

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Behar-Bechukotai

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 26th Iyar, 5785

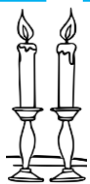
Gregorian date: 23rd–24th May, 2025

London Shabbat times: 20:43 – 21:59

Special events: blessing new month of Sivan

Upcoming events in the week: Rosh Chodesh Sivan (Wednesday)

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com



Counting the Omer: Day 41

Today is the 41st day making five weeks and six days of the omer.

Parasha Thinking



- 1) What might a farmer worry about during the Shmitta year?
- 2) In your opinion, if all naturally grown produce is ownerless during the shemittah year, could a farmer go into another farmer's field and take crops to eat?
- 3) How does the word, land, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Every seven years, the farming land in Israel must be allowed to rest. This is known as the Shemittah. Farmers may not plough, sow seeds, reap or do any jobs connected to produce growth, on the field. Any crops that grow naturally are considered ownerless and is free for anyone to take.

After seven Shemittot (non-growing years) over a span of 49 years, a 50th year, called the Yovel follows, where again, no work is done on the fields. In addition to this, during the Yovel, all land goes back to its original owner and any Eved Nirtza (servant who chose to be bound to their owner), is set free.

We also learn laws about selling land, not being a fraud and not using or tricking others for your own benefit.

In Bechukotai, Hashem (G-d) made a promise that when the Jewish people keep His laws, they will have enough of what they need, a good amount of rain, and they will live safely in the land of Israel. Hashem also says that He will increase the people. Hashem also warns of bad fortune if they forget the laws.

Hashem continues to say that even in troubled times, He will never leave His people, never dislike them, never destroy them and never break the covenant with them because He is their G-d and He cares about them.

We are then told rules on how to measure the value promises that we make to Hashem, and finishes off with the mitzvah (commandment) of tithing grain, crops and animals.

Discovery

Did you know that during a Shemittah year, a farmer may take crops that have grown naturally on their land but only what he or she needs for that day?

Did you know that the Shemittah year is the land's Shabbat? We have a day of rest every seven days and the land gets a rest every seven years.

Did you know that Hashem promised farmers who keep the Shmitta that the 6th, 7th and 8th year will produce extra crops?

Did you know that according to a famous Torah commentator called Rashi, Hashem promised that the rain will fall at times that don't inconvenience people?

Did you know that when Hashem increases the Jewish people, this means their dignity and stature and that they can hold their head up high.

Did you know that the kohanim (priests) decided the value of the animals, based on the rules in the Torah?



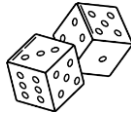


Gratitude

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!)

THANK
YOU!

Games



1) Guess the Number

Link: every seven years was the Shemittah year and every 50 years was the Yovel year.

One person chooses a number between 1 and 100 and the rest of the group have to guess what the number is. The person who chose the number responds "higher" or "lower" to help guide the team to the correct answer.

2) Fruit Basket

Link: the land had to be left to rest for a year.

One child is 'it' and stands in the middle. Their chair is removed from the circle. The leader goes round and assigns all the remaining children a fruit; apple, orange, grape. The 'it' child calls out one of the fruits, e.g. grapes and all the grape children have to switch seats amongst themselves and the 'it' has to try to sit in one of their chairs. The last child remaining is the new 'it' and calls out a different fruit and whilst they swap, the 'it' tries to sit down. If the 'it' calls fruit basket, then all the children switch seats.

3) Tricking Ya

Link: We're not allowed to trick people

Resources: tissues

One child volunteers to stand outside and the leader chooses someone in the room, to sit on a tissue. Unbeknown to the child who goes out, when they come in, everyone will try to trick them into believing that they are the one who is sitting on the tissue. Can they actually guess correctly?

4) Would you Rather ...

Link: we are promised blessing when keeping the mitzvot.

Give the children two really good hypothetical options. Which one would they rather and why? E.g. would you rather have £1,000 pounds or go to Florida for a week? Would you rather have your favourite dinner for three days in a row or your best friend to stay at your house for three days in a row? etc

Story



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

"It's still TERRIBLE weather," sighed Aaron, glumly, "I wanted to go and play tennis in the park today but it's been three days now and this rain is just not letting up!"

"Have a look at the weather app," suggested Mum, hopefully. "Perhaps the sun'll come out in the afternoon."

Aaron looked at his app and he broke into a smile. The weather prediction was that at 2pm, there would be a couple of hour of sun and the exact time he'd booked the court was 2:15 – 3:15. Perfect.

He was so excited and ran to tell Dad, who was going to play with him. They'd booked quite a few slots together over the next few months because they loved tennis and the exercise was great for their mental health.

Dad listened to Aaron and then softly said, "I know you're really excited to play but I really don't think it's going to be safe. The rain had been pouring for three days straight - I don't think the ground will have enough time to dry up and I don't want either of us to slip and break our arm or any bone for that matter." "But we've been stuck in the house for three days, I'm so bored. Obviously I don't want either of us to slip but Dad, come on, we'll be careful!" pleaded Aaron.

Dad replied, "I understand that you're desperate to get out and about when this rain stops and son, you can! We can have a walk by the stream, we can walk to the shops and get some fruit or we can even walk through the park – I bet the tulips will be in bloom – it'll look great there but I'm afraid we can't play tennis, it's too dangerous."

Even though he was upset, Aaron decided that a walk through the park would do them good.

That afternoon, as they walked through the park they noticed that the gate to the tennis courts was locked shut. As they approached, Aaron spotted a sign that said, 'DANGER, SLIPPING HAZARD ON COURTS DUE TO RAINFALL – ALL COURTS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!'

Aaron turned to Dad and said, "I see you were right, sorry for arguing! I just wish it would rain in the middle of the night when everyone is asleep, that would be way more convenient!"

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

2) Have you ever been inconvenienced by the rain?

3) Did the park keeper need to put up a sign to warn of the danger if he'd locked the gate?