



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
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Ki Tisa

Parsha Summary:

- God commands Moshe to take a census of the Jewish adult male population. Each individual was to give half a silver shekel which would be used for the construction and upkeep of the Mishkan -Tabernacle.
- Moshe is instructed by God to make the Kiyor, a copper water basin for the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use this to wash their hands and feet before performing their service.
- Moshe is further commanded to make a mixture of oil and spices that would be used to anoint all the vessels of the Mishkan, Aaron and his sons. This oil would be used in the future to anoint kings and the Kohen Gadol - High Priest. At this point God also gives Moshe the ingredients for the incense that was offered twice a day in the Mishkan.
- God designates Bezalel to supervise the construction of the Mishkan.
- God repeats the mitzvah to observe Shabbat.
- Moshe is given the Two Tablets by God.
- The Golden Calf – The Jewish people miscalculate when Moshe was to return from Mount Sinai and panic. They demand that Aaron make them a new god. Aaron asks the Jewish people to remove their gold jewellery which he

throws into the flames. A Golden Calf emerges. God is angry with the Jewish people and intends to destroy them. Moshe pleads with God to forgive the people and God relents. The next day, Moshe descends the mountain, sees the idolatrous revelry and smashes the tablets. Moshe pleads with an incensed G-d to forgive the Jews' sin. G-d acquiesces and relents from His plan to annihilate the Jews.

- God commands Moshe to carve new tablets upon which God will engrave the Ten Commandments. Moses takes the new tablets up to Mt. Sinai, where God reveals His Thirteen Attributes of Mercy and seals a covenant with Moshe. God assures Moshe that He will drive out the Canaanites from before them. He commands the Jewish people not to make molten Gods, to observe the Shalosh Regalim, to sanctify male firstborns and not to cook meat together with milk.
- Moshe descends Mount Sinai and unknown to him, his face is radiant with a divine glow. The people are afraid of Moshe because of this and from that time on Moshe wears a veil over his face. He would remove the veil when teaching the word of God to the people and when speaking to God

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 2

Activity 1:

Song

In this week's parsha we read the 'Aseret Hadibrot' the Ten Commandments. Here is a song about them:

To the tune of: *'We're all going to the Zoo Tomorrow.'* (The tune can be found on YouTube.)

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

Listen to your mum and dad, and do what they say
Have a nice rest on the Shabbat day
Don't take other people's things away
It's all in the Ten Commandments

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

I am Hashem- never worship any others
Never tell lies about you sisters or your brothers
Enjoy yourself, don't envy others
It's all in the Ten Commandments

Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
The Ten Commandments, the Ten Commandments
Hashem gave us the Ten Commandments,
And this is what they say!

Don't take Hashem's name in vain
Don't cause your partner any pain
The people of the world must never be slain
It's all in the Ten Commandments!

Activity 2:

Ask the children to stand up in a circle, with their eyes closed. The aim of the game is to go around the circle and count from 1-20 in less than a minute – each child in turn saying a number. The first child 1, the one next to him 2, and so on. Each time there is a pause for more than a few seconds they need to start from the beginning again. There should be a designated person to start each time. It sounds simpler than it is, and a minute goes by faster than you think!

- Ask the children if they found it harder than they anticipated to get to 20? Did a minute go by faster or slower than they thought it would?
- Explain that in the parsha this week Moshe went up Mount Sinai to collect the Ten Commandments from God. He told the Jewish people that he would be gone for forty days. The Jewish people miscalculated and started to worry about Moshe and what had happened to him. In fact they

panicked and started to think and do silly things. They 'jumped to conclusions'. This means they acted too quickly without thinking carefully.

Activity 3:

The children should get into pairs and stand one behind the other. They should take it in turns to "draw" on each other's back. The one whose back is being drawn on should guess what is being done. Start off easy, with - letters, numbers and shapes and then get harder with more complex drawings. They should then swap roles. The children will see that it gets more difficult to figure out what is being done, without seeing the "whole picture."

Sometimes it can be difficult to work out what something is or why something is happening and we have to be careful not to panic but to think things through carefully.

- Ask: Can you think of a time when you jumped to a wrong conclusion? What happened?

Children's Service: Years 3 - 6

Activity 1:

Ask the children to stand up in a circle, with their eyes closed. The aim of the game is to go around the circle and recite the ABC from A-Z in less than a minute – each child in turn saying a letter. The first child A, the one next to him B, and so on. Each time there is a pause for more than a few seconds they need to start from the beginning again. There should be a designated person to start each time. It sounds simpler than it is and a minute goes by faster than you think!

- Ask the children if they found it harder than they anticipated to get to Z? Did a minute go by faster or slower than they thought it would?
- Explain that in the parsha this week Moshe went up Mount Sinai to collect the Ten Commandments from God. He told the Jewish people that he would be gone for forty days. The Jewish people miscalculated and started to worry about Moshe and what had happened to him. In fact they panicked and started to think and do silly things. They 'jumped to conclusions,' acted too quickly without thinking carefully. They built the Golden Calf to replace Moshe.

Activity 2:

The children should get into pairs and stand one behind the other. They should take it in turns to "draw" on each other's

back. The one whose back is being drawn on should guess what is being done. Start off easy, with - letters, numbers and shapes and then get harder with more complex drawings. They should then swap roles. The children will see that it gets more difficult to figure out what is being done, without seeing the “whole picture.”

Sometimes it can be difficult to work out what something is or why something is happening and we have to be careful not to panic but to think things through carefully.

Story to link to above theme:

"BIRTHDAY SURPRISE"

Claire Engel's birthday was coming up in less than a week, but she was in no mood to celebrate. How could she be when her three best friends had stabbed her in the back?

It started whenever she began dropping hints to them that she might want to get together with them on her birthday for pizza or something. The girls would all suddenly change the subject as if they couldn't give a care that one of their closest pals would be soon turning 11.

All three girls, Tammy, Ellen, and Jill were suddenly 'busy' that day, even though each one had plenty of time to rearrange her plans!

The final straw though, was when Claire walked home that day, and happened to notice her three friends across the street. She saw them whispering amongst themselves and glancing in her direction. When they saw her approaching, they all gave her a warm smile, and even giggled, but in Claire's eyes the damage

had been done. Yes, there was no other explanation except that her friends had turned on her.

"If that's the way they want it, so be it." Claire excused herself and quickly walked home feeling miserable. She walked into the kitchen, and found her mom stirring her favourite pasta on the stove.

"I wanted to make something nice for the soon-to-be birthday girl," she said with a smile. But when the girl hardly responded, Mrs. Engel knew something wasn't right. After a few gentle questions, Claire broke down and told her mom the whole story.

She said as far as she was concerned their friendship was through. Mrs. Engel looked at the girl reassuringly, "Well it certainly does sound strange," she admitted. "But if I were you, I wouldn't jump to any conclusions, and do anything rash. These girls are your good friends. I'm sure there is more to it than meets the eye," she added with a strange twinkle in her eye.

Mother and daughter sat down to a nice lunch, but Claire was more enwrapped in the food for thought that her mother's words had set in motion. "Maybe Mom's right," she thought. "It makes no sense that my three best friends would suddenly forget about me. I'm not sure what's going on, but I guess I'll continue to act friendly, and see what happens."

It was the day of her birthday. The school day had finished, Claire gathered her books, and headed home. "Oh, Mom's still at work," she thought as she unlocked the door.

Claire flipped on the light, getting ready to sit down to her homework, when she was startled by the sound of a roaring "SURPRISE - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" There, all around her, stood Tammy, Ellen, and Jill, each holding a colourfully wrapped present. Eight other friends stood behind them, smiling ear-to-ear.

Claire's mom stood smiling by the kitchen doorway. "Your friends have been busy planning this for weeks," she said.

Claire had the best birthday of her life, and most of all felt glad that she hadn't jumped to any conclusions, and patiently waited for the good to come her way.

(Adapted from Aish.)

Discuss:

Q. How did Claire feel at first when her friends didn't seem interested in her birthday?

A. She jumped to the conclusion that they had abandoned her, and didn't care.

Q. How did she feel after they threw her the surprise party?

A. She realised they had been planning this all along, and was glad that she had decided to wait and give them a chance, instead of accusing them.

Q. What's wrong with jumping to conclusions?

A. Life and its various situations are often more complicated than they first seem. If we don't take the time to think before we react, we are likely to reach the wrong conclusion, and cause problems for ourselves and for others.

Q. How can a person avoid falling into this trap?

A. Just being aware that things aren't always like they first appear will help us to control our initial impulse to jump to a hasty conclusion. Once we have slowed ourselves down, we should start to calmly consider the facts, and think about alternative ways of viewing things. Often those few calm moments of consideration will open the door to a clear and correct understanding of the situation.

Q. Can you think of a time when you jumped to a wrong conclusion? What happened?

Q. Why do you think people tend to draw hasty conclusions about things?

A. There is a tendency within people to feel that they must respond immediately to every situation that comes their way. Even to pause for a few seconds when asked a complicated question feels uncomfortable. But this is a mistake, as the repercussions of responding inappropriately or reaching a false conclusion are often much more costly than the few seconds of discomfort to get something right. One mark of a wise man is that he thinks before he acts.

Q. Is it ever appropriate to be hasty?

A. Yes, but at its proper time. The first stage of any decision is to clearly think a situation through, carefully weigh the facts, and arrive at a conclusion about the proper action to take. This stage should never be rushed. However the second stage, where we put our plan into action, should be done confidently and without delay. At this stage hesitancy is counterproductive, and can reduce our level of effectiveness.