

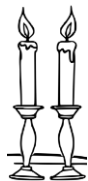
Hebrew date: 19th Nissan, 5785

Gregorian date: 18th – 19th April, 2025

London Shabbat and Chag times: 19:48 – 20:55

Special events: Pesach Day 7. Count Omer day 6.

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Parasha Thinking



- 1) Can you act out the Jewish people's reaction when Hashem split the sea?
- 2) Imagine you were following the fire / cloud in the desert. How would you feel, knowing that you were heading to the beautiful land of Israel?
- 3) How does the word, swim, link to Pesach?

Pesach Information



Summary – Part 4

Three days after Paro (Pharaoh) had let the Jewish people go, he changed his mind and set off with his army, traveling in horse drawn chariots, to reach them and bring them back. The Jewish people reached the Yam Suf (Sea of Reeds). They saw the Egyptians behind them and they had the water in front of them. They hadn't learnt how to swim in all their years of slavery and were now very frightened. They definitely didn't want to go back to Egypt.

According to the Medrash, a very brave man called Nachshon waded into the water. People called him back and but he carried on walking. The water was up to his knees and they said, "Nachshon, you can't swim!" and he replied, "I know that Hashem will help!" He continued further into the sea and when the water was up to his waist, the Jewish people said, "It's ok, Nachshon, just save yourself, turn around and come back!" Nachshon explained that Hashem (G-d) had saved them from Egypt and done all the plagues. "Surely He wouldn't abandon us now?" At that moment, Moshe (Moses) stretched his hand over the sea and Hashem split it into two, with a dry path in the middle.

The Jewish people walked through the path in the middle of the sea, from one side to the other. The Egyptian army followed and once the Jewish people were safely out of harms way, Hashem closed the water and all the army drowned, with the exception of Paro.

Moshe's sister, Miriam, led the ladies in joyous song and dance. The Jewish people traveled through the desert for forty years, until they reached the land of Israel. Hashem led them on their journey with a cloud by day and a (non-dangerous) fire by night. When the cloud moved, they followed it and when it settled, they camped, and the same thing happened with the fire at night.

Counting the Omer

Today is six days of the Omer.

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) She Sells Seashells on the Seashore

Link: Hashem split the sea

Children sit in a circle and the first person very slowly says, "She sells seashells on the sea shore." The next person has to say it a little faster. Each time the pace picks up slowly. If someone gets it wrong, they have to step out of the circle as they are out. The game starts again with the next person in the circle but slowly, back to the original pace. The game continues until there is one player, who can say the whole thing, very fast, three times in a row.

2) Director, Actors and Script Advisors

Can you act out the story of Nachshon (on page 1)?

Who will be the director? Who will advise on the words that the actors say? Who will be the actors?

If there are many children at shul, you can split them up into two groups and judge them on the best performance.

3) Adon Olam to Whaaaaat?

Adon Olam fits to any tune. Can we fit it to the tune of Who Knows One?

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



"In quarter of a mile, turn right," announced the voice on the Sat Nav. Dad indicated and took the right turn. Jacob was so excited because it was half term and he was going to stay with Adam for a whole week. Adam was Jacob's best friend and they were both heartbroken when Adam had to move 3 hours away with his family, as his mum had got a new job and it didn't make sense for her to commute all that way.

"In 200 yards, take the motorway!" Fantastic, thought Jacob, we're already on the motorway. Mum and Dad were making the most of the week, too. They were going to travel around England, and stop off at a different place each night, so that they could see as much of the country as possible.

Jacob chatted with his Mum and Dad about their itinerary and where they wanted to get out the car. They chatted so much that they didn't even realise that the Sat Nav had run out of charge.

The continued and continued down the motorway, oblivious to the fact that they were no longer being directed. Mum was looking forward to seeing tiny villages with only five houses, in Scotland and Dad was excited for some breathtaking hikes. They suddenly noticed that the sun was setting and Dad said, that's strange, we should have been at Adam's house hours ago. "Where are we?" he said out loud. "Where has the Sat Nav taken us?" He glanced at the screen and it was black. Mum tapped the screen and tried to activate it but it was totally out of battery. She followed the wire and gasped – "Steve, we didn't plug it in. Where on Earth are we?" She plugged in the Sat Nav and waited as the machine powered up.

Unfortunately they'd missed the junction ... and the second motorway ... and the exit and now they were miles and miles away from where they should have been.

After calling Adam's mum, they decided to stay in a little nearby hotel overnight and then they would head to Adam's in the morning. And they would DEFINITELY make sure that the Sat Nav was plugged in and working.

1) How does this story connect to the Parasha?

2) Do you think that Jacob could have done anything differently in this story?

3) Both Jacob and his parents were looking forward to their half term visits. What's similar and what's different in this story, to the journey and destination of the Jewish people?