the brass Menorah
Sparkles with the candlelight.
Children in a circle listen
To the wondrous stories told,
Of the daring, courageous Maccabees
And the miracles of old.
In the kitchen, latkes sizzle,
Turning brown, they'll soon be done.
Gifts are waiting to be opened,
Happy Chanukah's begun.







The Sevivon/Dreidel is a spinning top with the letters 'Nun', 'Gimmel', 'Hei', 'Shin' or 'Pay' and these letters are the first letters in the Hebrew sentence, 'A great miracle happened there/here'. We are told that the Jewish people at the time of the Chanukah story would learn Torah, but when they saw soldiers coming, they would put their books away and take out their Dreidels as if they were simply playing a game.

The Menorah or Chanukiah has 8 candles. A new candle is lit on each night of Chanukah, using the Shamash (the service candle). Lighting the Menorah reminds us of how the jug of oil, only enough to burn for 1 day, miraculously lasted for 8 days, until new pure oil could be delivered to the Holy Temple.



We have a custom to eat oily foods such as doughnuts and latkes.



We have a custom to give gifts on Chanukah.



We have a custom to give children money on Chanukah. Sometimes the money is chocolate.