



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,
Sharon Radley
sharonradley@tribeuk.com

Ki Teitzei

Parsha Summary:

The parsha this week is packed full of mitzvot (commandments), in fact seventy four of the Torah's six hundred and thirteen mitzvot are contained in Ki Teitzei!

These mitzvot include:

- The laws of a beautiful captive
- The inheritance rights of a firstborn
- How to deal with a rebellious son
- Burial of the dead
- Returning lost property
- Sending away a mother bird before taking her young or eggs
- The duty to erect a safety fence on the roof of one's home
- The laws of tzitzit
- The prohibition of wearing a garment made of a mixture of wool and linen (shatnez.)
- The laws of forbidden relationships
- The duty to pay a worker on time
- The prohibition against charging interest on a loan
- The laws of marriage and divorce

The parsha concludes with the obligation to remember what Amalek did to the Jewish people on their way out of Egypt.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 2

Activity 1:

Play animal puzzles:

Print off pictures of animals from the web and cut them into thirds. Put the children into pairs and see which pair can come up with the funniest 'new animal' by putting a head of one animal with the body and tail of another animal. At the end see if all the children can put the correct animals together.

Activity 2:

Animal charades:

Quietly give the name of an animal to one of the children. The child has to act out the animal without making any noises and the rest of the group has to guess what animal the child has been given.

Explain:

In the parsha this week we have lots of mitzvot and some of them are about how to take care of our animals.

Discuss:

- Who has a pet?
- How do they take care of their pets?

Read the following statements and ask the children to put their thumbs up if they agree that it is a kind way to care for pets and to put their thumbs down if they think it is an unkind way to treat pets.

- Feed them good food every day

- Forget to give them water
- Provide a safe, comfortable place for them to sleep
- Forget to feed them
- Have fresh water available for them to drink
- Keep them shut up in a hot place all day
- Give them love and attention

The Torah wants us to be kind and compassionate to all living creatures. In the parsha this week we have the mitzva to send a mother bird away before taking it's eggs or it's young. This is because animals instinctively love their young and suffer if they see them taken away. The Torah wants us to learn how to be kind.

The parsha also commands us that when we plough our land we should not harness an ox and a donkey together. Our scholars tell us that one reason for this may be that an ox chews the cud but the donkey does not. The donkey would feel great pain if it thought that the ox would be eating all the time and would wonder where the ox found its food. It would not realise that all the ox was doing was chewing the same food over and over again! In order to spare the donkey this distress we do not make it work with another animal.

Finally the parsha tells us that we should not put a muzzle on an ox whilst it is threshing. (Threshing is the process that separates wheat from its husks.) The job of the ox during threshing is to step on the wheat. If the ox had a muzzle over its mouth it would not be able to eat the wheat which would be very cruel.

All of these mitzvot teach us to be kind to living beings and to treat them with care and respect.

Please note: Much of this explanation is above the level of a toddler service but I have included it for reference. Please adapt the explanation to the level of your participants.

Children's Service: Years 3-6

Activity 1:

Play animal puzzles:

Print off pictures of animals from the web and cut them into thirds. Put the children into pairs and see which pair can come up with the funniest 'new animal' by putting a head of one animal with the body and tail of another animal. At the end see if all the children can put the correct animals together.

Activity 2:

Animal charades:

Quietly give the name of an animal to one of the children.

The child has to act out the animal without making any noises and the rest of the group has to guess what animal the child has been given.

Explain:

In the parsha this week we have lots of mitzvot and some of them are about how to take care of our animals.

Discuss:

- Who has a pet?
- How do they take care of their pets?

Read the following statements and ask the children to put their thumbs up if they agree that it is a kind way to care for pets and to put their thumbs down if they think it is an unkind way to treat

pets.

- Feed them good food every day
- Forget to give them water
- Provide a safe, comfortable place for them to sleep
- Forget to feed them
- Have fresh water available for them to drink
- Keep them shut up in a hot place all day
- Give them love and attention

The Torah wants us to be kind and compassionate to all living creatures. In the parsha this week we have the mitzva to send a mother bird away before taking it's eggs or it's young. This is because animals instinctively love their young and suffer if they see them taken away. The Torah wants us to learn how to be kind.

The parsha also commands us that when we plough our land we should not harness an ox and a donkey together. Our scholars tell us that one reason for this may be that an ox chews the cud but the donkey does not. The donkey would feel great pain if it thought that the ox would be eating all the time and would wonder where the ox found its food. It would not realise that all the ox was doing was chewing the same food over and over again! In order to spare the donkey this distress we do not make it work with another animal.

Finally the parsha tells us that we should not put a muzzle on an ox whilst it is threshing. (Threshing is the process that separates wheat from its husks.) The job of the ox during threshing is to step on the wheat. If the ox had a muzzle over its mouth it would not be able to eat the wheat which would be very cruel.

All of these mitzvot teach us to be kind to living beings and to treat them with care and respect.

Activity 3:

There is much about kindness to animals in this week's parsha. The children should form themselves into small groups. Imagine you are a committee who have been formed to create a new zoo in your area. How could you design it to be the most animal friendly zoo? What would you need in your zoo to help the animals acclimatise and "feel at home"? What ideas can you think of to maximise the animal's safety, wellbeing and comfort?

Once the children have had ten minute's to plan their zoo, bring the group back together to share their ideas.

Sum up the groups findings and close by explaining the following quote:

"Children trained to extend justice, kindness and mercy to animals become more just, kind and considerate in their relations to each other."