



November 2018

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,
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KI TISA 5779

Parsha Summary:

- God instructs Moshe to take a census. Instead of counting people, each man over 20 will give a half shekel coin towards the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle); the census figure will be calculated based on the money collected. God instructs Moshe to make a copper washing basin (kiyor) for the Kohanim. Moshe is to make the anointing oil, containing select spices, to anoint Aharon, his sons, and the vessels of the Mishkan. God tells Moshe to make incense (ketoret) from specific spices, to be offered twice a day. God designates Betzalel to supervise the construction of the Mishkan and tells Moshe to again instruct the people about keeping Shabbat.
- According to Rashi, the narrative moves back in time, to the aftermath of the giving of the Torah. Moshe has been on Mount Sinai for 40 days. The people calculate that Moshe is late returning. Fearing that Moshe is dead, they decide to make a new 'god'. They fashion and worship a golden calf. God informs Moshe of events and threatens to wipe out the nation. Moshe pleads with God to relent, recalling His promises to the forefathers. God accepts his pleas. Moshe descends the mountain. When he sees the calf, he throws down and breaks the two stone Tablets of Testimony (luchot ha'edut). Moshe burns the calf and instructs the tribe of Levi to kill the sinners. He re-ascends the mountain to ask God to forgive the nation. God responds that He will no longer lead the people through the desert directly, but will send an angel instead.
- Unprepared to accept God's response, Moshe appeals to God to directly 'accompany' the nation and requests that Israel retain a special status, distinct from other nations. God agrees to both requests (Rashi).

- Moshe asks God to show him a vision of His divine majesty. God responds that no mortal can see a 'full view' and live, but He will show Moshe a glimpse of His presence.
- God instructs Moshe to carve a new set of Tablets, containing the same words as the first set. Moshe ascends Mount Sinai with the new Tablets, as commanded. God now appears to Moshe and teaches him the 13 Attributes of Mercy. Moshe appeals to God to bestow His full guidance and protection upon Israel.
- God declares to Moshe that he is making a covenant with the people. After entering the Land of Israel, they must not follow the idolatrous ways of the Cana'anite nations. The mitzvah of coming to the Temple with an offering for the three festivals (Pesach, Shavuot and Succot) is restated, as well as the mitzvah to redeem a firstborn male child (pidyon ha'ben) and not to mix meat and milk together.
- Moshe descends with the new Tablets, his face radiating with light. He has to cover his face with a veil when speaking to the people.

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.

Song: The Aseret Hadibrot – Ten Commandments

To the tune of: 'We're all going to the Zoo Tomorrow.' (The tune can be found on YouTube.)

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

Listen to your mum and dad, and do what they say
Have a nice rest on the Shabbat day
Don't take other people's things away
It's all in the Ten Commandments

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

I am Hashem- never worship any others
Never tell lies about you sisters or your brothers
Enjoy yourself, don't envy others
It's all in the Ten Commandments

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

Don't take Hashem's name in vain
Don't cause your partner any pain
The people of the world must never be slain
It's all in the Ten Commandments!

Activity: Jumping to Conclusions

A:

Ask the children to stand up in a circle, with their eyes closed. The aim of the game is to go around the circle and count from 1-20 in less than a minute – each child in turn saying a number. The first child 1, the one next to him 2, and so on. Each time there is a pause for more than a few seconds they need to start from the beginning again. There should be a designated person to start each time. It sounds simpler than it is, and a minute goes by faster than you think!

- Ask the children if they found it harder than they anticipated to get to 20? Did a minute go by faster or slower than they thought it would?

B:

- The children should get into pairs and stand one behind the other. They should take it in turns to “draw” on each other’s back. The one whose back is being drawn on should guess what is being done. Start off easy, with - letters, numbers and shapes and then get harder with more complex drawings. They should then swap roles. The children will see that it gets more difficult to figure out what is being done, without seeing the “whole picture.”

- Sometimes it can be difficult to work out what something is or why something is happening and we have to be careful not to panic but to think things through carefully.

Explain that in the parsha this week Moshe went up Mount Sinai to collect the Ten Commandments from God. He told the Jewish people that he would be gone for forty days. The Jewish people miscalculated and started to worry about Moshe and what had happened to him. In fact they panicked and started to think and do silly things. They 'jumped to conclusions'. This means they acted too quickly without thinking carefully.

- Ask: Can you think of a time when you jumped to a wrong conclusion? What happened?

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.
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Activity: Aharon - The Golden Calf - Responsibility

For this activity you will need a packet of paper plates or pieces of card about the size of a small plate.

With two belts, scarves, string or chairs create two parallel lines about 10 meters apart. The space in between them represents a river. The river is infested with man eating piranhas so no one is allowed to touch the river. Split your participants into equal teams. The teams start together

on one side of the river and are given out equal pieces of card or plates (about 8 each). The aim is to be the first team to reach the other side of the river using the cardboard and not stepping on the river (the floor). The card is like stepping stones and can be moved around.

- At the end discuss the strategy of each team.
- Our sages teach us that we are all responsible for one another. How do you understand this?
- Is there a time when we see someone doing the wrong thing when we shouldn't get involved?
- In the parsha this week we see that even though Aharon didn't worship the golden calf he is considered to have made a mistake because he didn't do more to stop the people who did. Although it's important and good to stay out of trouble it's not enough. When we can we should try to stop others from doing wrong and potentially harming themselves.