

Parasha Thinking



- 1) Aharon was so proud that his sons were kohanim (priests). Have you ever been really proud of someone in your family? What did they do?
- 2) In your opinion, was a week too long, to train for their jobs?
- 3) How does the word, fire, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information



Summary

Hashem (G-d) instructed Moshe (Moses) to explain the commandments of Aharon (Aaron) and his sons in the Mishkan (traveling temple). They needed to know what duties and responsibilities they had, what they would lead, what they would receive from the people and how they should set up and carry out the sacrifices.

The fire on the altar had to burn all the time. The kohanim (priests) were allowed to eat the meat of the sin and guilt offerings, and the whatever was left of the flour offering. The peace offering was shared by the person who brought it and the Kohen (priest). There are strict instructions and guidelines as to when, where and how this must be eaten.

Aaron and his sons lessons lasted for seven days and they stayed in the Mishkan that week, and were taught by Moshe. Moshe sees that they are ready to officially become kohanim and they were promoted to this position.

Discovery

Did you know that the way the kohanim used to bless the Jewish people is the same way that they bless us these days?

Did you know that the middle flame of the Menorah was lit from the ever-burning fire on the altar.

Did you know that when Aharon and his sons ate the sacrifices, they sat in the courtyard of the Mishkan?

Pesach (Passover) is so close. What are you the most excited for?



Shabbat HaGadol

The Shabbat before Pesach is known as Shabbat HaGadol – The Great Shabbat. This was the first Shabbat HaGadol that the Jewish nation kept, when they were in Egypt, five days before they left.

On that day, they had to take a lamb and prepare it for the Pesach offering. This was a sign of bravery and trust in Hashem because their Egyptian slave masters believed that the lamb was a god.

On Shabbat HaGadol we read some different prayers and parts of the Hagada.

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) We're the Funniest

Link: Aharon and his sons formed a team of kohanim

Split the group into two and tell them they will have to make the other team laugh. Give them five minutes with their team, to decide on what jokes or antics they will display. When it's time to make the other team laugh, they take it in turns. If someone laughs because of the other team, they are out. The winning team is the one that eliminates the most players from the opposing team.

2) This is My WINDOW

Link: Aharon and his sons had to stay in the Mishkan to learn about the correct names for the items and how to use them.

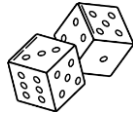
This is a concentration game. Everyone sits on chairs in a circle. The leader starts in the center, walks up to a player in the circle, points to their **elbow** and says, "This is my **window**."

The player has eight seconds – they must point to the **window** and say, "This is my **elbow**." If they don't get it right within 8 seconds, they're out.

The leader goes up to another player, points to another part of the room and misnames it. That person has to flip it within eight seconds and so on.

3) Achoo

All children sit in a circle. Start with one player and ask, "who in this room lives the nearest to you?" instead of answering their name, the person has to say achoo – if they're sitting three seats away its three achoos (clockwise). Then that child (who the achoos ended upon), is asked, "who in this room, is in your class at school?" and however many seats away that person is, that's the amount of achoos you need to hear. Continue with questions until everyone has had a go. QUESTIONS cannot be mean or teasing.



Story

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

Jenna, Sarah and their parents had just arrived at the lighthouse – it was already dark outside but this was the start of the holiday that they had been looking forward to for weeks and it was finally here. Dad was cooking supper, mum was stoking the fire and Jenna and Sarah were exploring ever inch of the lighthouse.

"Look, Jenna," exclaimed Sarah, "that's a ginormous switch – I wonder what that's for." "What does that say?" asked Jenna, as she squinted at the sign next to it, she read, "DO NOT TURN OFF THIS LIGHT! LIGHT MUST BE ON AT ALL TIMES!"

"I have the strongest urge, now, to switch it off." Squirmed Sarah, her older sister. "What would happen if we did just switch it off? I bet nothing would happen at all!"

"Sarah," yelled Jenna, "No – leave it alone – we don't know what could happen if we switch it off!"

Jenna winked and said, "sis, there's only one way to find out. I'm gonna do it!"

"No, don't switch it off, it might be really dangerous. Why don't we ask Mum and Dad if they know what this light switch is for?" The two sisters ran down the windy steps and found their parents. "We found a light switch," Jenna told them, "and there's a sign that says we mustn't switch off the light!" added Sarah, "and I was going to be rebellious and see what would actually happen if I did turn it off but Jenna said it could be really dangerous, so we've come to you, to ask if you know what it's for?" asked Sarah.

Dad smiled and said, "I know exactly what it's for, without even going to see it!" The girls looked at each other, confused, and then back at him. Dad continued "Where are we staying? We're staying in a lighthouse – a LIGHThouse. That light needs to be on at all times, so that ships can be warned of the dangerous rocks or shallow waters. Even if it's night time or a little foggy, sailors will still be able to see the light."

Jenna and Sarah looked at each other, "Glad I didn't touch the switch!" admitted Sarah ...but they did go back up to take a selfie next to it.

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

2) Have you ever seen a safety sign and either known right away what it's for or not know why it's necessary?

3) In your opinion, was their Dad definitely correct or could you think of something else that switch could have been connected to?

