

Parasha Thinking

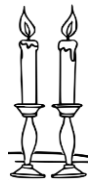


- 1) Can you think of a reason beyond your control, that a promise could be broken?
- 2) Why do you think one tribe (Menashe) decided to split – half in the land of Israel and half out?
- 3) How does the word, divided, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

In this week's parasha we learn that we should not break a promise and Moshe (Moses) taught the laws of cancelling a promise, to the leaders of the tribes.



The Midyanim (Midianites) had plotted to destroy the Jewish people and the Jewish people went to war against them. The Jewish people won and there was a lot of war spoil, which was divided up between the regular people, the soldiers, the levi'im (Levites) and the Kohen Gadol (High Priest).

Two and a half tribes requested land outside Israel when the land would be portioned as the land would be good for their cattle. At first, Moshe was angry to hear that they didn't want to live in Israel but agreed to let them live there on the condition that they help the Jewish people conquer the land.

From the time the Jewish people left Egypt to this point in our history, where they were opposite the entrance to Israel, every place they camped is listed. Hashem gave Moshe the exact boundaries of the land and Arei Miklat (cities of refuge) are to be built, for anyone who killed another person unintentionally.

The daughters of Tzelafechad (Tzelaphead) got married to husbands in their own tribe and that meant that the land they inherited in place of their father, would not be passed to another tribe upon marriage.

Discovery

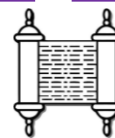
Did you know that because sometimes promises are broken for reasons beyond our control, we say the words Bli Neder, when we agree to do something. The words Bli Neder mean without making a vow.

Did you know that when the Jewish people got the war spoil, any metal pots or pans had to be made kosher through a koshering process, before they could be used?

Did you know that king David secured the borders of the land of Israel in his time and his son, Shlomo expanded them when he became the next king?

The Nine Days

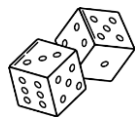
On Sunday night we begin a very sad time in the Jewish calendar called the Nine Days, leading to Tisha B'Av, the date when the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) was destroyed. During the Nine Days we may not eat meat, swim or bathe for fun or pleasure, wash clothing unnecessarily, go on major trips, buy new clothes, have a celebration with live music or for the adults, drink wine.



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) Quiz



Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Alternate between team A and team B. Children sit opposite their opponent on the floor, with the soles of their shoes touching. When a child knows the answer, they stick their hand in the middle of the circle to high five everyone, once you have confirmed they got it right.

2) Is that an Act?

Link: Contents of weekly portion.

Can you act out the story in the pink box. Who will be the cast? Who will be the vocal coaches? Who will be the director? etc

3) Search For ...

Split the group into two teams – can be same way as before. One person is team less because they have to say to one player from each team, “bring me something ... brown” (for example). They both have to find something brown in the room e.g. a siddur, a pretzel etc. Two points awarded for the first person to bring the correct item. Carry on with different requests – sparkly/ beginning with H / unusual etc and let all teammates have a turn to search for the items.

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



“Leave it to me, I promise this’ll all be sorted. All the food will be delivered to the right people at the right time.” Nodded Sam, confidently.

“Oh it better be,” responded Mali, with a fake smile, hiding the fact that she was annoyed with Sam’s over-confident attitude. She had a thriving catering business and three months ago, she’d expanded to doing home deliveries on Fridays of Shabbat food for orders over £40. Her food was presented really exquisitely and was full of flavor and colour, making her a very popular Shabbat choice for her city. Her regular delivery company which she really liked had let her know from the start that this week they wouldn’t be able to help because of a booking made months in advance and so she’d agreed to find a different delivery company, just for this week. Mali had called around for almost three weeks and didn’t find anyone available until today – the day before she needed their service. Seeing Sam as childish and immature, she wasn’t entirely happy with his lack of professionalism but at this point she really had no other choice. He had a van, he had a driver’s license and he was available.

She handed the contract over to Sam, who signed it and handed it back to her without even reading the conditions. This made Mali even more anxious and she gave him a stern look. “Samuel Carlan. I expect you to read all the conditions before signing this contract, please. This is very important to my business and you cannot compromise on confidentiality and professionalism, which are all laid out in section three over here.” Sam wanted to laugh but didn’t want to lose the job. No one called him Samuel, anyway. This lady is way too strict, thought Sam.

Sam sat down and read through everything. He learnt that he’d get a list of the addresses and the order numbers the afternoon before and he’d have to arrange a good route throughout the city, to drop them all off at the right person’s home at the right time, after collecting them from Mali’s Kitchens. He knew he was good at that kind of planning and assured Mali once more, that everything was in hand.

As soon as the email came through, he started planning the deliveries. He split the city into three main areas and was quite proud of the route he planned. The next morning, Sam was so excited to prove to Mali that he was going to do a good job that he jumped into his van 20 minutes early to pick up the food parcels, in case there were roadworks on the way to Mali’s Kitchens or any other setbacks. Something happened that he hadn’t even thought of. He began to panic - he tried and tried to start the engine but with no success at all.

I promised, though! What can I do? Thought Sam. How about I take my own car? No, all that food will never fit. I have to be smarter. He paced up and down. “Got it”, he said as he ran towards his own car. Mali was waiting for him, and was not really surprised that he had turned up in a car, not a delivery van. She stood at the gate with her arms folded. He told Mali his idea – he’d deliver to area 1 first and all the food for areas two and three can stay in the fridge in the kitchens, until he completed area 1 and cleared space in the car from the previous area’s delivery. Mali smiled, genuinely, this time and she was impressed with his really good initiative, especially as the weather was getting hotter and she didn’t want the food out of the fridge for too long. After all, all she wanted to keep up the good reputation of her business.

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

2) Have you ever said you’ll do something and had to think of a plan B because something went wrong?

3) Do you think Mali should continue with her regular company or switch to Sam’s company?