



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 raging flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)

Welcome

Chayei Sarah - 5780



This week's Parasha (Torah portion) starts by telling us that Sara (Sarah) died at the age of 127 years. Avraham (Abraham) mourned for his wife Sara (Sarah) and bought the nearby field and cave of Machpelah, as a burial place for Sara (Sarah).

Avraham (Abraham) now wanted to find a wife for his son Yitzchak (Isaac), so he sent his loyal servant Eliezer to find the right lady to marry Yitzchak (Isaac).

Eliezer took 10 camels laden with Avraham's (Abraham's) best possessions and set off on his journey to Aram Naharayim, from where he was to find a suitable wife for Yitzchak (Isaac). Eliezer stopped at a well, just outside the city and prayed to God, asking Him to help find the right lady.

Before long, Rivkah (Rebecca) arrived at the well and filled her jug. She even filled Eliezer's jug and gave water to his 10 camels. When Eliezer saw this act of immense kindness, he offered Rivkah (Rebecca) some jewellery, as he knew that God had answered his prayers and he went back home with Rivkah (Rebecca) to meet her family.

Eliezer brought Rivkah (Rebecca) back to Canaan with him, where she married Yitzchak (Isaac).

Avraham (Abraham) married Keturah and they had children, to whom Avraham (Abraham) gave beautiful gifts, but he gave everything he owned to his son Yitzchak (Isaac).

At the end of the Parasha (Torah Portion) Avraham (Abraham) died at the age of 175.

The Parasha - In a Nutshell!



Parasha Overview in a Little More Detail

- At the beginning of the Parasha (Torah portion), Sara (Sarah) died in Chevron (Hebron) at the age of 127. Upon hearing this sad news Avraham (Abraham) came quickly from Be'er Sheva (Be'er Sheba) to mourn for his wife. He bought the nearby cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite as a permanent burial place for Sara (Sarah) and Avraham (Abraham) buried her there.
- Avraham (Abraham) now grew anxious to find the right wife for his son Yitzchak (Isaac). He called his loyal servant Eliezer and entrusted him with the crucial task of finding a wife for his son.
- Avraham (Abraham) asked Eliezer to make a promise to him that he would not take a wife from amongst the Canaanites, rather he should return to Avraham's (Abraham's) native land and from there bring back a suitable wife for Yitzchak.
- Eliezer took 10 camels and set off on the journey to Aram Naharayim where Avraham's relatives lived. He arrived towards the evening and stopped at a well just outside the city. He then prayed to God that He help him find the right lady to marry Yitzchak (Isaac). He continued with a very specific prayer, describing to God exactly, that what he prayed would happen; he would ask a girl at the well for a drink of water. The girl who would reply, 'Drink and I will draw water for your camels as well', she is the girl chosen by God for Yitzchak (Isaac).
- Before Eliezer had even finished his prayer, Rivka (Rebecca) arrived at the well and filled her jug. Eliezer ran towards her and asked for a bit of water. Rivka (Rebecca) gave Eliezer some water to drink, then quickly drew more water for Eliezer's 10 camels.
- When Eliezer saw all this, he presented Rivka (Rebecca) with a gold nose ring and 2 gold bracelets. Eliezer was overjoyed to learn that Rivka (Rebecca) was actually the granddaughter of Nachor, the brother of Avraham and he praised God for showing his master, Avraham (Abraham) such kindness.
- Rivka took Eliezer to her home and she told her family the entire story of his journey. They allowed Rivka (Rebecca) to go back with Eliezer to the land of Canaan to marry Yitzchak (Isaac). Eliezer then took Rivka (Rebecca) back to the land of Canaan, where she met and married Yitzchak.
- Avraham (Abraham) took another wife named Keturah and they had children. He showered these children with amazing gifts and he left all he owned to his son Yitzchak (Isaac).
- Avraham died at the age of 175 years of age and he was buried by his sons Yitzchak (Isaac) and Yishmael (Ishmael) in the cave he had bought, the cave of Machpelah.

Parasha Overview
- In a Little More Detail!



Tot's – Year 3 – Activities

Activity – In this week's Parasha, Rivkah showed particular kindness towards Eliezer and his camels. This activity highlights different ways of being kind to different people and things.

Ask the children to sit in a circle either on the carpet or on chairs. Divide the children into pairs and give each pair one of the kindness statements, which are displayed at the end of the Spark. As you go around the circle, help each pair of children to read out their card and then they should tell everyone else in the circle how they would act out that particular kindness.

For example, if the card says, 'Be Kind to Animals', ask the children to say how they would be kind to animals.

Once all the pairs have told everyone how they would demonstrate their particular kindness, you could swap the statements around, if you have time.

Tots - Year 3 - Activities



Story Time



Rather than a story, I have included a short poem about 'Kindness' by Laura Jaworski, to reinforce the kindness of Rivkah (Rebecca).

Spread a little Kindness
Sprinkle as you go
Send it out into the world
Watch it ebb and flow
Plant a kindness garden
The more seeds that you sow
You'll find that your own happiness
Will grow
And grow
And grow!

Story Time

Years 3- 6 - Activities

Activity – ‘The Kindness box’

Place a small box/jar in the middle of a circle of children, in which you should place small slips of paper, each with a kind deed written on it. A child is chosen to come to the centre of the circle and pick out a folded slip of paper, open it and read out aloud what it



says. The child with the slip of paper should then sit down and directs that kindness at the person to their right.



For example; if the slip of paper reads, ‘You look so smart...’, the child could then say, ‘...because you are wearing a nice shirt’ or ‘nice shoes’.

You can create the slips of paper from the following statements, but don’t forget to fold them and place them in a small box or jar, as this makes it more fun as the children anticipate what they are going to read out!

- You are so talented because...
- You did an amazing job on...
- I really like your...
- You are so popular because...
- You really helped me today because...
- I appreciate what you did for me when...
- You showed me that you have such good manners when...
- It was so kind of you to include me in the game...
- You are such a good friend because...
- You are an amazing person because...
- You are so brave because...
- Everyone really likes you because...
- You are such a good listener because...
- You are so cool because...

Discussion Points



We are told in this week's Parasha that Avraham (Abraham) asked his most trusted servant Eliezer to find a wife for Yitzchak (Isaac). So, Eliezer set out on his journey to Aram Naharaim, where Avraham's (Abraham's) extended family lived.

Eliezer turned to God and prayed with such devotion, that even before he had finished his prayer, God had answered him!

- Why do you think this happened to Eliezer?
- Do you think it had something to do with who he worked for?
- Can you think of anyone else in the Torah, whose prayer was answered really quickly?
- Have you ever had an experience like this, when your prayer was answered immediately?
- Have you ever had your prayers answered, but a while after you prayed?

Discussion Points



Song for Chayei Sarah

The link has been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children this song. The words are fairly simple, as is the tune.

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/519420/jewish/Chayei-Sarah.htm

Now it was time for Yitzchak to marry
Hashem's bracha, his children would carry
Eliezer was sent a wife to find
She must be good and kind

He took camels and jewellery the best
On his way, he sat down to rest
"Please Hashem", he said with all his might
"Help me find the girl that is right."

Then he saw Rivkah, B'tuel's daughter
May I give you and your camels some water
At the moment the good deed was done
Eliezer knew that she was the one

Eliezer and Rivkah to Canaan did ride
Yitzchak took Rivkah, for his bride
Now Yitzchak at last was sure
The anan hakavod (Cloud of Glory), was back at his door

Songs



'Being Kind to Animals'

'Helping Poor People'

'Helping Someone to do a Job'

'Being Kind to the Environment'

'Helping People who are Unwell'

'Inviting Guests into your Home'