



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

Yom Kippur Summary: 5780



Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year, when we are closest to God. Yom Kippur means “Day of Atonement,” and is observed on the 10th day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. This year, the 10th Tishrei falls on Wednesday 9th October and like all Jewish festivals, including Shabbat, Yom Kippur begins on the evening before, which is Tuesday 8th October this year.

For nearly 26 hours, anyone over the age of Bar or Bat Mitzvah should abstain from food and drink, they should not wash or apply lotions or creams and should not wear leather footwear. Instead, we spend the day in Shul (Synagogue), praying for forgiveness.

Just months after the people of Israel left Egypt in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE), the B’nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) sinned by worshipping an Egel Hazahav (a Golden Calf). Moshe (Moses) ascended Har Sinai (Mount Sinai) and prayed to God to forgive them. Through the prayers and pleads of Moshe (Moses), the B’nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were forgiven. The day Moshe (Moses) came down the mountain, with the people having been forgiven (the 10th of Tishrei), became known as the Day of Atonement—Yom Kippur.

That year, the people built the Mishkan (Tabernacle), a portable home for the Shechina (God’s Divine presence) to rest and it became a centre for prayers and offerings. The service in the Mishkan (Tabernacle) was extra special on Yom Kippur, when the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) would perform a specially prescribed service. Highlights of this service included offering Ketoret (incense) in the Kodosh Kodashim (Holy of Holies) - where the Aron Hakodesh (Holy Ark) was housed and the lottery with two goats—one of which was brought as an offering, the other being sent out to the wilderness.

While the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) wore decorative golden clothing during his day to day service in the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and later the Beit Hamikdash

(Holy Temple), on Yom Kippur, he would wear plain white garments to perform this service known as the Avodah (Service).

When the second Temple was destroyed in the year 3830 from creation (70 CE), the Yom Kippur service continued, but in a different form, whereby every single Jew performs the Yom Kippur service in his or her heart and mind.



- On the eve of Yom Kippur (Tuesday 8th October) before the commencement of the Fast, families sit around their table and eat a meal which is similar to the meal eaten on Friday evenings, except we do not say Kiddush (special blessing on wine or grape juice to sanctify the Shabbat – Sabbath or Chag - Festival).
- There is a widespread tradition on the eve of Yom Kippur, to ask forgiveness from those we may have done something wrong to over the course of the last year. As was mentioned in the Rosh Hashana Tribe Spark, by people forgiving others, God will forgive them for anything they may have done wrong.
- Another popular activity for the eve of Yom Kippur is a unique ceremony called Kapparot (from the word ‘Kapper’ meaning ‘Forgiveness’) . We take an amount of money, pledge to give it to charity and hold it over our head while we say a special Tefilla (Prayer) asking that the money we have in our hand, takes the place of any of our wrongdoings over the past year.
- There is also a beautiful tradition across the Jewish world, for parents to bless their children before Yom Kippur. The words are the same as some parents say on Friday night.



יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה - **For Girls**

Yesimech Elohim k'Sarah, Rivka, Rachel V'Leah

May God make you like Sarah, Rivka, Rachel and Leah

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה - **For Boys**

Yesimcha Elohim K'Efraim V'ChiMenashe

May God make you like Efraim and Menashe (the 2 sons of Joseph)

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ - **For Boys and Girls**

יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ

יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ

וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May God bless you and guard you

May God make His Face shine on you and be gracious to you

May God turn His face to you

And give you peace



- **Women light Yom Tov (Festival) candles, as they do on the eve of Shabbat and Festivals (Sabbath) to welcome in the festival of Yom Kippur. They say the following 2 blessings:**

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם הַכִּיפּוּרִים**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of Yom Kippur

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir shel yom hakippurim.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחְיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן
הַזֶּה.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam shehecheya-nu v'ki-manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh

- **There are some specific restrictions for Yom Kippur and for its duration, men and women, boys and girls over the age of Bar or Bat Mitzvah (12 or 13 years respectively) should not eat or drink, should not wash themselves, should not apply lotions or creams and should not wear leather shoes.**



- **On Yom Kippur evening (Tuesday 8th October) as we arrive in Shul (Synagogue) we see men and boys wearing their Tallit. This is the only evening Tefilla service (Prayer service) of the year on**

which a Tallit is worn by all the men and not just the Sheliach Tzibbur (Leader of the Service).

- The first of the 5 services of Yom Kippur is known as 'Kol Nidrei' ('All vows') and this Tefilla (Prayer) was composed in the 6th or 7th Century. It was included in the first official Siddur used in the 9th Century.
- The 'Kol Nidrei' ('All vows') prayer was used in the Spanish Inquisition which took place in the 1400s. The monarchy in Spain at that time did not allow any other religion, apart from Catholicism, to be practiced in Spain. Anyone who was caught practicing another religion was killed. Many Jews left Spain, but others converted to Catholicism under pretence. It was on the eve of Yom Kippur every year, that these people would show their true devotion to God and adopted the 'Kol Nidrei' ('All Vows') prayer.
- The 'Kol Nidrei' ('All Vows') prayer is the first of 5 prayer Services we say on Yom Kippur. The morning service is called 'Shacharit', the additional service is called Musaf, the afternoon service is called Mincha and the concluding service of Yom Kippur is known as Ne'ila.
- During each service on Yom Kippur we say a very special prayer known as 'Viduy' (Confession) in which we ask God to forgive us for the things we may have done wrong over the course of the year. As well as saying this prayer privately to ourselves during the Amidah (the Silent prayer said standing), we also say it as a community, led by the 'Ba'al Tefilla' (the man leading the Service)
- The Torah readings on Yom Kippur are about the Avodah (Temple Service) performed by the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) on Yom Kippur. A large section of the Mussaf (Additional) service also describes the Avodah (Service) of the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) on this holiest of days.



- The Mincha (Afternoon) Service on Yom Kippur has a very well-known Haftara (reading from the book of Prophets), which is all about Yona (Jonah). This Haftara is extremely appropriate for Yom Kippur, as it has as its running theme, the idea of Teshuva (Repentance). See below for the Story of Jonah.
- The 5th and concluding Prayer Service on Yom Kippur, Ne'ila (literally meaning 'Conclusion'), captures the emotions of the last hour of Yom Kippur, when we prayer with even greater devotion and the line in the Amidah (the prayer said standing in each of the 5 Services) which asks God to 'write' us in the Book of Life, is changed to 'Seal' us in the book of life.
- During the Ne'ila (Concluding) Service the Ark is opened at the beginning and as we conclude the Ne'ila Service and Yom Kippur, the Ark is closed.
- At the end of the Ne'ila Service and Yom Kippur, one long blast of the Shofar is blown (Tekia Gedola) and the congregation says, 'Next year in Jerusalem'. We say this because according to an opinion in the Talmud, the ultimate redemption will occur in the month of Tishrei. Another reason the Shofar is blown at this point is to remind us that the Shofar used to be blown in biblical and Temple times, to announce the Yovel (Jubilee) year.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

Activity 1

'God's Throne Room'

Resources for this activity include; Picture of Buckingham Palace (see below), a Machzor or Siddur.

Start this activity by showing the children the photo of Buckingham Palace (see the end of this Spark edition) and explain to the children, that if we were to go and see The Queen, we would enter her Throne Room with the greatest of respect. We would compliment her palace, her decorations, the dress she is wearing and her crown. We might even comment on how beautiful her gardens are. BUT...it is very difficult to get an audience with the Queen.

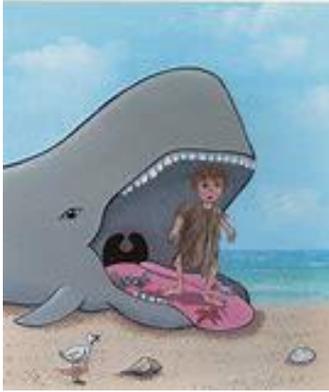


HOWEVER, on Yom Kippur when we want to speak to the King of kings, God, it is very easy. It is like he has opened the doors to His palace and we can all go inside His Throne Room to ask Him whatever we want.

But before we ask for something, just like if we were going to see The Queen at Buckingham Palace, we would have to praise God. 'How great You are', 'The world You created is so wonderful', 'All the plants and trees are beautiful', 'the sunrise wakes me up every day and it is stunning'.

Then once we have praised God, we can ask him for whatever we want. Don't forget, the doors of God's palace are open wide on Yom Kippur!

This is an activity which will encourage the children to think about what they would say to God if they were praying. The children should sit in a circle and pass a Machzor (prayer book for festivals) or a Siddur around the circle. The first time it is passed around the circle and as each child is holding the Machzor/Siddur, s/he should tell everyone else how they would praise God and compliment Him. Then pass the Machzor/Siddur around the circle a second time and each child should say what they would ask God for on Yom Kippur when the doors of the palace are wide open!



Activity 2 –

This activity is an opportunity to tell the children the story of Jonah, but in an interactive way. The text of the story is below and you will see that it is very child-friendly.

Explain to the children that as you say certain words in the story, they will do actions.

If you say **'Jonah'**, they will hold their hands and arms aloft, as if speaking to God. Every time you mention the **'fish'**, the children will open and close their mouths like a fish does. Each time you mention the **'boat'**, the children should rock from side to side as if on a boat on the rough seas! When you mention **'Nineveh'**, the children should use their index finger, as if telling someone off. Finally, every time you mention **'God'**, the children should cover their eyes with their right hand, as if saying the first line of the Shema.

The Story of Jonah and The Fish

One day, a long time ago, God asked a man named Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the people living there to stop being bad. The only problem was that Jonah didn't want to help the people there. He knew they were bad and he wanted them to be punished for their mistakes.

So instead of listening to God, Jonah thought he would run away from Nineveh and not do what God asked him. He ran to the sea where he found a ship that was going to another city. He paid the captain, went in the lower part of the boat and went to sleep.

Shortly after the boat left the shore, a very bad storm came up and started tossing the boat around. All the men were very afraid so they started to throw all their packages and bags overboard in the hope that they wouldn't drown.

The captain soon went to find Jonah who was still sound asleep in the boat. He said to Jonah, "How can you sleep? Get up and pray to your God, maybe He can help us!" The captain didn't realize that Jonah didn't just believe in any god but the one true God and that He could help them.

Meanwhile, the other sailors decided that the storm was Jonah's fault. He must have done something wrong to make his God so angry. So they asked Jonah, "What have you done? What God do you believe in? What can we do to make this storm stop?"

Jonah told them, "I believe in the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land and I am running away from something God asked me to do. It is my fault this is happening. If you throw me into the sea the storm will stop."

The men didn't want to hurt Jonah by throwing him off the boat so they tried to row the best they could, but the storm just got worse. So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. The storm immediately calmed and the sea became still. The men on the boat realized that Jonah believed in the one true God and prayed to Him.

Then the captain and the crew looked out to sea as a huge fish came and swallowed up Jonah. Jonah stayed in the fish for three days and three nights.

Just think for a second what it would be like to be inside a fish. There are no windows, and lots of strange things floating around that you can't see because it's so dark. Other than

that I'm not sure what it would be like, but Jonah probably didn't know if he would ever see daylight again.

While Jonah was trapped inside the fish he did a lot of praying to God. He asked God to forgive him for running away. He also thanked God for not allowing him to drown.

After the third day God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land. And the fish did just that. Jonah was happy to be out of the dark belly of the fish, but boy, did he need a shower. He was slimy and smelly!

Then God told Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh and tell the people there to stop being bad. This time Jonah obeyed God and left for Nineveh right away.

When Jonah got there he told the people what had happened to him. He warned them that God said that they should stop doing bad things or in forty days the city and everything in it would be destroyed. To Jonah's surprise the people listened to him and they prayed to God and they said sorry for all the bad things they had done.

Soon the king of Nineveh heard what was going on and he ordered everyone to listen to God and to stop doing bad things. And when God saw that they were trying to be good instead of bad He felt love for them and did not destroy their city.

That could be the end of the story except Jonah left the city very angry. He was annoyed that God didn't punish the people. He knew that God was a loving God and didn't want to destroy anything if he doesn't have to.

So Jonah went on a hill and was sad. God saw Jonah and knew how he was feeling so he explained to Jonah that He loves everyone (after all He creates everyone and everything). He doesn't like to destroy people who are doing things bad, God would rather see us say sorry, turn from our bad ways and do good again.

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Activity 1

'Chaggim (Festival) Partners'

This activity will test children's knowledge of different festivals throughout the year, their laws and customs. It will focus especially on the Chaggei Tishrei (Tishrei Festivals of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Succot, Shemini Atzeret (8th day at the end of the Festival of Succot when we pray for rain in the Land of Israel) and Simchat Torah.



Each child will receive either the name of a Chag (Festival) or a picture of a Jewish artefact (see the end of the Tribe Spark document for pictures) related to a specific Chag (Festival). For example, one child should receive a piece of paper with the word 'Succot' on it and another child should receive a piece of paper with a picture of the Arba Minim (Four Species waved on the festival of Succot). The children should be seated in a circle, not knowing what piece of paper other children have.

When you say 'GO', all the children in the circle need to find their 'pair' and once they have done so, they should place their picture and the name of the Chag on a designated table where all the names and pictures will be displayed.

Check they are all correct and if any do not match up, ask which couple of children would like to try and correct these.

The game can be played again, by swopping pieces of paper, so that children

do not receive the same Festival name or picture.

Activity 2



'High Holyday Charades'

This is another activity for which you can make use of the pictures of the Chaggim (Festivals).

Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4 and give each group a picture of a Chag (Festival).

The children should then mime the use of the artefact in the picture and the other children have to guess what they are doing and to which Chag (Festival) the miming actions belong.

Read the story of Jonah and the fish (above), followed by these discussion points.



Discussion points

- Why do you think Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh?
- Jonah was a Prophet and very close to God. So, why did he think he could run away from God?
- Once the people of Nineveh had been forgiven, Jonah was upset. Why did he get upset when he knew that God is quick to forgive people who truly say sorry? Should he not have been happy for the people living in Nineveh?
- We spend all day on Yom Kippur asking God to forgive us, like he forgave the people of Nineveh. But, in the very first Amidah (Silent prayer said standing at every Prayer service) we say **AFTER** Yom Kippur has ended, we ask God to forgive us! Why do you think we do this?

- (This discussion point is a bit more challenging and knowing the children in your Service will help you to make the decision of whether to include it in your discussions). On Yom Kippur, many Jewish men across the world wear white tunics called **'Kittels'**. We drape the Ark in white and the Bimah (Central platform) in white. On Rosh Hashana we had apple and Challah dipped in honey, we blew the Shofar and we performed the ceremony of Tashlich by a river or stream. In your opinion, how do these symbolic things ensure we have a sweet new year in reality?

Tefilla Treasures



Whenever we say the Shema, the second line is always said in a whisper. Have you ever wondered why?

On Yom Kippur, we actually say the second line loudly and clearly for all to hear.

Our sages explain that when Moshe (Moses) went to the top of Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, he heard the angels singing to God. They were singing, 'Blessed be the glory of His kingdom forever and ever.' (this is the meaning of the second line of the Shema). Moshe (Moses) heard this and he brought it back down to the Jewish people below.

A famous Talmudic Rabbi, Rav Assi says that it is similar to someone who 'took' jewellery from the king's palace and gave it to his wife, on condition she didn't wear it in public. He told his wife to never wear the jewellery in public or the palace might take it back.

Moshe (Moses) 'took' the second line of the Shema from what he heard the angels singing to God in God's throne room. Therefore, we do not say this line out loud. But on Yom Kippur we are like angels in the throne room of God and

so we DO say the line 'Blessed be the glory of His kingdom forever and ever'
out loud.

Songs – The links have been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if
you so wish, to teach the children these songs.



For older children
'Sorry!'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jm_HasWhhe4

I'm sorry for the time I took your food
I'm sorry for the time I was so rude
I'm sorry for the time I pulled your hair
I'm sorry for the time I broke your chair.

I'm sorry for the time I ate your fries
I'm sorry for the time I told you lies
I'm sorry for the time I pushed you in the pool
I'm sorry, now I know that wasn't very cool.

**I'm sorry for the things I did, even if I didn't know 'em
There might be things I did that aren't in this poem
I try but I'm not perfect, so every year on Yom Kippur,
I apologize to you, even if I don't know what for.**

**I'm sorry for the things I did, even if I didn't know 'em
There might be things I did that aren't in this poem
I try but I'm not perfect, so every year on Yom Kippur,
I apologize to you, even if I don't know what for.**

I'm sorry za za za, I'm sorry zoo-plee-boo
I'm sorry for anything wrong,
That I might have done to you
I'm sorry to my friends, I'm sorry to my mother
I'm sorry to my sister, and I'm sorry to my brother.
I'm sorry to my dad, I'm sorry to my cat
I'm sorry to my goldfish, and I'm sorry to my hat
It's the time of year for apologizin' a sense of humility is what I'm exercisin'.

**I'm sorry for the things I did, even if I didn't know 'em
There might be things I did that aren't in this poem
I try but I'm not perfect, so every year on Yom Kippur,
I apologize to you, even if I don't know what for.**

For younger children - To the tune of 'This Old Man...'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2k7F8BQB5o>

**On Yom Kippur
We wear plimsolls on our feet
I wonder what all this is for
I know, it's Yom Kippur**



Rosh Hashana



Yom Kippur



Succot



Shemini Atzeret



Simchat Torah



Chanuka



Tu B'Shevat



Purim



Pesach



Yom Ha'atzmaut



Shavuot



Lag B'Omer



Yom
Yerushalayim