



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

Pinchas – 2019/5779

Parasha Summary:

At the very end of last week's Parasha (Torah portion), Pinchas took action, letting the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) know that their idol worship and other erroneous actions were displeasing to God. At the start of this week's Parasha (Torah portion) Pinchas was promised that the Kehunah (The Priesthood) would be retained by his descendants. Moshe (Moses) and Elazar (Aaron's son) were told to take a census of the people as the conquest of Canaan was in sight and the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were told to prepare for battle against Midian (the Midianites) who had been primarily responsible for their wrong and idolatrous behaviour.



One reason for the census was to allocate sufficient land to each tribe, based on its size and the tribe of Levi was counted separately.

Tzelafchad had died in the Midbar (Wilderness), leaving five daughters but no sons and his daughters asked Moshe (Moses) whether they could receive their father's inheritance, otherwise the portion of land belonging to their father would pass in to other hands. The answer from God was that if a person had no sons, the land would pass to the daughters. (See Tribe Scribe)

God commanded Moshe to ascend Mount Avarim (Abarim) from where he could view the Promised Land. Realising that the time was nearing for him to die, Moshe (Moses) was concerned that a successor be named, to which God told Moshe (Moses) that Yehoshua Ben Nun (Joshua the son of Nun) would take over as leader.

The people were reminded that the Korbanot (Offerings) offered on various occasions would continue when they entered the Promised Land and a detailed description of some of the Korbanot (Offerings) is given at the end of the Parasha (Torah portion).

- The Parasha begins with God rewarding Pinchas (the son of Elazar, the son of Aharon) for putting a stop to the B'nei Yisrael's (Children of Israel's) bad behaviour and ending the plague which was sent by God.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were ordered to prepare for battle against the Midianites but before doing so, Moshe (Moses) and Elazar (the son of Aharon) were commanded to count the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel). The

people had previously been counted 38 years before and now that they were about to enter the land of Canaan, it was necessary for Moshe (Moses) to ascertain the strength of each Tribe.

- The count was also needed to apportion the land, the area of which was to be divided according to the size of the Tribe, with its geographical location decided by lots.
- The Leviim (Levites) were not included in the division of the Land, however, they were given 48 special cities.
- A man by the name of Tzelafchad, from the tribe of Menashe, had died in the Midbar (Wilderness) leaving five daughters but no sons. The question of whether the five daughters could receive their father's inheritance arose, if not, the portion of land that had been due to Tzelafchad would pass in to other hands. They brought their case to Moshe (Moses) who submitted the question to God. The final ruling was that if a person left no sons, his daughters had the right to his heritage.
- God told Moshe (Moses) to go to the top of Mount Avarim (Abarim) so as to look at the land of Canaan (later to be The Land of Israel). He was told that Yehoshua (Joshua) would take over as the leader, but that Elazar the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) would take all questions before God, as only Moshe (Moses) had the privilege of speaking to God whenever he needed to do so.
- The Parasha (Torah portion) ends with the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) being reminded to offer Korbanot (Offerings) when they arrived in the Land of Canaan. A detailed description of the morning and evening Korbanot (Offerings) was given, as well as the Korbanot (Offerings) for Yamim Tovim (Festivals).



Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

The end of the Parasha lists the different Korbanot (Offerings) which were brought in the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple) each day and on different festivals. One purpose of these Korbanot (Offerings) was to enable people to express their gratitude to God, for all the goodness he had given them. This is much like the Tefillot (Prayers) we say nowadays which help us to recognise the goodness which God bestows upon us and our obligation to say thank you. The following game encourages children to appreciate the importance of saying please and thank you.

Activity

This game is a variation of the traditional favourite "Simon Says". One person is selected to give instructions. The remaining players will carry out the instructions **but only if** they say '**please**'. If they say '**please**' then the instructions are carried out until the person says '**thank you**' at which time a new round begins. If an instruction is given **without** saying

'please' then it should not be followed. Anyone who follows an instruction when **'please'** was not said is out. The last person remaining is the winner and gives the instructions for the next game.

•**Example 1:** S/he says, "Please jump on one foot". Everyone should jump on one foot until s/he says, "Thank you" at which time they stop and wait for the next instruction.

•**Example 2:** S/he says, "Turn in a circle". The instruction should be ignored because please was not said. Anyone who turns in a circle is out.

A Little Help from Your Friends

The job of a leader is not only to stand tall and lead from the front, but to also lead by the way they treat others. This game is a simple but effective way to encourage children to treat others with care and consideration.

Activity

Give each child a tissue to place on his/her head. Instruct children to move around to you singing 'Daved Melech Yisrael' while keeping the tissue on their heads. If a tissue falls off, the child will freeze. Another child needs to help the frozen child by placing the tissue back on the frozen child's head, allowing the frozen child to re-join the game. This game helps raise awareness of looking out for others in need.



Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Activity – One of Moshe's (Moses') requests in this week's Parasha (Torah portion) is asking God to find someone to lead the people after him. God chooses Yehoshua (Joshua) as the leader, who everyone can follow. Having spent so long with Moshe (Moses) as their leader, the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) would now have to follow someone new.



Activity

Here is a game which requires someone to lead and the others to observe closely so they follow correctly!

The object of the game is to guess who the leader is while watching the player's movements.

Directions:

Have all the players sitting in a circle. Choose one player to leave the room and choose a second player to be the leader. The leader's job is to create motions and have the other players follow along every time he or she changes the motions. Some motions include snapping fingers, slapping their hands on their knees, clapping hands. The leader starts the motion while all the players are following and the leader switches to another motion. The other players must quickly catch on and follow the leader.

While the leader is doing the motions, ask the player outside to come back into the room. They have to observe the circle and work out who the leader is. Give them around 2 minutes to figure it out. If they guess correctly the leader now leaves the room while another leader is chosen.

A Story to illustrate the importance Leadership

A wealthy man and his advisors once set out on a journey, travelling with many wagons heavily laden with expensive merchandise to sell. Snow had fallen and the man and his advisors lost their way. The wagons turned this way and that and after being lost for some hours, the wealthy man and his advisors found their way back to the correct road.

Seeing that the wealthy man was still very distressed, one of the advisors tried to cheer him up. 'Why are you so worried? After all, we did find our way back to the right road.'

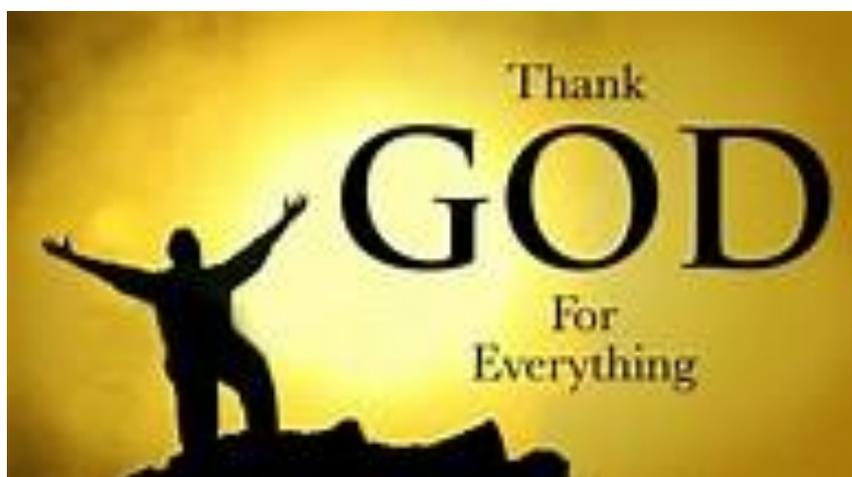
'I am concerned', said the wealthy man, 'because we have a number of wagons and people travelling with us and everywhere we went, we left tracks and footprints. As we strayed off the right path, losing our way, so too will future wagon drivers.'

A leader must take great care of his/her behaviour as s/he knows that others will follow. That is why Moshe (Moses) was so concerned that the right person be appointed as the next leader of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel).

Points for Discussion



- Can you think of someone who is a leader?
- Do you think they are a good leader?
- What qualities do they have that make them a good leader?
- Why do you think Moshe (Moses) was a good leader?
- Can you think of examples when Moshe (Moses) displayed his leadership qualities?
- In what way do you think Yehoshua's (Joshua's) leadership would have to be slightly different to Moshe's (Moses') leadership.
- Do you think a society always needs a leader? Why?



Song – 'Tov Lehodot Lashem' 'It is Good To Thank God'

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tov+lehodot+lashem&view=detail&mid=C6D00021FDA6FF85149DC6D00021FDA6FF85149D&FORM=VIRE>

טוב להודות לה', ולזמר לשמך עליון. להגיד בבקר חסדך, ואמונתך בלילות

Tov l'hodot la'shem, ulzamer l'shimcha elyon, l'hagid baboker chasdecha
v'emunatcha baleylot.

It is good to give thanks to God,
and to sing to His name on high,
To tell in the morning of His kindness,
and in the evening of His faithfulness.

Hodu Lashem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXkO24MiWZw>

Hodu lashem ki tov,
ki l'olam chasdo. Yomar-na Yisrael, ki
l'olam chasdo.
Yomru-na beit Aharon, ki l'olam chasdo.
Yomru-na yirei Hashem, ki l'olam chasdo.

הודו לה' כי טוב, כי לעולם חסדו
יאמר-נא ישראל, כי לעולם חסדו.
יאמרו-נא בית אהרן, כי לעולם חסדו.
יאמרו-נא יראי ה', כי לעולם חסדו.

Give Thanks to the Lord for God is good,
For God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel say now:

God's loving kindness endures forever.

Let now the house of Aaron say:

God's loving kindness endures forever.

Let them that revere the Lord say:

God's loving kindness endures forever.