



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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## Bereishit

### **Parsha Summary:**

- This week's parsha is the first parsha in the Torah. The parsha is about the creation of the world. God created the world in six days.
- On the first day He made darkness and light. On the second day He formed the heavens, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He separated land and sea and created trees and greenery from the earth. On the fourth day He fixed the position of the sun, moon and stars as timekeepers and lights of the earth. On the fifth day He created fish, birds and reptiles. Finally, on the sixth day God created land animals and the very first human beings – Adam and Eve.
- On the seventh day God stopped creating. He stopped all work. God made this seventh day holy as a day of rest-Shabbat.
- God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and told them that they may eat from all the fruit of the Garden except for the Tree of Knowledge.
- The snake persuaded Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge and she shares the forbidden fruit with her husband. As a punishment, Adam and Eve are thrown out of the Garden of Eden and from that day on, they have to work for a living and do not have things as easy as before.
- Eve gives birth to two children, Cain and Abel. Cain fights with Abel and kills him. He is punished and becomes a wanderer – a person with no home of his own. Adam and

Eve have a third child, Seth, from whom Noach is descended.

## **Children's Service: Tots -Year 3**

In this week's parsha we learn about the creation of the world. God created the world in six days. But what was created on each day?

Discuss what was created on each day. Talk about where things come from, the sun, sky, sea etc. All these were created by Hashem.

### **Activity 1:**

Once you have clarified what was created on each day, ask the children to think of an action, gesture or sound for what was created on each day. Ideally, this should be child-led to help them remember. (E.g., hands like twinkling stars for Yom Revi'i, flapping arms like birds for Yom Chamishi – anything related can work.) When you have an action for each day, recite the days of creation (in English or Hebrew) with the action for each one. See if the children can say them all by themselves. After they are familiar with them all, call out days at random and the children have to do the action and say what was created on that day.

NB: Make sure to include and talk about Shabbat. Shabbat is the day that God rested and stopped creating, that's why we stop doing certain things on Shabbat too. In fact, it is because of the six days of creation and the resting on Shabbat that we are in Shul at children's service!

Now that we know a bit more about the days of creation, let's play a game with our new information.

## Activity 2:

### What's On My Hat?

Before Shabbat, prepare paper hats by writing a day of creation (and Shabbat) on each hat. (This can be in English or Hebrew, as appropriate for your group.) One child takes a turn to stand at the front of the room where a hat is placed on their head. (They cannot see what is written on the hat.) The child at the front asks Yes or No questions to the rest of the group to try and work out what is on their hat.

Variation: instead of days of the week, put the elements of creation on the hats, e.g. light, dark, sea, fish, sun, moon, stars etc. Children have to guess both what is on their hat and what day it was created on.

Use this game as a springboard to talk about the idea of creation. Discuss how God made something different on each day and that he rested on the seventh day. Remind them about Shabbat and the importance of resting after working hard during the week. Shabbat is a time to put aside all of the work we have to do and spend time with our family, friends and community. If it wasn't for God, we wouldn't have anything in this world! We should thank God for everything we have and everything we see. See if they remember from the previous activity what was created on each day.

## Children's Service: Years 3-6

In this week's parsha we learn about the creation of the world. Let's get to grips with what was created on each day with the following activity.

### **Activity 1:**

#### Creation Relay Race

##### Props:

Six pieces of prepared paper, with 'Day 1/Day 2/Day 3/Day 4/Day 5/Day 6' on them. (Variation: put Yom Rishon/Yom Sheni in English or Hebrew if the children are familiar with it.)

NB: prepare papers before Shabbat.

Two items for each day of creation. For example:

Day 1- A clear plastic bag and a black plastic bag

Day 2- Bottles of water

Day 3- A fruit and a mini globe

Day 4- Glow in the dark stars/moon

Day 5- Birds and fish

Day 6- Other animals/toy people

Activity: Split the group into two teams, and give each team a full set of props. Each team lines up behind their props. When you say go, one person from each team picks up an item and runs across the room to place the item on its proper day. The next player cannot pick up an item until he is tagged. Whichever team brings all of their items over first wins.

Discussion: Once all the items are properly on their places, ask the children which day is missing. Of course, you didn't put a



spot for Shabbat. Discuss what kinds of thing might go on the Shabbat spot. What's special about Shabbat for you?

## Activity 2:

### Bereishit Bingo

Before you start the game, ask the children different questions about how things happen. For example: Where does your food come from? Where do your clothes come from? Who ties your shoes? Who cleans your clothes? Who teaches you in school? Most of their answers will either be their parents, siblings, teachers, or possibly even themselves. Then ask where things God made came from. Where does the sun come from? Where do trees and flowers come from? Where did the ocean and sky come from? Then introduce Bereishit Bingo!

Using the props from the previous game, get the children (in their teams) to create a grid by placing the props in rows on the floor. The children can put the props wherever they want, the idea is that the two teams have different grids. Call out the objects one by one and when they have the item called they can lie it down. (Alternatively, you can make it into human bingo and they can stand in the place of the object.) The team with the first row all down wins! You can also extend the game by making the objective to finish the entire board.

Talk to the children about the story of creation and that every day God made something different and that he rested on the seventh day. Remind them about Shabbat and the importance of resting after working hard during the week. Shabbat is a time to put aside all of the work we have to do and spend time with our family, friends and community. If it wasn't for God, we wouldn't have anything in this world! We should thank God for

everything we have and everything we see. See if your participants remember from the previous activity what was created on each day.