



Welcome to Spark2, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service. 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.

Spark2 gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, activity or Dvar 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 Spark2. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if I can be of any help.

With best wishes,
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Toldot

Parsha Summary

- After many years of being married, God answered the prayers of Yitzchak and Rivka and she became pregnant with twins.
- The twins, Yacov and Esav, are born and they are very different. Esav was very hairy and red in colour. Yacov was born holding Esav's heel. Their personalities were different too; Esav loved to hunt and was a man of the field, Yacov loved to study Torah.
- Esav came in hungry one day whilst Yacov was cooking a stew. Esav sold Yacov his birthright in return for the stew.
- Yitzchak and his family move to Gerar because there is a famine.
- Yitzchak dug wells and became wealthy, but the local people argued about the wells so Yitzchak and his family moved away.
- Yitzchak decided to bless Esav, his older son. Rivka, who knew that Esav had sold his birthright to Yacov, instructed Yacov to impersonate Esav and go to Yitzchak to receive the blessings. When Yacov came in dressed as Esav, Yitzchak, (who was blind) said: *"the voice is Yacov's voice, but the hands are Esav's hands."*
- Esav returned for his blessings and discovered that Yacov has already been and received the first blessing. He became very angry and wanted to kill Yacov. Rivka helped Yacov run away to Charan for safety.

Children's Service: Tots-Year 3

The song below is a great overview of the parsha. Use it as a springboard to discuss and act out the events of the parsha.

Activity 1:

Toldot Song (*To the tune of Polly Wolly Doodle*)

Rivka Imeinu had twin sons, Esav was red
He was a hunter, Yacov learned Torah instead
Yacov was cooking soup, Esav was hunting
"I am hungry! Give me soup! Esav came in grunting

"Please sell me your bechorah I'll give you soup so red."

Yacov told this to Esav, "Take it!" Esav said.

Rivka put fur on Yacov as a disguise

Yitzchak touched his son, because he, had weak eyes.

"It sounds like Yacov, but feels like Esav's hands"

Yacov received the bracha, of the stars and sand.

When Esav came home his anger burned

Yacov had no choice, to Lavan's house he turned.

Explain how Yitzchak was blind and had to rely on other senses instead of his eyesight. Ask the children what other senses can help us if we can't see. Remind them that touch and sound are important when you are compensating for lack of sight. We see

this from the parsha when Yitzchak said '*Hakol kol Yacov, V'hayedayim yedai Eisav.*' 'The voice is Yacov's voice but the hands are Eisav's hands.' He was listening to the sound of his voice and feeling what his hands felt like. Bring in something furry/soft for the children to feel. Would they still be able to work out what it is with their eyes closed?

Yitzchak had to listen very carefully because he couldn't depend on his eyes. In this game, we have to listen carefully too.

Activity 2:

Blind man in the middle

Play in a circle: children take turns to be blindfolded in the middle. Once they are blindfolded, the rest of the group make a circle around them (so they don't know where everyone is). The child in the middle walks up to anyone, points to them and says "Shabbat Shalom?" The child responds "Shabbat Shalom" in a funny voice, trying to disguise who they are. If the child in the middle correctly guesses their identity, the child disguising their voice becomes the new blind man in the middle.

Children's Service: Years 3-6

In this week's parsha we read about Yacov pretending to be Esav to receive the brachot from Yitzchak. But Yitzchak knew his children well enough to realise that something 'Esav' said was out of character. Yitzchak said '*Hakol kol Yacov, V'hayedayim yedai Eisav.*' 'The voice is Yacov's voice but the hands are Eisav's hands.' Would you be able to tell if someone was pretending?

Activity 1:

Two Truths and a Lie

Go around the room and everyone says three 'facts' about themselves. Two should be true and one a lie. The children have to try and guess which 'fact' is false. How well do we know our own friends?

Activity 2:

Blind Auction

Prepare envelopes (at least 20) of 'money' (Shabbat friendly of course!) – random values, anywhere between £1 – £1million.

Each child is allocated 50 points. (Alternatively, they can earn points from quiz/previous game/davening/behaviour etc.)

Explain to the children the nature of the envelopes – they all have different amounts inside but no one knows what each contains. Have a blind auction: children blind bid for the envelopes without knowing the value inside. Inevitably, some will be very profitable, and others, a disappointment.

Discuss how we are more reserved when bidding for something when we are not sure of its value. The value of something tells us how important it is. When we know that we have something significant at stake, we are prepared to sacrifice for it.

Esav saw no value for the bechora – the birthright and thus was prepared to sell it for a bowl of soup! Yacov, on the other hand, recognised its true value and was able to receive the birthright. What do we value? What is important to us? What would we be prepared to sacrifice for?