

Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Yocheved felt when she gave birth and it was a baby boy?
- 2) In your opinion, why was Paro so threatened by the Jewish nation growing so quickly?
- 3) Thinking about Paro's daughter and her knowing she was saving a Jewish baby, what can we say about her middot (character traits)?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

The Jewish people were now living in Egypt and Paro 'didn't remember Yosef (Joseph) and all that he had done' and forced his descendants into cruel slavery, showing no gratitude. Despite their terrible conditions, the Jewish nation was growing rapidly. Paro (Pharaoh) was hugely concerned that the Jewish people would become mighty enough to overtake him on the throne so he commanded the Jewish midwives (Shifra and Puah) to kill all male babies as they were being born. Shifra and Puah had faith in Hashem and refused to listen to Paro. Paro then ordered his soldiers to throw the newborn males into the River Nile.

Yocheved and Amram had a baby boy and initially they hid him but when they couldn't anymore, Yocheved placed him in a basket and put the basket on the river, to float. Miriam, the baby's sister, watched from behind the bulrushes, to check he was safe. Paro's daughter came to the river to bathe and heard crying. She saw the baby and realized he was Jewish. She took him home to keep him safe. She called him Moshe (Moses).

When Moshe was a little older, he walked out of the palace and saw that the Jewish people lived a very hard life in slavery. They were building cities for Paro. He stood up for a Jewish person who was being hurt by an Egyptian and the next day, he decided to flee to Midian. When he was there, he married one of Yitro's (Jethro) daughters - Tzipora, and worked as a shepherd for Yitro.

Hashem (G-d) appeared to Moshe at a burning bush in front of Har (Mount) Sinai, and instructed him to go to Paro and order that he: "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me." Aharon (Aaron), Moshe's older brother) was chosen to speak on Moshe's behalf. Moshe returned to Egypt and told the elders what Hashem had said but Paro made things harder for the Jewish people by intensifying their work.

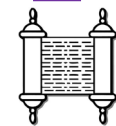
Moshe spoke to Hashem and asked: "Why have You done evil to this people?" Hashem promised that the Jewish people would soon be free from their slavery.

Discovery

Did you know that at the beginning, Paro encouraged all the people living in Egypt to join in with his National Building Project. Everyone participated except for those in the tribe of Levi. Little by little, Paro sent home the Egyptian people until only the Jewish nation was left, and at that point, it was forced upon them.

Did you know that Amram and Yocheved were able to hide their new baby for three months after he was born?

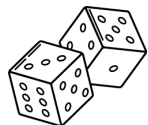
Did you know that when Paro's daughter took baby Moshe home, his sister Miriam, asked her if she wanted a Jewish nanny to help raise him. Paro's daughter said yes and Miriam brought Yocheved, Moshe's real mum, to raise him. There, Yocheved was able to teach him all about Hashem and that he was part of the Jewish people.



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) Jump – parasha quiz



Divide participants into two groups. Two children (one from each team) compete against each other at the same time. The two children stand in the middle of the room and one wall is true and one wall is false. Children’s Service leader makes statements based on the Parasha information on the previous page. If the statement is true, the children have to jump to the ‘true’ wall and if not, they must jump to the ‘false’ wall. Whoever gets there first, wins a point for their team.

2) City, Town or Village

Link: King Paro forced the Jewish people to be slaves for him and they built cities

Leader calls out the cities, towns and villages in the chart below (out of order) and children have to guess whether each one is a city, town or village.

Cities	Towns	Villages
Jerusalem	Albarracin	Giethoorn
Paris	Esperance	Marsaxlokk
Istanbul	Biei	Bibury
Tokyo	Gokayama	Savoca

3) One person is chosen to be the Froggy. All the other children line up opposite the Froggy and chant the question: Froggy, Froggy may we cross the River Nile on the way to school? Froggy answers: Only if you’re wearing the colour _____ / only if you are ___ years old / only if you have a wobbly tooth etc (only one each time). Those who have the correct colour etc. may cross. The others must run across and avoid being caught. If they are caught they join the Frog and help catch others. The winner is the last remaining child.

Story



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

“What a waste of money!” teased Mark. “No it’s not!” replied Mikkie. “I’m only getting her a breakfast box to say thank you – it’s not like I am gifting her a new car or a new house!”

“Why are you getting her anything in the first place? She only sewed your jacket – she’s got a sewing machine – it’s no big deal. I’m sure it would have taken her less than three minutes!” challenged Mark. “Don’t waste your money, sis!”

“I just don’t see it as a waste,” replied Mikkie. “I was in such a desperate situation – I had to be on stage in one hour and my costume ripped! Not just a tiny, unnoticeable hole but something that could be seen from the back row. Not only did Lynne get out her sewing machine and sew it up for me, she actually came home early from having lunch with all her friends and to top it all off, she didn’t charge me a penny! This is her business and she did the whole thing for free! The least I can do is show my gratitude and get her something nice!”

Mark thought about it and said, “I guess! She did go above and beyond for you.” He paused for a moment and then asked, “Why do you have to get her an entire breakfast box, though? Surely you said thank you and showed your gratitude that way and that’s adequate!”

Mikkie told him that she thinks it’s so important to let people know how grateful you are and that when you can, you should repay a kindness with a kindness.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever shown your gratitude?
- 3) In your opinion, did Mikkie need to get Lynne a present?