



November 2018

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
sharonradley@tribeuk.com

TETZAVEH 5779

Parsha Summary:

- God tells Moshe to instruct the people to bring pure, pressed olive oil for lighting the Menorah in the Mishkan. Aharon and his sons will take charge of setting up and lighting the Menorah. Moshe will guide “wise-hearted” workers to make the special garments for the Kohanim, “for glory and splendour”. The first four of the eight garments listed were worn exclusively by the Kohen Gadol, the first of whom was Aharon. **(1)** The Ephod was worn over Aharon’s tunic and robe. It was woven from coloured wool and linen, with two shoulder straps (ketefot) and a belt (cheshev) attached. Precious shoham stones (avnei shoham) were placed on each shoulder strap. Each stone was engraved with the name of six tribes.
- **(2)** The breastplate (Choshen) was placed above the Ephod and with a similar weave. The front of the breastplate contained 12 different types of precious stones (avnei miluim), each one engraved with the name of a different tribe. Golden rings on the four corners allowed it to be attached to the Ephod. The Choshen ‘folded out’ to allow the insertion of a piece of parchment called the Urim Ve’Tumim, which had the Ineffable Name of God written on it.
- **(3)** The robe (Me’il) was worn under the first two garments, made of turquoise wool. Golden bells (rimonim), placed between multicoloured woollen ‘pomegranate’ shapes, hung from the bottom hem. **(4)** The headplate (Tzitz) was made of pure gold and had the words ‘Kodesh L’Hashem’ written on it. It was placed on Aharon’s forehead. Every Kohen wore **(5)** a tunic (Ketonet) with a gridlike patterned knit, as well as **(6)** a linen turban (Mitznefet), **(7)** an embroidered sash (Avnet) and **(8)** linen trousers (Michnasayim).
- The command to consecrate the Mishkan is given. Every day for seven days, Moshe is to bring animal and bread offerings, dress Aharon and his sons in their priestly clothing and anoint Aharon’s head with oil. The blood from the offerings is to be placed on the altar to inaugurate it.
- Moshe is to place the blood of the second ram offering on the ears, thumbs and toes of Aharon and his sons. Blood and oil are to be sprinkled on their garments. Moshe is to assist the Kohanim in waving their inauguration offering.
- Once the Mishkan is functional, the twice-daily Tamid (continual) offering is to be brought, one sheep in the morning, one in the afternoon, together with a flour offering and a wine libation.
- The Mishkan also housed a gold-plated wooden mizbeach (altar), upon which the twice-daily incense offering was brought.

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.

Discussion: The clothing of the Kohanim

- Do any of the children have special clothes that they wear for particular occasions? (Shabbat, Chagim, parties, football....)
- Are there any professions that require people to wear special clothes?
- Do you think uniforms are important?
- Why do we keep our nicest clothes for Shabbat and Chagim?

Explain:

In the Mishkan there were people who had special jobs to do and they were called Kohanim. The Kohanim were given special clothes to wear, (for pictures go to Google Images or Amazon.) Our rabbis tell us that the wonderful clothes that the Kohanim wore were to honour them as they were similar to royal clothes. When wearing the clothes the Kohanim would realise the awesome responsibility they had of carrying out the service in the Mishkan. These distinctive clothes would make the rest of the Jewish people respect the Kohanim. We can learn from the uniform of the Kohanim that when we pray or perform particular mitzvot we should dress and behave in a respectful and fitting way before God.

Please see above in the parsha summary for an explanation of the clothing and below for pictures.

Activity: The Choshen - Breastplate

Focus on the Choshen - Breastplate that the Kohen Gadol wore. Explain that the Choshen was the holiest of the clothes that the Kohen Gadol would wear. It was made out of a piece of woven material that was folded in half forming a pouch. Into the pouch would be inserted a parchment on which was written God's holy name. On the front of each breastplate were twelve precious stones with the names of the shevatim – tribes, engraved on them. The breastplate was held in place by two gold rings attached to each of its upper corners with gold braided chains threaded through. The rings would be attached to the Ephod. The bottom part of the Choshen was also attached to the Ephod.

Rashi tells us that when the Kohen Gadol had important questions to ask God, the letters of the names of the shevatim would light up presenting the correct answers.

Song: The names of the shevatim - To the tune of *'Bobby Shafto'*:

'Reuven, Shimon, Levi, Yehudah,
Yissachar, Zevulun, Dan, Naftali,
Gad, Asher, Yosef, Binyamin
These are the twelve shevatim.

Prepare in advance, coloured jelly sweets (check the allergy information of the children at your service) with at least twelve different coloured sweets. Ask the children to choose twelve sweets each and either lay them out as shown below in a waffle (can be found in kosher shops) or on a piece of material or napkin. You can do this either as an introduction to the Choshen or after you have discussed it - as a review. Either way it is an activity which will help the children to remember these special clothes for years to come! When you have finished discussing the special twelve stones the children can eat them as a treat!



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.
- 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 Chocolate Game

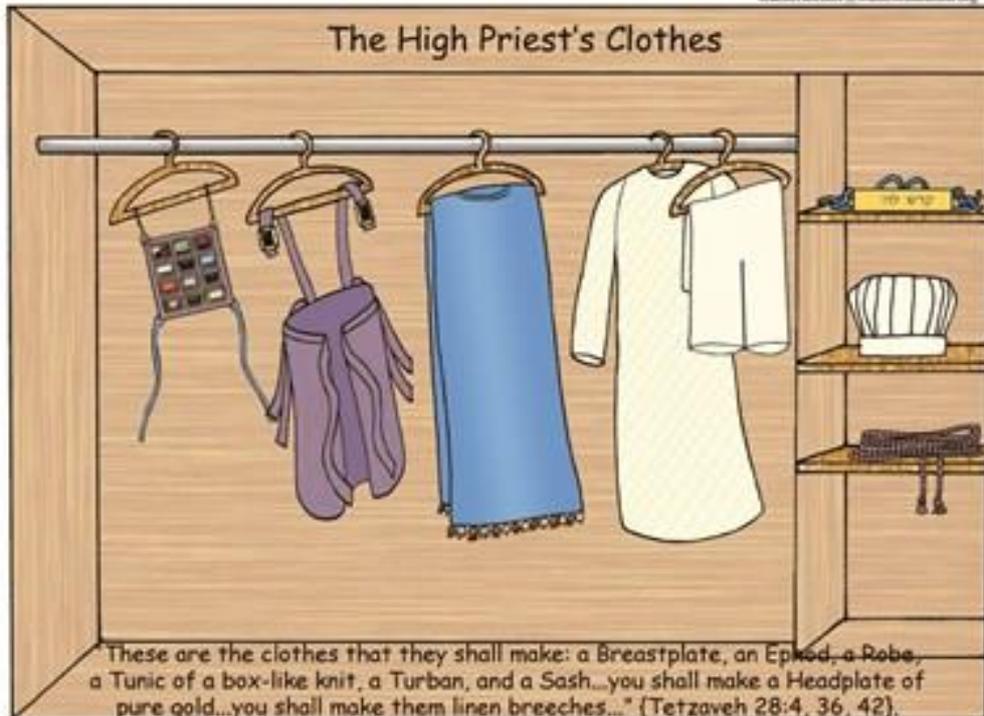
Before playing this game, familiarise your participants with the clothing of the Kohen and the Kohen Gadol. Playing one of the games above may be helpful. There are pictures below and an explanation in the parsha summary above.

The Chocolate Game: (Please check allergy guidelines before playing.)

1. Group sits in a circle with the chocolate, fork, knife, two balls/balloons/objects and Kohen clothes in the middle
 2. Pass a dice around the circle, each person rolls the dice then passes it to the person on their left.
 3. If someone rolls a 6, they must run to the middle, put on each of the 8 garments, throw one object up in the air and one down to the floor, then using only the fork and knife, cut and eat a piece of chocolate.
 4. If someone else rolls a 6, the person in the middle must stop whatever s/he is doing, remove the garments, and return to the circle so that the new person can try to get the chocolate.
- It's possible to buy a Kohen's outfit online or you can make it yourself with substitute items such as a dressing gown, a sheet, tablecloth, sweatpants or pyjama pants, a belt, ribbon, rope, apron, cardboard, material, gold paper...
 - At the end of the game explain to the group that the Kohen Gadol had to work very hard and very fast to ensure that he had time to complete all his jobs.



© Walder



Book of Exodus

