



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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## Vayera

### Parsha Summary:

- Avraham welcomes three guests into his tent in the heat of the day. He rushes to prepare for them, despite it being just three days after his Brit Mila.
- The guests are really angels, one of whom tells Sarah that she will have a child.
- Avraham is informed by one of the angels that God will destroy Sedom. Avraham pleads for Sedom to be saved. Sedom is destroyed but Lot is saved.
- Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt when she ignores the instruction not to look at the burning city of Sedom as they flee.
- Avraham and Sarah travel to Gerar where Sarah is taken captive by King Avimelech.
- Yitzchak is born.
- Hagar and Yishmael are sent away from Avraham's house and are saved from starvation by God.
- Avraham is given the ultimate test, Akeidat Yitzchak, where God asks him to offer his son up as a sacrifice. Avraham agrees, but in the last minute a heavenly voice calls out and stops him.
- Avraham offers up a ram's horn as a sacrifice instead of Yitzchak.
- The parsha ends with the birth of Rivka.

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

This week's parsha describes the chessed of Avraham and how he went out of his way to help people. Talk about chessed, particularly the examples from this week's parsha. Remind the children that Avraham excelled at Hachnasat Orchim and it is something that we can do too e.g. playdates, inviting friends and family for Shabbat/Chagim etc.

#### **Activity 1:**

**Song:** *(to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)*

Avraham Avinu and Sarah went  
To look for people to visit their tent  
The tent had four doors open wide  
So all the visitors could come inside  
If you come and play with me  
I will give you cake and tea

Use the song as a springboard for the children to role play Hachnasat Orchim. What do we do when guests come to our home? Discuss: what makes a good host?

#### **Activity 2:**

Avraham does four things that demonstrate the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim. He greets his guests warmly, he helps them refresh themselves from the journey, he offers them food and he

accompanies them on their way. Ask the children for ideas of how they can best practice the mitzvah of hospitality.

Remind the children how Avraham's tent had four doors open wide so that all visitors would be welcome from all sides – he loved having guests. In the following game the host tries to catch the guests so that s/he can fulfil the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim.

### **Guest & Host (Cat & Mouse)**

Choose two children to play the guest and the host.

The other players should stand in a circle and hold hands.

The player who is the host should stand inside the circle and the guest should stand outside the circle. The aim of the game is for the host to get outside the circle (to try and catch more guests) and avoid being caught by the guest. The host must stay moving while inside the circle but cannot stay inside the circle for more than 10 seconds. The guest cannot come into the circle but they can reach into the circle to grab the host. The children making the circle have to try and keep the guest away from the host by holding up their hands to let the host in and out of the circle. They can also block the guest's attempts to grab the host by standing in their way. If the host is caught, the host becomes the new guest. The old guest takes the place of a child holding hands and another player becomes the host.

## **Children's Service: Years 3-6**

In this week's parsha there are many examples of Avraham doing Chessed. Mention that not only would Avraham always do chessed, but he would do it as fast as he could, even when it may have been difficult for him.

### **Activity 1:**

#### **Chessed Obstacle Course**

The aim of this game is to complete the chessed obstacle course as fast as possible. Split the children up into two teams (can do it as one group as well). With two teams, they compete against each other, with one group the children are timed to see who is the fastest. Use four different stations representing four different kinds of chessed. (See examples below, feel free to be creative and use other options.)

1. Tzedakah. Throw 'coins' into the 'tzedakah box'. Be imaginative with this, have them throw some sort of a fake coin (chocolate money/ball/beanbag etc.) into a box.
2. Cleaning the playground. Put a few things on the floor and have the children clean them all up and put them into a bucket/'dustbin'.
3. Visiting the sick. Put a blanket over a team mate and give them three high fives.
4. Hachnasat Orchim. Set a place setting at a table (plate, cup, knife and fork).

Each child gets a chance to go through the obstacle course. They complete as quickly as they can, then come back and tag the next person in line. Make sure to 'reset' each station before each person takes their turn (e.g. put the rubbish back on the floor etc.) With teams you might want two of each station, alternatively have each team go separately and time the total duration.

In this week's parsha, we learn about Avraham and his never ending dedication and commitment to chessed. Avraham was sitting recuperating from his Brit Mila when he received a special visit from God. In the middle of talking to God, three 'people' (angels) come by. Avraham jumps up to greet them and he and Sarah welcome them into their home with open arms. Even though Avraham wasn't feeling well and it was probably difficult for him to run around taking care of his guests, he still worked as fast and as hard as he could. Remind the children how we try to emulate Avraham with regard to chessed. Just as we would like people to pull out the stops for us when we need something, (as we did in the obstacle course) let's try to be the first to help others in their times of need.

### **Activity 2:**

We have seen many examples of chessed in this week's parsha, but these are just a few compared to the chessed opportunities we encounter every day.

## **A-Z Chessed**

Split the children into two teams, each team in a line. Start with A and go through the alphabet. For each letter, the child at the front of the line has 5 seconds to name a chessed beginning with that letter. If they say one, their team gets a point and they go the back of the line. If not, it goes to the other team. Double points for a chessed in the parsha! The team with the most points wins.

Mention how Avraham excelled at doing chessed. We have just identified many different chessed possibilities. Ask the children if there is something they'd be interested in doing. What about Hachnasat Orchim - Who would they like to have as guest in their home and why?