



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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Beha'alotcha

Parsha Summary:

- Moshe receives details of how Aharon should go about lighting the seven lights of the Menorah.
- More laws concerning the Levi'im.
- *Pesach Sheni* (Second Pesach) This was instituted to give an opportunity to those people who were not able to give an offering on Pesach, another chance to do so.
- We read an account of how the Jewish people travelled in the *Midbar* – desert and the laws relating to that. The Jewish people knew when it was time to move on when the special cloud which was covering the Mishkan, would rise. When it would rest again, they too would rest. At night a fire would replace the cloud.
- Moshe is commanded to make 2 silver trumpets which would be used to give signals to the people. For example, if there is a long blast, then the entire nation should gather at the Tent of Meeting.
- The Jewish people once again complain to Moshe about the Mann. They want more variety! God agrees to send them meat, but warns them that He will send so much of it that they will be sick from eating it all by the end.
- Miriam speaks Lashon Hara about her brother Moshe to Aharon. Even though she was concerned for his welfare, she should have dealt with the situation in a kinder way. Miriam was sent out of camp as a punishment. The Bnei Israel only move on once she returns.

Children's Services: Tots –Year 2:

Activity 1:

In this week's parsha we read about how the Jewish people complained about the Mann which God sent them. The Mann was very special and could taste like almost anything they wanted it to.

Go around the room and ask the children:

What food do you like best?

What do they dislike?

What does healthy eating mean?

Then, sing a song about their favorite foods.

To the tune of (*The Farmer in the Dell*)

Go around to each child. They sing the first two lines and the group joins in for the third.

"My favourite food is _____

My favourite food is _____

Hi-ho, the derry-o his/her favourite food is _____ "(all)

Activity 2:

There is much discussion in this week's parsha about how the people travelled in the wilderness. How they knew when it was time to move, to stop, to gather together and so on.

Have four pictures prepared before Shabbat. One cloud, one fire and two trumpets. The children should sit on the floor. When you hold the cloud up high they should run around. When you lower it they should sit again. So too with the fire. When both trumpets are "blown" all the children should gather around the leader. When one is blown they should all skip around the room

Children's Service: Year 3- Year 6

Activity 1:

The Mann that arrived each day for the Bnei Yisrael to eat, contained everything they needed to survive. Yet, instead of being grateful for this miraculous gift, they only saw what it was not, and complained about it. The following activity is designed to explain the concept of 'Wants v Needs' to your group.

Before Shabbat cut out or print out, pictures of all types of material goods as well as basic necessities. Examples include:

- beds
- tv
- food
- drink
- clothes
- hats
- washing machine
- phone
- sofa's
- toys
- books
- jewellery
- shoes
- medicine
- computers

In groups the children should divide these pictures up in to two categories, Things we Want and Things we Need. Once they have done that bring them back to sit in a circle for a discussion. Ask the children:

- 1) What did they discover when they did this activity?
- 2) What things did everyone agree we need?

- 3) What things did everyone agree are wants?
- 4) What things were not so clear cut and why?
- 5) What things do they think might change categories if they lived in a different place or culture? For example, phones, shoes or washing machines?

Sum up their findings and explain that *Needs* are things that we must have in order to survive, food, drink, air and shelter. But, *Wants*, on the other hand, are things that we would like to have, but can live without if we cannot afford them or can't access them. Sometimes the more we have, the more we think we need. Challenge the group to take sometime during the coming week to think about the things they have around them and how they would feel if they did not have them.

Activity 2:

Miriam the sister of Moshe was sent outside the camp for one week as a consequence for speaking badly about her brother. We learn that out of Hakarat Hatov – gratitude, for the way Miriam had watched over her brother when he was small, the nation did not move on until she returned. We can learn a lesson from this. There are many people around us who we should be grateful to and appreciative of the things they do for us.

The children should think of a person / profession, to which we owe gratitude to and mime it to the rest of the group. The first person to guess correctly goes up to take a turn. (If they need ideas you can suggest people such as, policemen/women, firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers, grandparents, prime minister, dentist, farmers etc.)