



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

## Parashat Re'eh 2019/5779

### Parasha Summary:

This week's Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) begins with Moshe (Moses) telling the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that they may choose between receiving God's blessings for observing His commandments or facing the consequences if they do not.

A ceremony would be held on the mountains of Gerizim and Eival, immediately after entering Eretz Canaan (The land of Canaan), from which the blessings and the curses would be pronounced. Moshe (Moses) then explained a number of religious, civil and social laws which would allow for a stable society of law and order once the people were settled in the Promised Land.

Moshe (Moses) once again reiterated how God would despise the worshipping of false gods or any kind of idolatry.

Moshe (Moses) told the people that self-infliction of wounds on the body or head as a sign of mourning was forbidden.

The dietary laws which were read in the book of Vayikra (Leviticus) in Parashat Shemini, are reviewed in this week's Parasha (Weekly Torah portion).

Moshe (Moses) told the people that once they had settled in the Land of Canaan they were to bring a second tithe known as Ma'aser Sheni (literally meaning 'a second tithe') to the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) where it should be eaten.

The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were also reminded that during the Shemitta year (Sabbatical for the land of Israel every seventh year), a creditor was to release his fellow Jews from any loans which may be due and an Eved Ivri (Hebrew slave) was to be freed.

Moshe (Moses) then reminded the people about the Shalosh Regalim (The Three Foot Festivals) of Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost) and Succot (Tabernacles) and that as the 'Foot Festivals' suggest, this would be a time to come up to Jerusalem, to the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple) and offer Korbanot (offerings).





- The Parasha begins with Moshe (Moses) telling the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that once they had entered the Promised Land, they would have a choice as to whether or not to observe God's commandments. Moshe (Moses) reminded the people that whatever they chose would have consequences.
- A ceremony would be held soon after entering the Land of Canaan. This ceremony would be held on 2 mountains, upon which the good consequences would be declared from Mount Gerizim and the bad consequences from Mount Aival.
- Moshe (Moses) then turned his attention to some of the civil and social laws which would apply once the people entered the Promised Land. First, he dealt with the principle of centralised worship which was directed against anyone who might have the idea of worshipping idols individually.
- All Korbanot (Offerings) were to be brought only to the place which God chose and if part of the offering was to be eaten by the person who had brought it to the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple), it had to be eaten inside the Beit Hamikdash.
- However, animals which were intended for ordinary consumption, rather than an offering, could be eaten anywhere and not specifically in the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple).
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were warned about not imitating the terrible customs of the Canaanites, such as human sacrifice and not listening to the words of a false prophet who might tempt them to worship false gods.
- The people were told not to cut themselves or do any harm to themselves when in mourning. This is because they are a holy nation and a 'treasured people'.
- Indeed, as a holy nation, the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were told to refrain from eating certain food and Moshe (Moses) therefore recalls some of the laws of Kashrut (Dietary laws) which had already been revealed at Mount Sinai.
- The laws which would apply after entering the Promised Land continued with Moshe (Moses) telling the people that a 'second' tithe consisting of one's annual produce of the soil, the vineyard and oil was

to be brought to the Beit Hamikdash (the Holy Temple) and consumed there.

- At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year of a Shemitta (Sabbatical for the land of Israel every seventh year) cycle, a tenth of the produce was to be given to the poor. This was known as Ma'aser Oni (Tithe for the poor) and was not eaten in the Beit Hamikdash (The Holy Temple).
- Every Shemitta year (Sabbatical for the land of Israel every seventh year), a person who had loaned someone money could not ask for the money to be repaid. Moshe (Moses) told the people that this should not deter them from lending money as God would repay such generous acts of kindness.
- A Hebrew slave was to be released at the beginning of the seventh year and assisted with material means so that he would be able to make a fresh start. If a slave should choose to remain in his master's service, his ear would be pierced, as a sign that he selected slavery rather than freedom, contrary to God's wishes.
- The Shalosh Regalim (Three Foot Festivals) of Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost) and Succot (Tabernacles) are explained and in particular, these festivals are set aside for a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where different kinds of offering were brought in the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple). The people are told that they should not come empty-handed to Jerusalem, but no one would be expected to go beyond their means.

### Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3



**Activity 1 (all resources you will need for this activity are below)** - This activity will teach children about the Mitzvah (Commandment) of eating kosher food. In particular, it will encourage children to think about the various signs of a kosher animal, bird and fish and to recall what they have been told.

The signs of a kosher animal are;

1. Split hooves (the hooves must be completely split).
2. Chew the cud (These animals have a several chambered stomach and regurgitate their food over and over again).

**signs of a kosher fish are;**

- 1. Fins**
- 2. Scales**

**A kosher bird...**

**...is generally, a bird which is not a bird of prey, although this category is slightly more complicated.**

**Instructions** — For this game, you will need the pictures at the bottom of this Tribe Spark. You'll also need 2 tables/chairs labelled 'KOSHER' and 'NON-KOSHER' (these labels are also at the bottom of this document). Start by asking the children to sit in a circle and explain that an animal is kosher if it has completely split hooves (show them the picture as an example) and 'it keeps eating its food again and again'. Tell the children that a kosher fish has fins and scales (show them the picture of fins and scales) and that a kosher bird must NOT be a bird of prey, like a vulture, an eagle or a crow.

Place the pictures of the animals, birds and fish (bottom of this Tribe Spark) in the centre of the circle. Choose a child to go to the centre of the circle and pick an animal, bird or fish.

Once they have chosen a picture, they should show it to everyone and ask them to put their thumbs 'UP' if it is kosher and thumbs 'DOWN' if it isn't kosher. Go according to the majority view and ask the child to place the picture on the correct table/chair.

When all the pictures have been placed on chairs, go over and tell the children whether they were correct or not (for any you are unsure of, the answers are below the pictures).



**Activity 2** - This activity will encourage the children to recall which symbols we use for the Shalosh Regalim (The Three Foot Festivals of Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentacost) and Succot (Tabernacles) and once again, have 3 separate chairs/tables, labelled 'Pesach', 'Shavuot' and 'Succot'.

As you go around the circle showing the children different symbols, ask them to place the picture on the chair with the festival name they think the symbol belongs to.

For example, if the picture shows a Lulav and Etrog (the 4 species of plant waved on Succot), the child should place it on the Succot table. Each symbol will be labelled with the festival it is associated with, so as to help with the correct answer.

## Children's Service: Years 3- 6



### **Activity 1 – 'If I had £50, how Generous would I be?**

The children should sit in a circle. The adult should start by asking the children how generous would they be if they won a £50 note? Explain that in the time of the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) a farmer would give part of his crops (Wheat, Barley, Grapes etc) to the poor. The adult should start off by saying, 'if I won £50 I would give £10 to my favourite charity.'

Go around the circle, passing around a small box of Weetabix! (This is meant to represent the produce they would give part of to the poor if they were farmers at the time of the Holy Temple). As each child holds the Weetabix they should tell everyone how they would be generous with part of the £50. It is important to



explain that, just as the farmers, in Temple times, would give PART of their produce to the poor and keep part for themselves, similarly, the children should be encouraged not to give all of the £50 away, but to show generosity with part of it.



## **Activity 2 – ‘All the Fish In The Sea’**

***This activity is a fun way for the children to remember 4 species of kosher fish.***

You will need a bit of space for this game and the children will need chairs. Go around the circle giving each child the name of a fish. The first child is Salmon, the second child is Cod, the third child is Haddock and the fourth child is Plaice. Then start again, naming the next 4 children, Salmon, Cod, Haddock and Plaice.

The children should stay in the circle but face outwards. If you call ‘Salmon’, all the children who were named ‘Salmon’ should get up and start walking in the same direction around the circle. If you say ‘tides are changing’, the children should change direction. If you say ‘seas are getting rougher’, the children should start walking faster. If you say, ‘seas are calming down’ the children should walk again and if you say ‘sharks are coming’, the children should run (in the same direction as they are going) back to their place. The last person is out and turns their chair around to sit facing inwards. You can make it really fun by calling two types of fish at a time and even better, you can call, ‘ALL THE FISH IN THE SEA’ and all the children walk around the circle. However when you call ‘ALL THE FISH IN THE SEA’ you will need to take one chair away!

## Points for Discussion



**We are taught in this week's Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) that if one Jewish person lends another Jewish person money, once the Shemitta (Sabbatical year for produce in Israel) has passed, the lender cannot ask for their money back. It is also important for the children to know, before you start this discussion, that the Torah is telling us that the Shemitta year reminds us that everything we have is granted to us by God, even the money we have. We believe that God will repay acts of kindness.**

- God tells us that He will repay our acts of generosity. How do you think God can repay us? Will money just fall from the sky?
- What acts of generosity have you done for others in the past?
- What acts of generosity have been done for you in the past?
- We are taught by the rabbis of the Talmudic period that acts of kindness and generosity 'have no measure'. What do you think this means and what other Mitzvot (Commands in the Torah) have no measure? (Certain Commandments have a measure, for example we are told to observe Shabbat for 1 day. We are told to shake 1 lulav on Succot. Other commandments like 'Kindness', 'Torah study', 'respecting our parents' have no measure. They can be done to as great an extent as each person wants).
- Can you suggest other commandments that have/do not have a measure?



# Tefilla Treasures



There is a prayer which is said 3 times a day called 'Ashrei' (literally meaning happy are those...) and like many of our prayers, it comes from the book of Tehillim – Psalms, written by King David.

In this prayer, there is a line which reads;

**קָרוֹב הִי לְכֹל קוֹרְאָיו, לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרְאוּהוּ בְאֵמֶת.**

***Karov Hashem l'chol Korav l'chol asher  
yikra'uhu ve'emet***

***God is close to all who call to Him, to all  
who call to Him in truth***

**How does someone call to God in truth? Surely if they have a request  
they are  
not going to lie about it?**

**This line teaches us that when we pray to God with sincerity and  
feeling ('Truth') God always hears our prayers.**

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



---

**I've Got That Shabbat Feeling**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyKtc9fJIVA&list=PL3f6jlhuKP\\_vZn9XR0I1UtPDjH1VTgd5Y&index=5&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyKtc9fJIVA&list=PL3f6jlhuKP_vZn9XR0I1UtPDjH1VTgd5Y&index=5&t=0s)

I've got that Shabbat feeling deep in my heart  
That's where it starts  
Deep in my heart

I've got that Shabbat feeling deep in my heart  
Deep in my heart to stay

I've got that Shabbat feeling down in my toes  
That's where it goes  
Down in my toes

I've got that Shabbat feeling down in my toes  
Down in my toes to stay

I've got that Shabbat feeling up in my head  
That's where I said  
Up in my head

I've got that Shabbat feeling up in my head  
Up in my head to stay

I've got that Shabbat feeling right in my tummy  
Is it that funny?  
Right in my tummy

I've got that Shabbat feeling right in my tummy  
Right in my Tummy to stay

**Hu Yiftach Libeinu – 'He Opens our Hearts' (to His Torah)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4wQdwFX1I8>

הוא יִפְתַּח לִבֵּנוּ בְּתוֹרָתוֹ  
בְּתוֹרָתוֹ, בְּתוֹרָתוֹ,  
הוא יִפְתַּח לִבֵּנוּ בְּתוֹרָתוֹ  
לִבֵּנוּ בְּתוֹרָתוֹ.

וְיָשִׁם בְּלִבֵּנוּ  
אַהֲבָתוֹ וְיִירָאָתוֹ,  
לִבֵּנוּ, אוֹי לִבֵּנוּ  
לִבֵּנוּ בְּתוֹרָתוֹ.

Hu Yiftach libeinu beTorato

BeTorato, beTorato

Hu Yiftach Lineinu beTorato

Libeinu beTorato

Veyasem belibeinu

Ahavato v'yirato

Libeinu oy libeinu

Lineinu beTorato

He opens our hearts to His Torah

His Torah, His Torah

He opens our hearts to His Torah

Our hearts to His Torah

He places in our hearts His love and respect

Our hearts oy our hearts

His Torah in our hearts

**PESACH – PASSOVER**

**SHAVUOT**

**SUCCOT**



**Succot (Arba Minim – 4 Species – Lulav – Palm Branch, Etrog - Citrus , Haddasim - Myrtles, Aravot - Willows)**



**Succot - A Succah – Temporary Hut Jewish people sit in over the festival of Succot.**





**Succot - A picture of another Succah**



**Succot – Willows used as part of the 'Four Species' shaken on Succot**



**Pesach – A Seder Plate**



**Pesach – A Passover Seder which takes place on the first 2 nights of Pesach outside Israel and the first night of Pesach in Israel**



**Pesach – Matza (unleavened bread) eaten on Passover**



**Pesach – The Splitting of the Red Sea recalled as part of the exodus from Egypt**



**Shavuot – Mount Sinai, on which the Torah was given and which we celebrate the giving of on Shavuot**





**Shavuot – The Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai**



**Shavuot – We are told that at the time the Torah was being given on Mount Sinai, flowers grew on her, to beautify this most special occasion. We therefore decorate the synagogue with flowers on Shavuot.**



**FINS**



**SCALES**





Salmon kosher



Cod kosher



Haddock kosher



**Shark not kosher**



**Eels not kosher**



**Sea Bass kosher**



Plaiice kosher



Split Hooves



Chewing the cud



kosher



kosher



Not kosher



kosher



kosher



Not kosher





Not kosher



Not kosher



Kosher



**KOSHER**

**NON-KOSHER**