

Parasha Thinking



- 1) Do you think that you, personally, would be a good Kohen Gadol?
- 2) In your opinion, should the Jewish people have ignored the cloud and the fire and pushed ahead, to reach the Land of Israel more quickly?
- 3) How does the word, promise, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

In the previous parasha, Aharon's sons; Nadav and Avihu, died. In this week's parasha, Hashem (G-d) gave the Jewish people a clear warning once more, against going into the Devir – the holiest part of the Mishkan (traveling Temple). The only person who was allowed to enter was the Kohen Gadol (Chief Priest) and this happened once a year, on Yom Kippur, for him to do the service of burning the ketoret (incense) to ask Hashem for forgiveness. He had to be wearing part of his Kohen Gadol uniform whilst doing this but not all of it.

Korbanot (animal offerings or grain offerings) were only allowed to be carried out in the Mishkan whilst the Jewish People were travelling in the desert, or the Beit HaMikdash (permanent Temple), once the Jewish people would reach Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel), where they were currently heading. The land of Israel had been promised to the Jewish people by Hashem. Hashem sent a (non-dangerous) fire by night and a cloud by day, to show the Jewish people where to go. When the cloud or fire moved, they travelled and when it stopped, they built the Mishkan and their tents, and camped in that location.

We are also reminded that we may not eat or drink blood.

Discovery

Did you know that when Hashem warned the Jewish people about not entering the Devir, He spoke to Moshe, and it was Moshe's job to pass on the information to the rest of the Jewish People?

Did you know that the Kohen Gadol wore regular Kohen (priest) clothing, not his full Kohen Gadol clothing when he entered the Devir? This is because his own clothing had gold and we don't wear gold when asking for forgiveness, as it makes us think of the time that the Jewish people built and worshiped the Golden Calf.

Did you know that not only did the Kohen Gadol ask for forgiveness for the nation but he also asked for forgiveness for himself and his family?



Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

### Games

#### 1) Chinese Whispers

Link: passing on a message.

Children sit in a circle, and one person starts by whispering something to the next person. Whatever they hear, they must say that to the next person.

The last player announces the message they heard, to the group.

How wrong was it? Where did it go wrong?

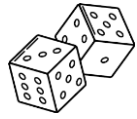
#### 2) Create a Story

Link: We are currently counting the Omer, building up each day, just like we are building up the story in this game.

Sitting in a circle, you create a steady beat with everyone tapping their knees. Person one starts the story and each participant adds another word, on the beat. ONE DAY THERE WERE TWO LITTLE SISTERS WHO WERE SO EXCITED TO GO TO SHUL etc.

#### 3) Wink Faint

One child steps outside the door and the Children Service leader points to another child in the circle, making sure everyone in the room has seen who was selected. The child outside enters and the game begins. The child who was selected winks at other children and they count to five and then pretend to collapse. The guesser has two guesses before everyone collapses.



Story (One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

“Yes, yep, I’ll tell him as soon as he gets home, thanks for this, he’ll be really happy! No, no-no, I won’t forget. 4:30 tomorrow morning? I’ll make sure he’s all set, passport, yes and everything. Have a greeeeat time.” Lauren put down the phone and let out a squeal. She was so excited for her brother, Paul, who had just been invited to go on holiday with his best friend’s family the next morning.

It wasn’t just a regular best friend – Lauren and Paul’s Dad, Doug, was also best friends with Jamie’s Dad, Sean, who had been inseparable since their first day of kindergarten, 38 years ago, and so were the Grandads, Russell and Simon. The two families could really say, the friendships go way back.

Lauren had so much homework to do and even though she couldn’t really be bothered, she told herself that if she just started her history project, she’ll feel better. She headed down to the library to pick up a book or two on the Vikings – that would be the focus of her project. As she sat in the library typing notes from what she read, she kept having this strange feeling that she’d forgotten something but she just couldn’t remember what it was. She shook away the feeling – can’t have been so important. Meanwhile, Paul got home, hung up the laundry, poured himself a glass of water ... and was completely unaware that he’d been invited to a holiday with Jamie and his family. Had he known, he’d be packing and looking up all the important tourist sites online. He was exhausted, though, as he’d just played two matches and thought that an early night would do him good. He headed to bed and left a note for the family on the fridge, saying that he had gone to sleep early.

Lauren came home at the same time as Mum and Dad. She had a niggling feeling that she needed to do something or say something but she just couldn’t focus on what it was. Dad spotted Paul’s note and read it out, telling everyone that they should be a little more quiet, so that they don’t disturb him. Lauren announced that she was also exhausted and would follow suit. She said goodnight and headed upstairs.

At 4:30am, the whole family was woken up by the sound of their doorbell ringing. “Who rings someone else’s doorbell at FOUR THIRTY in the morning?” cried Dad. He put on his robe and slippers and headed downstairs. “Hello?” he called out. “Hi Doug, it’s me, Sean!” came the voice from the other side of the door. “Sean?” dad gasped, as he opened the door, “what on Earth are you doing here at this time of the morning?” “I’ve come to collect Paul – we arranged for him to come away with us to Croatia!” answered Sean. “CROATIA?!! Without telling us, wait till I get my hands on him .. PAUL, GET DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW!!!!!!” yelled dad, furiously.

Lauren crept down the stairs and whispered, “it’s all my fault! I knew I needed to tell him something and I couldn’t remember what it was. I am a terrible messenger. Oh, I’m so sorry!” She turned to Paul, who was now next to her and then looked at Sean. “Sean,” she asked, how long until you have to leave this house to get to the airport?” He looked at his watch and told her 10 minutes! “Challenge on!” she said. The whole family raced around, getting everything packed and ready with Paul ... and Paul managed to get into Sean’s car ... with 2 minutes to spare.

1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?

2) Have you ever been asked to pass on an important message?

3) What could Lauren do in future, when she’s asked to pass on a message, to make sure this doesn’t happen again?

