



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

## Noach – 5780



Even though the rest of his generation were evil, Noach (Noah) remained a righteous man. God saw the state of the world and decided that He would destroy the entire population of the world by bringing a flood.

God informed Noach (Noah) of His decision and told Noach (Noah) to build an ark, in which Noach (Noah) and his family would live during the flood. Noach (Noah) listened to God and did as he had been instructed and when it was completed, he took into the ark, his wife, three sons and their respective wives.

Noach (Noah) took 7 pairs of every kosher animal and 1 pair of every other living creature into the ark, along with all types of food which would sustain its inhabitants during their stay.

Once safely inside the ark it began to rain and did so for 40 days and 40 nights. The deluge was so great that almost 6 months elapsed before the waters subsided sufficiently for the ark to rest at the top of Mount Ararat.

After almost 3 additional months, Noach (Noah) released a raven from the ark to determine whether dry land had reappeared but it couldn't find dry land. 7 days later Noach (Noah) sent out a dove and it quickly returned as it could find no resting place. But a further 7 days later another dove was sent out the ark and this time it returned with an olive leaf in its beak, showing Noach (Noah) that the water was



receding. Finally, on its third assignment, the dove did not return at all, showing Noah (Noah) that the land was at last beginning to dry up.

Noah (Noah) finally left the ark and was exceedingly grateful to God. God then promised Noah (Noah) that He would never destroy all of mankind again by means of a flood.

Noah's (Noah's) 3 sons and their families began to populate the world again and although there were many people on the earth, they all spoke one language, Lashon Hakodesh (The holy language). Unfortunately, human beings did not learn from the disastrous flood and soon returned to their wicked ways.

The people of the world met altogether and proposed to build a tower reaching heaven. God was not at all happy with this and put a stop to the tower-building project by confusing the speech of the builders, so that one could not understand the other. The city where they tried to build the tower was called Bavel (Babel), as this was where God mixed up the languages of the people of the earth.

The Parsha (Torah portion) ends with the introduction of Avram (Abraham) and his wife Sarai (Sarah)

Parasha Overview  
- In a Little More Detail!



- The Parasha (Torah portion) begins by telling us that Noach (Noah) was a righteous man who followed the commands of God, whilst all around him the world was filled with evil people.
- Noach (Noah) and his wife had 3 sons, Shem (Sam) Cham (Ham) and Yafet (Japheth).
- God decided that because there was so much evil in the world, He would destroy it by bringing a huge flood which would wipe out all living creatures of the earth. God told Noach (Noah) of His decision and instructed him to build a three-story ark, in which Noach (Noah) and his family would be safe from the flood waters.
- The ark had three levels and Noach (Noah) was told to put a window in to the ark.
- The measurement of the ark in biblical units called 'Cubits' and inches were; Length – 300 cubits = 5400 inches, Width - 50 cubits = 900 inches, height – 30 cubits = 540 inches
- God told Noach (Noah) that he was to take 7 pairs of each kosher animal and 1 pair of each non-kosher animal. Then, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Cheshvan it began to rain and it did not stop for a further 40 days and 40 nights. Almost every living creature on earth was destroyed!
- It finally stopped raining on 29<sup>th</sup> Kislev, starting 150 days of 'drying-up'.

- After a period of 6 months, the ark finally came to rest on a mountain called Ararat and after 3 more months of waiting Noah (Noah) sent a raven out of the ark to see if it could find enough dry land on which to make a nest. After flying to and fro, the raven was unable to find enough dry land.
- 7 days later Noah (Noah) once again sent out a bird, but this time he released a dove to see if it could find enough dry land on which to make a nest. But once again, the dove returned to Noah (Noah), unable to find a resting place.
- Yet another 7 days after that, Noah (Noah) sent the dove to see if it could find dry land and sure enough it did not return. At this point, Noah (Noah) knew that the waters were receding enough for him to leave the ark.
- God then commanded Noah (Noah) to leave the ark and after 1 year and 11 days (or 1 solar year, as the Jewish year, which is a lunar year, is 11 days shorter than the solar year) Noah (Noah) and his family left the ark, along with all the animals and birds they had taken in to the ark with them.
- To show his immense gratitude at being chosen to be saved together with his family and the different types of creatures, Noah (Noah) burnt offerings to God and God showed Noah (Noah) a rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never destroy the world again, by means of a flood. God told Noah (Noah) that the rainbow would always be the symbol of this promise.
- Through the offspring of Noah's (Noah's) 3 sons, the earth became repopulated and the founders of numerous nations appeared. All these nations spoke the same language, that of Lashon Hakodesh (The holy language). But humankind had not learnt from the experiences of the flood and soon returned to their evil ways.
- The people of the earth met and decided that they would build a tower right up to the heavens so as to conquer them. But God made them all speak different languages,



resulting in a total breakdown in communication, meaning the building of the tower had to come to an abrupt end.

- The Parasha (Torah portion) tells us that there were 10 generations from Noach (Noah) to Avram (Abraham). ***Avram was his name until God changed it to Avraham in next week's Torah portion of Lech Lecha.*** The Torah lists these generations, culminating with the birth of Avram (Abraham) and his 2 brothers.
- Avram (Abraham) married Sarai (Sarah) and the Parasha (Torah portion) concludes with Avram (Abraham) settling in Charan (Haran) with his wife.

Parasha Overview  
- In a Little More Detail!



# Parasha Overview - In a Little More Detail!



### Activity

**This is a game which will highlight both the learning of kosher animals and birds and how many of each came into Noah's ark. Its also a very good 'memory game'.**

**Remind the children that 14 of each kosher animal and 2 of each non-kosher animal were taken into the ark. Then tell the children the following list of animals and whether they are kosher or not ; Sheep - kosher, horse – not kosher, chicken - kosher, elephant – not kosher, goat – kosher, zebra – not kosher and cow - kosher. Tell the children they will need to try really hard to remember if the animal they are given is kosher or not!**

**Sit the children in a circle and give them all the name of an animal or bird. Go around the circle giving the children an animal's/bird's name; Sheep, horse, chicken, elephant, goat, zebra and cow. Don't remind them if it is kosher or not.**

**Tell children that they must try to remember which animal they were given and after you have counted to 3, the children should all tell the person next to them whether their animal is kosher or not.**

**Then, go around the circle again, but this time ask the children to say the name of their animal, whether they are kosher and how many of that type were taken into the ark. For example, 'I am a Zebra, I am not kosher and 2 Zebras were taken into the ark'.**

**After playing it once, you can give the children different animal or bird names, but do tell them if it is kosher or not, so that they can give you the correct number; 2 or 7!**

## Activity



**'What are you Grateful for?'**

Explain to the children that the first thing Noach (Noah) did when he came out of the ark was to thank God for saving him and his family. He certainly did not take this for granted. Of all the many people in the world, Noach and his family had been saved.

Sit the children in a circle and ask them to think of one example of something that happened to them in the last couple of weeks, that they are grateful for and think about who they have to thank.

Split the children into pairs. Tell them you are giving them 1 minute to share their example, saying why they are grateful, to whom they are grateful and most importantly, how they showed their gratitude. Then, go around the circle, giving each child the opportunity to relate their partner's example to the whole group. If s/he doesn't feel confident enough to do so, then ask the partner to tell the group their own episode.



### Quiz for The Younger Children

1. How many of each non-kosher animal (EG: lions, bears, zebras, horses, eagles) did Noach (Noah) take with him into the ark?
2. How many of each kosher animal or bird (EG: Chickens, goats, sheep, cows) did Noach (Noah) take with him into the ark?
3. How many sons did Noach (Noah) have?
4. What special sign in the sky did God show Noach (Noah) as a promise that He would never again destroy the entire world with a flood?
5. What did Noach (Noah) say to God when he left the ark after the flood was over?
6. What happened to the people who wanted to build a huge, tall tower to the sky?



In this week's Tribe Scribe at the back of the Daf Hashavua, you'll find 2 great lessons that we can learn from the Parasha (weekly portion) of Noach (Noah).

1. **To work as a team and think of everyone around us.**
2. **Every action we might do has an impact on the world and the environment.**

You'll need a few copies of the Tribe Scribe with you; give the children copies of the Tribe Scribe (perhaps one between two) and read the story with the children, pointing out the captions and the illustrations.

Dan asks Dina a question towards the end of the piece. Ask the children if they can find it and tell everyone the question.

What does Dina answer?

Go around the circle of children, asking them to comment on how we can put Dina's answer into practice. Try not to give the children too many answers, but allow them the time to look at the 'Scribe' and work out the lessons being taught for themselves.

What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week?



### The difference between Avraham (Abraham) and Noach (Noah)

The Torah tells us that 'Noach (Noah) was a righteous man, perfect in his generation.' Some of our holy Rabbis of old interpret this as meaning that Noach (Noah) was considered outstandingly righteous only when compared with others of his generation. However, had he lived during the time of Avraham (Abraham), his righteousness would have outshone that of Noach (Noah).

Unfortunately, Noach's (Noah's) righteousness never carried itself over to others. Besides his family, there was not one other person who was under Noach's (Noah's) influence who was worthy of accompanying Noach (Noah) aboard the ark.

However, Avraham's (Abraham's) righteousness affected others. Later on, in the book of Bereishit (Genesis), when God informed him that he intended to destroy Sodom, Avraham (Abraham) beseeched God to spare the city. The Torah describes at great length, Avraham's (Abraham's) prayers for those wicked people. Avraham's (Abraham's) righteousness spread forth and shone upon others.

### A Story to explain

The Talmud (part of the Oral Law) relates a story about Rabbi Meir and his wife Beruria.

One day some robbers were in Rabbi Meir's neighbourhood and causing a great deal of trouble to the inhabitants of the town. Rabbi Meir prayed that God should do something terrible to these people. After all, these people were robbers, stealing people's property and doing what they liked with it.

What does this Story Teach Me?



**When Rabbi Meir's wife Beruria heard this, she questioned her husband as to whether this was the correct prayer. 'Why don't you pray that these wicked robbers make amends for their actions and give up their roles as thieves and become good people again. That way, they will not only stop stealing from people, but they will also start doing good deeds for others.'**

**The Talmud teaches us that it was Beruria's prayer which God responded to.**

**What does this Story Teach Me?**

### Discussion Points



AND



1. What was the difference between the righteousness of Noah (Noah) and the righteousness of Avraham (Abraham)?
2. Can you suggest some ways that Noah (Noah) could have made his righteousness affect other people?
3. Can you explain some of the different things Avraham (Abraham) did to influence other people to be good and righteous?
4. Thinking about Noah's (Noah's) and Avraham's (Abraham's) righteous behaviours; who was Rabbi Meir most like and who was his wife, Beruria most like?
5. Have you ever influenced someone to stop doing the wrong thing and start doing the right thing?



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

**Song for the Parasha (weekly portion) of Noach (Noah) – This tune and its lyrics can easily be taught**

[https://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/519241/jewish/Lech-Lecha-I.htm](https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/519241/jewish/Lech-Lecha-I.htm)



The people watched Noah while he hammered away

He worked on the teivah night and day

Hashem told him to do it, so people would ask

"What are you building, It's a hard task."

Noah explained that teshuvah you must do

There are many evil things around us, it's true

Hashem wants to destroy the world in which we live

Only through teshuvah, will Hashem forgive

The people didn't listen, they didn't understand

Then down came the rain throughout the land

Forty days and nights the mabul came down

But Noah and his family did not drown!

## Tefillah Treasures

In the first paragraph of the Shema it says that, '...you shall love God...

בְּכָל לֵבָבְךָ ...With all your heart'



וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ ...With all your soul'



וּבְכָל מְאֹדְךָ ...With all your might'

We are taught that 'with all your might' means with your money. But how can we love God with our money?!

### Some suggestions might include;

- Giving charity
- Buying the best food for Shabbat
- Buying a beautiful Tallit (Prayer Shawl)
- Buying a lovely set of Arba Minim (Lulav and Etrog) for Succot
- Buying a beautiful prayer book (Siddur) from which to pray
- Buying you parents and friends an amazing present to say thank you