



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](mailto:sharonradley@tribeuk.com)

## Pinchas

### **Parsha Summary:**

- The parsha begins with God praising Pinchas for his actions and rewarding him for his bravery.
- A new census is taken of all Jewish males over the age of twenty. The total is 601,730. The tribe of Levi is not included in this census, but have their own one.
- God commands that the Land of Israel is to be divided up amongst all those who were counted in the census. The location of the portion for each tribe was determined by lottery.
- The daughters of Tzelophechad approached Moshe and requested that they receive their father's portion of land in Eretz Yisrael as he had died, leaving behind only daughters.
- Moshe asks God, and God agrees to Tzelophechad's daughter's request. Moshe is then given the laws of inheritance by God. Included in these laws is a daughter's right to her father's land, if he dies leaving no sons.
- God commands Moshe to climb to the top of Mount Avarim from where he would see the Land of Israel before he died.
- Joshua is chosen as Moshe's successor.
- The parsha concludes with the details of the offerings to be bought on all the festivals, Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh.

## Children's Service: Tot's –Year 2

The parsha this week talks about Pesach, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succot and Shemini Atzeret. The activities below will help the children with their calendar skills.

### **Activity 1:**

Sing the song of the Jewish months with the children. You can hear the song on YouTube under '*Jewish Calendar Song*'. You may want to print off a list of the months before Shabbat to hold up, or print out each month separately, and give them out to the children.

When a month is mentioned the child holding the card of that month should stand up. (Remember the children may not be able to read Hebrew so you may want to print the months in English.)

Ask the children to clap their hands when they sing the current month (Tammuz).

### **Activity 2:**

A competition to find out which group is able to match up the chagim and important days with the correct Jewish calendar month.

Prepare slips of paper in advance, with the names of all the Jewish months, the chagim and important days written on them. Write them in English so that all children will be able to access the activity. Make several copies and put them in an envelope.

On Shabbat, at your service, split the children into teams. Ask each team to lay out all of the months in the correct order, starting from Nissan. Next to the months they should put the correct chag or important day. For example, next to Nissan would be Pesach. You can also include pictures of items used on the Chagim such

as a chanukia, shofar or an etrog. The children should put the pictures next to the correct Chag. Inform the groups how long they have and when you give the signal they should start.

When the time is up the team with the most correct answers, wins. You can make this activity as easy or as difficult as you wish depending on the level of your participants. Including important days such as Lag B'Omer, Yom Ha'atzmaut or fast days will raise the level. You will know your own children best and what level is appropriate for them.

### **Activity 3:**

Cut up a map of Eretz Yisrael and hide the pieces around the room. Ask the children to find the pieces and arrange them so that they form a completed map. Sit the children down again and explain that in the parsha this week we learn that Eretz Yisrael was divided up among the Tribes.

The area of land that each Tribe would receive was chosen by lottery. Rashi tells us that twelve lots with the names of the Tribes were placed in a box and another twelve lots with twelve areas of the Land were placed in another box. The Kohen Gadol, dressed in his special clothes, including the 'Urim V'Tumim' declared through prophecy which area of land would belong to each Tribe. The lots were then drawn to confirm this and each time the outcome of the lottery was exactly as the Kohen Gadol had said. Each Tribe was given the plot of land that was most suitable for their unique needs.

It was clear to all that the outcome was the will of God.

## Children's Service: Years 3 – 6

### Activity 1:

*'Let not the assembly of God be like sheep that have no shepherd'*  
(Pinchas: 27: 17)

Split the children into two groups and give each group a bag of unusual props. The groups will then make up a play and include the props in their play. They should practice the play and then perform it to the other group. Naturally leaders and followers will emerge within the groups.

### Discuss:

In this week's parsha God tells Moshe that he wouldn't be the one to lead the Jewish people into Eretz Yisrael. Moshe had been a great leader. He had led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and to the borders of Eretz Yisrael. It was now time to choose his successor.

Moshe became very concerned about this. He wasn't worried about himself but for the Jewish people, as he knew they needed a sensitive and wise leader. He pleaded with God to appoint a suitable leader who would care about the needs of every person in the nation. The Torah here is showing the importance of having a leader to guide us and the qualities they must have.

- What do you think makes a good leader?
- Why do you think we need leaders?
- From the play activity above, what did you learn about leaders and leadership?
- What can we learn when we find ourselves in the position of a follower? (Humility/ the fact that we are part of a team where all parts are important/ loyalty)

- A wise Torah scholar once said that “as much as I learned from my teachers I learnt even more from my students.” What do you think he meant? (Leaders must be humble enough to learn from all.)
- In the parsha this week Moshe asks God to choose a new leader who, “Will go out before them and come in before them, who shall take them out and bring them in.” (Pinchas 27:17) What do you think he meant by this?

(Rashi says that *go out before them* means to lead the nation in battle and not remain at the back, risk free. *Take them out and lead them in* says Rashi, means that the leader should have personal merits that would protect the people from harm and also that the leader would bring the Jewish people into Eretz Yisrael.)

### Activity 2:

*‘Only by lot shall the Land be divided’.* (Pinchas 26: 55)

Play any games that involve things being ‘hidden’. One idea could be to split the participants into two groups and spend a few minutes looking for stamp sized coloured cards that you have hidden around the room. Cards of one colour should be very well hidden and cards of another colour, easier to find. When time is up, allocate points to the teams. The harder to find coloured cards will earn more points than the easier to find cards. The team with the most points –wins.

Explain:

In the parsha this week we learn that Eretz Yisrael was divided up among the tribes. The area of land that each tribe would receive was chosen by lottery. Rashi tells us that twelve lots with the names of the tribes were placed in a box and another twelve lots with twelve areas of the Land were placed in another box. The Kohen Gadol, dressed in his special clothes including the

'Urim V'Tumim,' declared through prophecy, which area of land would belong to each tribe. The lots were then drawn to confirm this and each time the outcome of the lottery was exactly as the Kohen Gadol had said. Each tribe was given the plot of land that was most suitable for their needs.

It was clear to all that the outcome was the will of God.

Sometimes it is hard to see the hand of God so clearly but He is always with us. It is not always as easy for us to see God as it was for the tribes in the parsha this week. Sometimes God takes a step back and hides in order to make us search for Him and want Him. But He is still there behind the scenes making sure that what happens to us is for the best. Nothing in our life is a coincidence - it is up to us to realise this and see that God is always there, sending us what we need and what, ultimately, is best for our personal growth.

Discuss

- Have any participants ever felt that God was guiding events in their life?
- Is it easy to see that things are for the best?

(Please Note: The map activity above may be suitable for your group too.)