



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,
Sharon Radley

PEKUDEI 5779

Parsha Summary:

- The Torah lists the overall weight of gold, silver and copper used in building the Mishkan. The amount of half-shekel silver coins donated form the basis of a census of 603,550 males above the age of 20. The coverings for the Mishkan's furnishings, used to guard them during the nation's journeys, are made of turquoise, purple and scarlet wool.
- The priestly garments are made, starting with the ephod, worn over Aharon's tunic and robe. It has two shoulder straps (ketefot) and a belt (cheshev) attached. A precious onyx stone (shoham) is placed on each shoulder strap. The next item made is the breastplate (choshen), containing 12 different types of precious stones (avnei miluim).
- The turquoise robe (me'il) is made. Golden bells (pa'amonim) are placed between multi-coloured woollen pomegranate shapes (rimonim) hanging from the bottom hem. A knitted tunic (ketonet) with a grid-like pattern, a linen turban (mitznefet), linen trousers (michnasayim) and an embroidered sash (avnet) are made for every Kohen to wear. The pure gold band (tzitz) is made, to be placed on Aharon's forehead. The work of the Mishkan is finished, executed by the nation exactly as God had instructed Moshe.
- All of the structural parts of the Mishkan and its furnishings are brought to Moshe, as well as the priestly garments. Moshe inspects all the work and blesses the workers.
- God tells Moshe to set up the Mishkan on Rosh Chodesh Nisan, to anoint its vessels with oil and to inaugurate Aharon and his sons.

- Moshe sets up the Mishkan as commanded by God and puts all of the furnishings in their correct place. He brings an incense offering on the golden altar (mizbeach ha'zahav).
- Moshe then brings an elevation offering (olah) and a flour offering (mincha). A heavenly cloud descends upon the Mishkan and when it lifts, the people are allowed to journey on.

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.

Activity: The Clothes of the Kohanim

In the parasha this week we learn about the clothes that Aaron and the Kohanim would wear in the Mishkan. There are some excellent images of the clothes of the Kohanim to be found on the internet. They can be used to play a matching game: Cut up the different items of clothing and give them out to the children. Children walk around the room and find partners who have the same item of clothing that they have been given. Sit down when you find your partner. The last pair standing is out.

Activity: Pass the button

Choose one child to be 'it' and go out of the room for a minute. The rest of the group need to be sitting in a circle. One of the children in the circle is given a button (or a ring or small object) and the child who was sent outside is brought back in. The

button is then passed from one child to the next whilst at the same time trying not to let the child who is 'it' see who has the button. When the child who is 'it' says, "Stop!" the group says, 'Button button who's got the button?'

All the children pretend to hide the button in their hands. The person who is "it" then has three guesses to say who they think has the button. The person with the button can take a turn to be "it" next.

Although a seemingly fun activity there is a desire for some children to lie if they are the one holding the button and they are guessed. It feels like they are being caught even though it is just a fun game.

Stop the game after a few minutes and discuss how everyone needs to tell the truth in order for the game to be fun for everyone.

Discuss:

This week's parasha begins with a detailed list of exactly how much gold, silver and copper was used in order to make the vessels for the Mishkan.

Vayakhel, Chapter 38, 27-28: 'The hundred talents of silver were to cast the sockets of the Sanctuary and the sockets of the Partition... a talent per socket. And from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy five he made hooks for the pillars....'

Moshe was the leader and even though he was trusted by everyone he still made sure to account for every item and show how it was put to good use. This teaches us an important lesson..... We should always be extra careful, responsible and honest with other people's objects and money.

- What does responsibility mean?
- When are you in a position to be responsible?
- How do you ensure that you act in a responsible and honest way?

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: One thousand seven hundred and seventy five hooks.

The children should sit in a circle if possible. Each child should say aloud, three statements about himself. Two things should be true and one should be untrue. When the child has finished saying the three things the rest of the group has to vote for which one they thought was not true. If they thought number one was untrue they should hold up one finger, if they thought number two untrue they should hold up two fingers and so on. All the children should vote at the same time and the leader should count which number had the winning vote. The speaker should then explain to the group which statement was the untrue one. Move around the circle until every child has had a go. This game is not only about honesty but it is a good way of the children getting to know each other.

Discuss:

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- What does responsible mean to you?
- What does it mean that "with power comes responsibility"?
- How does it apply to the parsha?
A. When people elect or choose someone to represent them, they often give him the power to do things he couldn't do on his own. It's up to him not to abuse this power and act in a responsible and trustworthy way. In the parsha Moshe had the money and the power to make the Mishkan, but he was careful to show everyone how the money was spent.