



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



Yitro – ‘The Parasha in a Nutshell’:

Parashat Yitro (Jethro) is the fifth Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) in the second book of the Torah, Shemot. Yitro (Jethro) was the name of Moshe’s (Moses’) father-in-law, the father of his wife Zipporah and at the very beginning of the Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) Yitro (Jethro) hears what God had done for the Israelites, as they left Egypt.

Now that the Israelites were in the Midbar (wilderness), Yitro (Jethro) brought Zipporah and their 2 sons to Moshe (Moses) in the wilderness. Moshe (Moses) told his father-in-law all that God had done for the Israelites and he fully acknowledged God’s power.

Observing that Moshe (Moses) was overworked, Yitro (Jethro) advised him to appoint judges to assist him, while Moshe (Moses) dealt with the most difficult of cases. By delegating some of the work, Moshe (Moses) would find things a little easier.

The Israelites camped in the wilderness of Sinai in the month of Sivan and God spoke to Moshe (Moses), telling him to remind the Israelites of what he had done for them in Egypt and that if they obeyed Him, they would become a holy nation.

The Israelites agreed to obey God’s commands and Moshe (Moses) told the people to prepare themselves for a great event; the acceptance of the Torah.

After three days, Moshe (Moses) brought the people to the foot of Mount Sinai, while God summoned Moshe (Moses) to ascend the mountain.

Then followed the supreme moment in the history of the world, the 10 Commandments were given, the first ones by God Himself! The people were so awe inspired by what they had just witnessed, that they withdrew from the mountain.

Moshe (Moses) then drew near to the thick cloud and received a series of laws which he later relayed to the Jewish people.

Parasha Overview – In a Little More Detail

- While Moshe (Moses) was carrying out his mission in Egypt, his family had returned to Midian. Now that the Israelites were in the Midbar (wilderness), Yitro (Jethro), Moshe's (Moses') father-in-law came to join him, together with Zipporah and their 2 sons, Gershom and Eliezer.
- Moshe (Moses) welcomed Yitro (Jethro) affectionately and related all that God had done for the Israelites. Yitro (Jethro) fully acknowledged God's power and offered sacrifices to Him.
- Observing that his son-in-law, Moshe (Moses) was overburdened with judging all the people, all of the time, he advised Moshe (Moses) to appoint judges to help him in minor matters, thus leaving time for Moshe (Moses) to deal with the major disputes, grievances and questions which were brought to him.
- Moshe (Moses) acted on this advice and Yitro (Jethro) returned to Egypt.
- In the third month after they had departed Egypt, the Israelites arrived in the wilderness of Sinai and camped opposite the mountain. Moshe (Moses) ascended the mountain and God told him to remind the Israelites how He had delivered them from Egypt. If they obeyed Him, they would be transformed in to 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation'.
- Moshe (Moses) descended the mountain and repeated God's words to the Elders and to the people. The entire nation responded, 'Everything that God has spoken, we shall do'.
- Moshe (Moses) then reported these words to God and God told him to tell the Israelites to prepare themselves over three days, as God would descend on the third day in the sight of all the people, on Mount Sinai.
- After the three days had elapsed, thunder and lightning erupted, and a dense cloud descended on the mountain. The call of the Shofar (Ram's horn) was heard and Moshe (Moses) brought the people to the foot of the mountain.





- The voice of God was heard by every man, woman and child as He began to declare the Ten Commandments.
- The following list is an abbreviated form of the Ten commandments;
- 1. I am the Lord your God who delivered you from the land of Egypt...
- 2. You shall have no other gods before me...
- 3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy...
- 5. Honour your father and mother...
- 6. You shall not murder.
- 7. Remain loyal to your husband/wife only.
- 8. Do not steal.
- 9. Do not tell a lie in court.
- 10. Do not be jealous.
- The people were so afraid by all they had witnessed that they pleaded with Moshe (Moses) to speak to them, instead of God.
- Moshe (Moses) then drew near to the thick darkness and received a series of laws. Included in these laws were; important aspects of praying to God, important laws about not worshipping idols and the law that Kohanim (Priests) should ascend the alter via a slope and not via steps.

Parasha Overview
- In a Little More Detail!

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

Activity

Story with re-Actions!



Start by telling the children that the fourth of the Ten Commandments is to Remember the Shabbat day.

Go through the following actions, before starting the story;

1. **Lighting Shabbat candles** – waving your hands three times and covering your eyes.
2. **Daddy and Mummy blessing their children** – Holding hands out in front of you, as if placing them on someone's head to bless them.
3. **Saying Kiddush** – Holding your hand out, as if holding a cup of Grape juice.
4. **Saying the Bracha (Blessing) over the Challah** – Placing hands together.
5. **Singing Zemirot (special Shabbat songs)** – Opening mouth, as if singing a tune.
6. **Reading from the Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll)** – Holding your hands as if lifting the Torah.
7. **Having wonderful Shabbat meals** – Rubbing your tummy as if to say, 'this is really tasty!
8. **Saying Havdalah at the end of Shabbat** – Pretending to smell the spices.

As you read the story and the different Shabbat traditions above, tell the children to do the actions. Wait a minute, until all the children are doing the actions, then continue with the story. The action words are in red in the story. EG When you read the words, 'Shabbat candles', the children should wave their hands 3 times as if ushering in Shabbat and then cover their eyes.



Long, long ago in a place far, far away there lived a family. There was mummy and daddy, Lisa who was 5 years old, Rebecca who was 8 years old and Jacob who was 12 and their favourite time of the week was Shabbat.

On Sunday, Lisa would say to her daddy and mummy, 'when is it going to be Shabbat?' Mummy and daddy would say, 'we've only just had Shabbat.' But Lisa simply loved Shabbat and couldn't wait for the next Shabbat to arrive.

Sunday came and went, Monday came and went, so did Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and suddenly...it was Friday and Lisa, Rebecca and Jacob were so excited that it was almost Shabbat.

As the sun was setting, Mummy, Lisa and Rebecca lit the **Shabbat candles** and the whole family went to shul.

When they came home, Daddy and Mummy **blessed their children**, Lisa, Rebecca and Jacob. Daddy held the Kiddush cup and **said Kiddush**. Then they all went into the kitchen to wash their hands for the **Challah**, came back to the table and Daddy said the Bracha (Blessing) for the **Challah**. He picked up the two **Challot**, held them together and said the blessing for Bread, '...Hamotzi Lechem Min Ha'aretz'.

The family had a wonderful **Shabbat meal**. They ate yummy food, sang beautiful **songs called Zemirot** and everyone said what an amazing week they had, but that they were so pleased it was now Shabbat!

The following morning, Daddy, Mummy, Lisa, Rebecca and Jacob went to Shul and just before the Children's Service started, Daddy and Jacob kissed the **Sefer Torah** as it was walked around the Shul. The **Sefer Torah** was placed on to the desk on the Bimah (Central platform) and everyone heard the sounds of the words in the **Sefer Torah** being sung.

When Mummy, Daddy, Lisa, Rebecca and Jacob arrived home, they enjoyed a **spectacular lunch**. Daddy said Kiddush again, everyone had some **Challah** and another wonderful **Shabbat meal**.

The family played games, read books and enjoyed being with each other, until it started getting dark outside and they knew that Shabbat would be out very soon. So, when Shabbat finally ended, Jacob got the **Havdalah candle**, the grape juice and the spice box and Daddy said **Havdalah**.

At the end of **Havdalah**, Lisa said in a quiet voice, 'Bye - bye for now Shabbat, but I know you'll be back next week. I can't wait!'



Activity 2 – 'When I laid the Shabbat Table...' Memory Game!

The children should be sitting in a circle and you start off by saying, 'when I laid the table for Shabbat, I placed some grape juice on it.' Then, the next person says the same thing as you, but adds another article they would put on the table. Examples could include, Challah, serviettes, spoons, drinks, salt, pepper, dips etc. You may need to help some children but see how much they can remember as you go around the circle!

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Activity – 'What Was it Like?'

This activity will encourage the children to think about what it must have been like to actually be standing at the foot of Mount Sinai and hear the 10 Commandments.



Divide the children into pairs, with one child being the 'reporter' and the other child being the one who stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, watching the smoke, the thunder and the lightning.

The 2 children should practice an interview, with questions like;

- How did you get yourself ready for the big day?
- What went through your mind when you first heard the sound of the Shofar?
- Can you describe how it sounded?
- Did you feel nervous or excited?
- What could you see?
- What was your favourite commandment?
- What was it like actually hearing God's voice?
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Give each pair an opportunity to act out their Reporter/Interviewee role-play.

What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week (For the full page download of The Tribe Scribe please [click here](#))

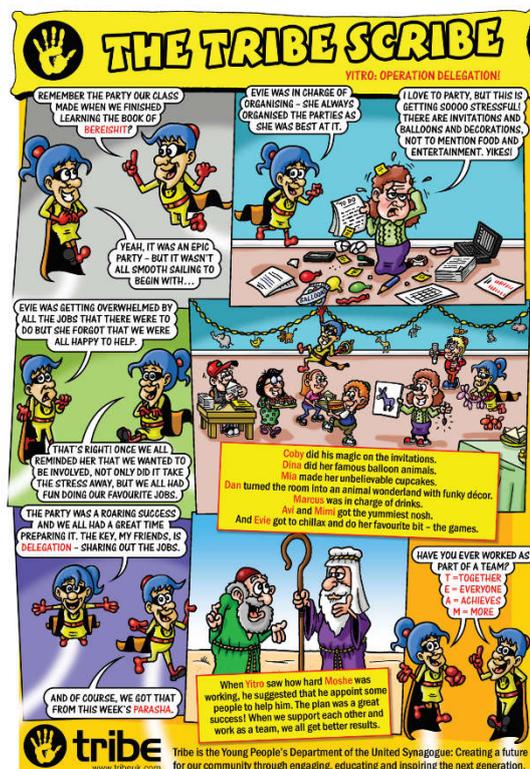
In this week's Tribe Scribe, you'll find another really great lesson that we can learn from the Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) of Yitro (Jethro).

'Operation Delegation.'

Give the children copies of the Tribe Scribe (perhaps one between two) and read the story with the children, pointing out the captions and the illustrations.

Dan and Dina tell us about a time when their class had a party to celebrate their completion of learning about Bereishit, the first book of the Torah. Evie was getting so overwhelmed by all the jobs that there were to do, to ensure the party was a success, that she forgot that everyone was happy to help. Dina says, 'That's right! Once we all reminded her that we wanted to be involved, not only did it take the stress away, but we all had fun doing our favourite jobs.'

1. Have you ever worked as part of a team?
2. What did you manage to achieve together?
3. Do you think you could have achieved as much individually?
4. Did everyone enjoy working as part of a team?
5. What do the letters of TEAM stand for?



What do Dan and Dina Teach us this Week?

An 80 year old man was sitting on the sofa in his house along with his 45 year old, highly educated son. Suddenly a crow perched on their window.



The father asked his son, "What is this?" The son replied, "It is a crow". After a few minutes, the father asked his son a second time, "What is this?" The son replied once again, "father, I have just told you "it is a crow". After a little while, the elderly father again asked his son a third time, "what is this?" At this point, some expression of irritation could be heard in the son's tone when he said to his father with a rebuff. "It's a crow, a crow". A little after, the

father again asked his son the fourth time, "What is this?"

This time the son shouted at his father, "Why do you keep asking me the same question again and again, although I have told you so many times 'IT IS A CROW'. Are you not able to understand this?"

A little later the Father went to his room and came back with an old, tattered diary, which he had maintained since his son was born. On opening a page, he asked his son to read. When the son read it, the following words were written in the diary :

"Today my little son aged three was sitting with me on the sofa, when a crow was sitting on the window. My son asked me 23 times what it was, and I replied to him all 23 times that it was a crow. I hugged him lovingly each time he asked me the same question again and again for 23 times. I did not feel irritated at all. I rather felt affection for my innocent child".

What does this story teach us about honouring and respecting our parents?

How do you think the son felt after he had seen the father's diary entry from all those years ago, when he was just three years old.

What does this Story Teach Me?

Song – The link has been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children this song.

Yitro Song

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/549277/jewish/Yitro.htm

I am your Hashem (God), I brought you from Mitzrayim (Egypt)

No other shall you serve, my Mitzvot (Commandments) observe

You shall not use in vain, Hashem's (God's) holy name

Remember the Shabbat day, keep it a special way.

Honour your parents too, long life Hashem (God) will give you

You shall not kill, that is Hashem's (God's) will

You shall be moral and true, believe in the Mitzvot (Commandments) you do

Do not steal, when with others you deal

False witness never be, you must live truthfully

Don't be jealous of your friend's life, his things or his wife

The Torah Hashem (God) did give, a guide for us to live

To Hashem (God) always be true, because you are a Jew





Shabbat Shalom!