



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

Welcome



Vayera - 5780

At the beginning of this week's Parasha (Torah portion) Avraham (Abraham) was sitting at the entrance to his tent, when three individuals appeared.

Avraham (Abraham) ran to welcome them and proceeded to entertain them in a most hospitable manner. These 'men' were actually Malachim (angels), as is apparent from the narrative and they were sent by God to perform special duties.

One Malach (Angel) had been sent to inform Avraham (Abraham) and Sara (Sarah) that they were to have a child, the second Malach (Angel) healed Avraham (Abraham) of the pain he had experienced following his Brit Milah (Circumcision) and the third Malach (Angel) came to destroy Sedom and Amarah (Sodom and Gomorrah).

Two of the three Malachim (Angels) arrived in Sedom (Sodom), with the first Malach (Angel) saving Lot and his family and the second to actually destroying the city. The two Malachim (Angels) who still had the appearance of ordinary human beings, were invited by Lot into his house. But when the word spread that Lot had been hospitable to visitors, the people of the city were furious and gathered around Lot's house. As the people tried to molest the visitors, God struck them with blindness.



The Malachim (Angels) informed Lot of God's intention to destroy the city and Lot, his wife and their 2 daughters left the city with the two Malachim (Angels). Lot and his family found refuge in a small town, later known as Tzoar. Just as God had told Avraham (Abraham), the

entire cities of Sedom and Amorah (Sodom and Gomorrah) were destroyed.

Lot and his family were told not to look at the destruction, but Lot's wife turned back to watch and God punished her and she became a pillar of salt!

After this terrible catastrophe of the destruction of Sedom (Sodom), Avraham (Abraham) travelled to the south of Israel, to a place called Gerar. The king of Gerar was Avimelech and once again Avraham feared that he would take his wife Sara (Sarah) as a wife, so he told Sara (Sarah) to say she was his sister.

Nevertheless, Sara (Sarah) was taken into the palace of Avimelech and only when he was smitten with an illness did he realise that he had done wrong. Just like Pharaoh had done, Avimelech showered many gifts on Avraham (Abraham) and Sara (Sarah) and they left Gerar.

It was now a year later and Sara (Sarah) gave birth to a son called Yitzchak (Isaac).

Sara (Sarah) now urged her husband Avraham (Abraham) to send Hagar (Abraham's maidservant) and Yishmael (Ishmael) away as Sara (Sarah) believed Yishmael (Ishmael) to be a bad influence on Yitzchak (Isaac). So, giving them bread and water, Avraham (Abraham) sent Hagar and Yishmael (Ishmael) away. Wandering around the wilderness, Hagar and Yishmael (Ishmael) soon ran out of food and water. A Malach (Angel) appeared to Hagar and miraculously showed her a well, assuring her of her son's future.



Being a true servant of God, Avraham (Abraham) had successfully fulfilled 9 tests which God had set him and now he was being asked to take his son Yitzchak (Isaac) and offer him to God as an 'Offering'.

Avraham (Abraham) didn't hesitate and took his son to Mount Moriah to offer him there as a Korban (Offering to God). But not knowing it was only a test, at the last minute, as he was about to kill his son, Avraham (Abraham) heard the voice of a Malach (Angel) saying 'Abraham, Abraham, do not hurt your son.'

At the very end of the Parasha (Torah portion) we are told the name of the children of Nachor, Avraham's (Abraham's) brother. One of the children was called Bethuel who was the father of Rivkah (Rebecca), to whom we will be introduced in the Parasha (Torah portion) next week.

The Parasha - In a Nutshell!



- Avraham (Abraham) was sitting at the entrance to his tent, hoping to invite guests, even though he was still recovering from his Brit Milah (Circumcision). He looked up and saw 3 men walking by and he ran to greet them and bring them back to his tent as his guests.
- These men were angels sent by God to carry out very specific missions. One of the Malachim (Angels) was to inform Avraham (Abraham) and Sara (Sarah) that in a year's time, they would have a son. However, Sara (Sarah), who was almost ninety years of age at the time, laughed at this seemingly unbelievable news. The second Malach (Angel) healed Avraham (Abraham) of his pain from the Brit Milah (Circumcision) he had performed on himself.
- The time had now arrived for the third Malach (Angel) to carry out his task of destroying the cities of Sedom and Amorah (Sodom and Gomorrah), but before doing so, God informed Avraham (Abraham) of his intention to destroy these cities. But when Avraham (Abraham) heard this dreadful news, his compassion was aroused and he approached God in prayer. He asked God if there were at least a number of good people in the cities on whose behalf the cities could be saved, but when God informed Avraham (Abraham) that not even 10 good people could be found in the cities, Avraham (Abraham) relented and accepted God's plan.



- Two of the three Malachim (Angels) arrived in the city. The angel who had healed Avraham (Abraham) of his pain also came to save Lot and his family from the people of Sedom (Sodom).
- Appearing like mere mortals, Lot invited the Malachim (Angels) into his house, but the people of Sedom (Sodom) who were opposed to any kindness shown to outsiders, tried to break into Lot's house and hurt the 'men' who were staying there. God made these people blind which obviously sent them in to a confusion and their attempt to find an entrance into the house was in vain.
- God then caused fire and brimstone to rain down on the cities of Sedom and Amarah (Sodom and Gomorrah) and the entire area was overturned and destroyed. Having been warned not to look back at the downfall of the cities, Lot's wife decided to look back and as a result, God turned her in to a pillar of salt!
- Avraham (Abraham) then travelled to the Negev (The South of Israel) to a place called Gerar. He once again took the precaution he had earlier taken in Egypt and told Avimelech, the king of Gerar that Sara (Sarah) was his sister. But Avimelech still took Sara (Sarah) in to his household and as a result he was smitten with an illness. God appeared to Avimelech in a dream, telling him that he had committed a grave sin by taking Sara (Sarah) into his palace for himself. The next day Avimelech returned Sara (Sarah) to Avraham (Abraham) along with many riches.
- It was now a year later and God remembered Sara (Sarah) as he had promised and she gave birth to a son called Yitzchak (Isaac). Avraham (Abraham) circumcised Yitzchak (Isaac) when he was 8 days old.

- As her son grew up, Sara (Sarah) felt that Yishmael (Ishmael) might prove to be a negative influence on Yitzchak (Isaac) and she urged Avraham (Abraham) to send Hagar and Yishmael (Ishmael) away. Avraham (Abraham) was unhappy with this request, but God appeared to Avraham (Abraham) and told him to follow Sara's (Sarah's) advice. God also promised him that Yishmael (Ishmael) would develop in to a great nation.
- Avraham (Abraham) took bread and water and gave it to Hagar and sent her and Yishmael (Ishmael) away from his home. Hagar and her son wandered about in the wilderness for days and when it appeared that they might die from thirst, a Malach (Angel) of God appeared and showed her a well of water.
- The Malach (Angel) reassured Hagar that her son would be the leader of a great nation and Yishmael (Ishmael) grew up to be a bowman and lived in the wilderness of Paran, where he married an Egyptian woman.
- God commanded Avraham (Abraham) to take his only son, the one he loved, the son of his old age, Yitzchak (Isaac) and to offer him as a Korban (Sacrificial offering) on Mount Moriah. Avraham did not hesitate for a moment. He awoke early the next morning and made the necessary preparations, took his son Yitzchak (Isaac) and journeyed to Moriah.
- When he arrived at the mountain, he took Yitzchak (Isaac) and prepared him as a Korban (offering). Just as Avraham was about to kill his son, an angel spoke to him and said 'Avraham, Avraham (Abraham,
- Abraham), do not do anything to Yitzchak (Isaac) for now I know that you are indeed God-fearing.'
- The Parasha (Torah portion) concludes by introducing the second of our Imahot (matriarchs) Rivkah (Rebecca).



Activity – ‘I show that I care...’

Remind the children about the episode from the Parasha (Torah portion), when God tells Avraham (Abraham) that He is going to destroy the cities of Sedom and Amarah (Sodom and Gomorrah).

Avraham (Abraham) was such a caring person that he pleaded with God, saying that surely there must be some good people in these cities, on whose behalf they could all be saved. The following activity will encourage the children to think about and share with their peers, how they have shown care to others.

Sit the children in a circle and ask them to think about what they may have done for one of their siblings, a parent or grandparent or one of their friends, to show that they care about them.

They may have written them a card or a note that tells them how much they care about them or they may have given their sister/brother a share of their new presents to show them that they care or they may have complimented them.

An example for you to start the activity is to say, ‘I show that I care, when I buy my mother/wife/grandmother/father/husband/grandfather/friend flowers or a box of chocolates. Then proceed around the circle.



Story – ‘The Little Red Rabbi’ (based on the well-known story of ‘The Little Red Hen’...but with a difference!!).

One cold winters evening, the Little Red Rabbi was helping his wife clear the table after supper and wash the dishes, make the children’s sandwiches for the next day and prepare the breakfast for the next morning.

As the Little Red Rabbi wrapped the last sandwich he turned to his wife and said, ‘I have a great idea. Why don’t we invite some guests for Friday night.’ ‘That is a really wonderful idea’ said the Little Red Rabbi’s wife and she and the Little Red Rabbi began to phone lots of people to see if they could come for supper on Friday night.

After all the phone calls had been made, the Little Red Rabbi and his wife had invited 20 people for supper on Friday night! ‘Wow, thought the Little Red Rabbi. That is a lot of people! I know what I’ll do. I’ll ask my good friends Michael, Michaela and Morris if they can help me with some of the preparation on Thursday evening.

So, the Little Red Rabbi called Michael. ‘Hi Michael’, said the Little Red Rabbi, ‘are you able to help me make some chicken soup for Friday night, as I have a lot of guests coming. ‘I’m so very sorry Little Red Rabbi’, said Michael. ‘I’ve got to attend a very important work meeting.’ ‘No problem at all’, said the Little Red Rabbi.



Next, the Little Red Rabbi called Michaela. 'Hi Michaela', said the Little Red Rabbi, 'are you able to help my wife make some Challah for Friday night, as I have a lot of guests coming. 'I'm so very sorry Little Red Rabbi', said Michaela. 'I've got to pick my mum up from the airport on Thursday.' 'No problem at all', said the Little Red Rabbi.

Then the Little Red Rabbi called Morris. 'Hi Morris', said the Little Red Rabbi, 'are you able to help me buy lots of drinks from Tesco for Friday night, as I have a lot of guests coming. 'I'm so very sorry Little Red Rabbi', said Morris. 'I've got to pick up my daughter from her swimming lessons on Thursday.' 'No problem at all', said the Little Red Rabbi.

So, the Little Red Rabbi had to help his wife make the Challot, buy all the drinks from Tesco and make the chicken soup, as well as all the other things that needed preparing for all the guests who were coming on Friday night.

When everything was prepared and ready, the Little Red Rabbi and his wife sat down to relax. 'I can't believe it', said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I forgot to ask my good friends Michael, Michaela and Morris for supper on Friday night.' The Little Red Rabbi went over to the phone and called Michael, Michaela and Morris, asking each of them if they would like to come for supper on Friday night. Each one was so grateful for the invitation and said that they would love to come.

When Friday night came, the Little Red Rabbi's family and 27 guests all stood around the table as Kiddush was said. As they sat down for the meal, the Little Red Rabbi said, 'how great it is to have you all here in our home. Welcome, welcome to all of you and Shabbat shalom.'



This is a story about a great Rabbi who was renowned for the Hachnasat Orchim (Kindness to guests) him and his wife practiced. Similarly, in the Parasha (Torah portion) this week, Avraham invited the 3 men (who were actually angels) into his home and hurriedly prepared a meal for them.

There was once a very good and pious man named Rav Yeshaya and amongst the good deeds he did was the Mitzvah (the Command) of Hachnasat Orchim (inviting guests in to his home).

A man and his wife were once travelling through a small village on Friday afternoon, when they happened to notice Rav Yeshaya's house. They were really tired and wanted to ask for accommodation, but they really didn't have much money, but as they proceeded out of the village, a wheel on their carriage broke and they had no choice but to knock on the door of Rav Yeshaya's house and ask for a place to stay for Shabbat.

They knocked on the door and Rav Yeshaya answered. As soon as he heard of their plight, he asked them inside and the man and his wife nervously asked Rav Yeshaya how much the accommodation for Sabbath would cost. Rav Yeshaya answered that it would cost 5 Rubles, but for that price they could eat as much as they wanted.

Although this was quite a high price, the husband and wife enjoyed their Shabbat meals and slept well on very comfortable beds. When Shabbat was over, the couple were most willing to pay the 5 Rubles, but Rav Yeshaya refused to accept the money.

'But Rabbi', said the man, 'we agreed on the price and we had a most wonderful Shabbat here. Why won't you accept our money?'



Rav Yeshaya replied, ‘actually I never had any intention of taking the money from you, as the Mitzvah (command) of Hachnasat Orchim (inviting guests) is one that I gladly perform for nothing.

However, I sensed that if I told you at the outset that I wouldn’t accept money, you would have felt very uncomfortable here and would therefore not accept our hospitality. I wanted you to enjoy Shabbat and you did. That is enough payment for me.’

Story Time



Activity – Trust Me!

The Parasha (Torah portion) this week highlights the concept of trust, particularly the trust Avraham (Abraham) had in God when he was willing to do as God had told him and take the son he had waited so long for and offer him as a Korban (Offering).

This game is about trust and is an opportunity to reinforce this important quality.

Divide the children into pairs, with one child being blindfolded and the other being the guide.

Once the child is blindfolded, place a chair somewhere in the room and the child who is the guide must direct the blindfolded child to the chair. However, using some paper plates as obstacles, place them on the floor at various points and the child who is the guide must navigate the blindfolded child around the ‘obstacles’ and guide him/her to the chair.

Not being able to see, the blindfolded child must put their trust in their partner.



Activity 2 – Role-play these scenarios

Show children this list of examples of caring for others and explain that there are different ways to care for other people.

The children should be divided into groups of 3 or 4 and should be given a scenario from which they should prepare a role-play of their scenario, to show the other groups. The scenarios have been enlarged at the end of the Spark, so as to enable them to be given to each separate group.

- 1. Treat people with kindness and generosity.**
- 2. Help people in need.**
- 3. Be sensitive to people's feelings.**
- 4. Never be mean or hurtful.**
- 5. Think about how your actions will affect others.**
- 6. Always use caring words towards other people.**



What can we learn from Dan and Dina in this week's Tribe Scribe?

As in previous weeks. Have copies of the Daf Hashavua on hand to give out to the children. Read through the Tribe Scribe episode with the children and ask them;

1. Which Mitzvah was the Machlis family so well known for?
2. Who in this week's Parasha (Torah portion), practiced this Mitzvah (command)?
3. Where did they go to invite all those many guests to their house on Shabbat?
4. How could you practice this special Mitzvah (command)?

What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week?

This is the 'Yigdal' prayer that we say each morning. It is a poetic version of Maimonides' Thirteen Principles of Faith written by Rabbi Daniel Ben Judah who lived in Rome in the 14th Century.

It is sung to a popular tune, which is quite well known, but a link to a simple rendition of the tune has been added, so you are able to familiarise yourself with it if you so wish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WFGVM2BvOQ>

יגְדַל אֱלֹהִים חַי וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, נִמְצָא, וְאִין עֵת אֶל מְצִיאֹתוֹ.
אֶחָד וְאִין יְחִיד פְּיֻחֻדוֹ, נְעֻלָּם, וְגַם אִין סוּף לְאַחַדוֹתוֹ.
אִין לוֹ דְמוּת הַגּוּף וְאִינוּ גוּף, לֹא נִעְרוֹף אֱלִיו קְדֻשָּׁתוֹ.
קְדָמוֹן לְכֹל דְּבַר אֲשֶׁר נִבְרָא, רֵאשׁוֹן וְאִין רֵאשִׁית לְרֵאשִׁיתוֹ.
הֵנוּ אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם לְכֹל נוֹצֵר, יוֹרֵה גְדֻלָּתוֹ וּמַלְכוּתוֹ.
שִׁפְעַנּוּ בְּבוֹאָתוֹ נִתְּנוּ, אֶל אֲנָשֵׁי סִגְלָתוֹ וְתַפְאָרָתוֹ.
לֹא קָם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמִנְשָׁה עוֹד, נְבִיא וּמַבִּיט אֶת תְּמוּנָתוֹ.
תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת נָתַן לְעַמּוֹ אֵל, עַל יַד נְבִיאָו נֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ.
לֹא יִחְלִיף הָאֵל וְלֹא יִמִּיר דָּתוֹ, לְעוֹלָמִים, לְזוּלָתוֹ.
צוּפָה וְיֹדֵעַ סִתְרֵינוּ, מִבֵּית לְסוּף דְּבַר בְּקֻדְמָתוֹ.
גּוֹיִם לֹא יִשׁ חֶסֶד כְּמַפְעָלוֹ, נוֹתֵן לְרָשָׁע רָע כְּרִשְׁעָתוֹ.
יִשְׁלַח לְקֶץ הַיָּמִין מְשִׁיחֵנוּ, לְפָדוֹת מַחְבֵּי קֶץ יְשׁוּעָתוֹ.
מִתִּים יִחְיֶה אֵל בְּרַב חֶסֶדוֹ, בְּרוּךְ עַדִּי עַד שֵׁם תְּהִלָּתוֹ

Vayera Song

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/519428/jewish/Vayeira.htm

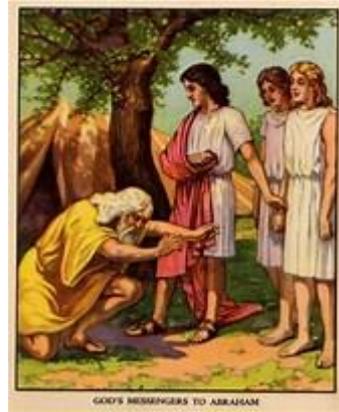
From North to South, from East to West
Avraham's tent was open to guests
Three malachim were sent

Each to do something different
A son you will have, Sara was told
She laughed and said, "I'm too old,"
The next malach came to destroy Sedom
The third came to heal Avraham

Chorus:

Avraham ran to the malachim
To be machnit orchim
Yitzchak was born one year later
Avraham proved his faith was greater
Hashem tested Avraham
He was willing to give up his son

Treat people with kindness and generosity.
Help people in need.
Be sensitive to people's feelings.
Never be mean or hurtful.
Think about how your actions will affect others.
Always use caring words towards other people





Shabbat Shalom!