



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
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VAYAKHEL 5779

Parsha Summary:

- Moshe gathers the nation. He instructs them to keep Shabbat, mentioning specifically the prohibition to kindle a fire. He then asks them to volunteer the materials needed for the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and the priestly garments. These materials are gold, silver, copper; turquoise, purple and scarlet wool; linen, goat hair; dyed ram skins, skins of the tachash animal, acacia wood, oil, specific spices and particular precious stones (for placing in the Kohen Gadol's garments).
- The people respond positively to Moshe's request and "every man and woman whose heart motivated them" brings the various materials requested.
- Moshe announces the appointment of the wise hearted Betzalel and Aholiav to oversee the construction, assisted by able craftsmen. When they collect the materials volunteered, they find that there is a surplus. Moshe asks that a message be sent throughout the camp not to bring any more materials.
- The work starts with the ten yeriyot (curtains) and the golden hooks joining them together. This is followed by the ohel (tent), draped over the Mishkan, with a further double michse (cover) on top.
- Next the craftsmen make the parochet (partition) to cordon off the Holy of Holies area. Betzalel makes the aron (ark) from acacia wood, plated with gold and with a gold zer (crown). The kaporet (cover) of the aron is made from pure gold, with two keruvim (cherubs) on top. The shulchan (table) is made from goldplated acacia wood, with a gold zer (crown) on its misgeret (rim).

- The menorah is hammered from one piece of pure gold, with seven lamps. The gold-plated small wooden mizbeach (altar) is constructed for the twice-daily incense offering.
- The special anointing oil and the incense spices are prepared. The workers then construct a copper kiyor (washstand) for the Kohanim, followed by the chatzer (courtyard) which surrounds the Mishkan, making its outer 'fence' of linen yeriyot (curtains), attached to wooden pillars.

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.
- **Shabbat Mevorchim**

This Shabbat is Shabbat Mevorchim Hachodesh when we pray for a good month and announce the date of Rosh Chodesh. The tefillah for this can be found on page 155 of the new Tribe Siddur Shevet Asher. Perhaps you may like to ask one of the participants at your service to announce the new month. If you have a 'Kiddush' or 'snack time' during your Children's Service you may be able to purchase crescent shaped biscuits that look like the moon or black and white biscuits that symbolise the moon in the night. Discuss the fact that when we see a new moon it is the start of a new Jewish month. The children should look out for the new moon this week!

Song: The Months – to the tune of ‘Bobby Shafto’

Ask your participants to clap their hands together on the name for the new month.

Nisan, Iyar, Sivan , Tammuz
Av, Ellul, Tishrei, Cheshvan
Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar
And Adar Sheni.

“On six days work may be done but on the seventh shall be holy for you” Vayakhel 35: 2

In the parsha this week we are reminded to keep Shabbat. On Shabbat we are told not to work but to have a special day when we see friends, relax, go to Shul, spend time with our family and have delicious meals.

Ask the children if they know any special Shabbat songs. You might want to sing Shalom Aleichem, Lecha Dodi or one of the Shabbat Zmirot.

Song: To the tune of ‘Frere Jacques’:

Shabbat candles, Shabbat candles,
Burning bright, burning bright,
Challot on the table, challot on the table,
It’s Friday night, it’s Friday night.

Activity

Explain that in order to make Shabbat really special and because we don’t perform any ‘work’ on Shabbat we make sure everything is ready before the start of Shabbat. Ask the children for examples of jobs they could do

in order to help prepare for Shabbat. Play the Shabbat version of the game, 'I went on holiday and I took with me...'

Sit in a circle if possible. Choose a child to start the game by saying, 'I helped prepare for Shabbat and I.....' The child should then say one job that they did in order to help prepare for Shabbat. Jobs could be: set up the candles, put a tablecloth on the table, buy some flowers, put out the Kiddush cups, bake challot...

The next child in the circle starts the sentence again, repeating what the first child said and adding a job of their own. The third child repeats what child one and two said and adds a job of their own. The game continues going around the circle with the list growing longer and longer. A child is 'out' if they forget an item.

Discuss:

- What is your favourite aspect of Shabbat?

Activity: 'Details'

Vayakehel: 35: 10-11. 'Every wise hearted person among you shall come and make everything that Hashem has commanded: The Mishkan, its tent, its cover, its hooks, its planks, its bars, its pillars, its sockets.'

In this game, one pair of two people act out a scene without using any words or sounds and three other pairs must come in and try to figure out what the scene is. The way it works is as follows: Three pairs of two are sent outside while one pair stays inside with the rest of the group. The group decides on a scene they want the pair to act out. One pair is then called in from outside and the initial pair acts out their scene without using any words or sounds. The second pair watches closely and then acts it out for the third pair, again not using words or sounds. The fourth pair then comes in and watches the third pair act it out without using words or sounds. Now, the fourth pair then tries to guess what the scene was and acts it out using words and sounds. We see how close the original scene was and ask the other pairs what they thought they were doing.

Discuss:

- Ask your participants how they worked out what the scenes were about. (Inevitably it will be a small detail that helped them understand.)

Discuss: Sometimes when a big new project excites us, it's easy to ignore the details. But in truth, it is the small details that make big things happen. In this week's parsha, we learn about the construction of the Mishkan in all its fine details. How much of this, how many of that, exactly what size, etc. At first glance, all these details might seem inconsequential. But if they weren't followed precisely, not only wouldn't the Mishkan fit together properly, but it wouldn't be an effective place to connect with God.

It is the same for anything we want to accomplish. If we pay attention to the details along the way, we'll get to where we want to go. Details are life's pieces of the puzzle that make things happen.

- If you are using this activity for Key Stage 2 :

Ask: Why do people sometimes dislike details?

Explain: Details aren't the most exciting thing in the world, and they often require a lot of effort. But if a person can train himself to be careful with the details of whatever he's doing, he will develop a life-long habit that will help him get ahead, in whatever he wants to accomplish. In fact, most of the mitzvot of the Torah have many details. This is because just like small details bring us closer to achieving our goals in the best way so to our keeping of the mitzvot in the correct way, brings us closer to God.

Activity: 'Mirror Mirror'

Vayakhel 38: 8 'He made the Laver of copper and its base of copper, from the mirrors...'

Form pairs, and instruct each pair to choose one person to be the mirror and one to be the actor. The mirror has to copy every action the actor does as if they were a mirror. Let them start slow. You might suggest the actor improvise a dance or perform an action usually done in front of a mirror, like brushing teeth, or checking out their outfit. After a minute or so, direct them to switch roles.

Then introduce a change, such as:

- Be a fun house mirror.
- Exaggerate your partner's movements instead of reflecting them.

Get back together in a circle and show the children the picture of the kiyor – laver (see picture below) that was built for the Mishkan.

Explain that the basin was a very large copper basin that was placed in the courtyard of the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use it to wash their hands and feet before performing their service. The basin was not made out of regular copper but was made exclusively from the brightly polished sheets of copper that the women used as mirrors in those days. When Moshe asked for contributions for the Mishkan the women came forward with their mirrors that they had used in Egypt.

In fact the Ibn Ezra, a commentator on the Torah, tells us that the Torah doesn't even mention the size of the kiyor because every single mirror that was donated by the women was used to make it! It didn't matter how big it became!

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: Vayakhel, Chapter 35: 21: "Every person whose heart inspired him came".

The aim of this game is for the participants to win points for their team. The team with the most points wins.

Arrange everyone into groups of 4 or 5 depending on the size of your service. Everyone has to participate in at least one round. Explain the rules: You will be announcing a contest category for the group, for example, 'The Tallest'. Each group needs to select one person who they think will win the category. There'll be a category contest and if a person has 'the best' within the category, his or her team gets a point.

See the list of ideas for categories below and reveal the specific action or measurement the selected people have to do to win the contest. The person with the best action or measurement wins a point for their team.

The team with the most points wins the game.

List: (Please ensure that every person in your group has the opportunity to participate.)

The Tallest....Thumb

The Fastest....Crab Walker

The Highest....Jumper

The Longest....Stare in Staring Contest

The Fastest....Alphabet Song Singer

The Smallest....Shoe Size

The Strongest....Thumb for a Thumb War

The Fastest....Paper Cup Stacker

The Longest....Thrower and Catcher (Two People)

The longest....hair

Discuss: Vayakhel, Chapter 35: 21: “Every person whose heart inspired him came”.

The Jewish people had come from Egypt where they had been slaves for many years. They were only accustomed to manual labour and had no experience in the specialized crafts needed to build the Mishkan, yet they were inspired and courageous enough to try and do whatever was needed. They took the initiative and knew that God would help them succeed.

We all have unique abilities but it is up to us to work out how best to use them. We can learn from the construction of the Mishkan to be courageous, search out our own special talents and use them to do good.

- How can we discover our unique talents?
- Do you have a special talent that you can use in a positive manner?
- What would stop you using your talent?



The Kiyor – Laver