

## Key Parasha Information

### Summary

In this week's parasha, 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 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?



## Parasha Thinking



- 1) Do we deserve a clear promise of what will happen if we keep the laws?
- 2) In your opinion, what time is the most convenient time for the rain to fall and why?
- 3) How does the word, land, link to the Parasha?

Counting the Omer:  
Day 39

Today is the 39<sup>th</sup> day making five weeks and four days of the omer.

Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh means "head of the month" and it is a day (or sometimes two days) marking the start of a new month. In Judaism, we follow the moon's cycle, however, some festivals are prescribed in certain seasons, for example, Pesach (Passover) must be in the Spring, so the Sun is also taken into consideration in our calendar.

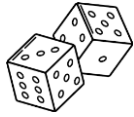
The Jewish nation is often compared to the moon. Throughout history our prosperity has waxed and waned, just like the moon does but the moon shows us that however small it gets\* it will absolutely grow bigger and stronger again, and that's a message of encouragement for us.

\* The moon stays the same size but it's the amount we see from Earth that grows and shrinks.

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) 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

### 2) Hand on Your Head

Link: we are promised a lot of what we need when we keep the mitzvot and in this game, we need a lot of the same card.

Resources: pack of cards.

Deal four cards to each person playing. The dealer, will keep the remaining deck next to them and draw one card at a time. They will look at the card and trade it for a card in their hand or pass it along to the person next to them, who will do the same thing. The goal is to collect four of the same card (e.g. four queens or four threes); when that happens, the player puts their hand on their head. When someone spots this, they, too, out their hand on their head; whoever is last, is out.

### 3) I'm hosting a party

Sit in a circle and children's service leader is the host. Say you are hosting a party but will only invite people bringing the right items. Go around the circle and have everyone suggest contributions; the host will say yes or no, after each item but instead of basing the invite on what they're bringing, base it on their posture: Whoever has their legs crossed can come, and whoever doesn't can't, for example. Continue until everyone figures it out. Change the criteria each time.

## 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 – 3:15pm. Perfect timing.

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 go outside – 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 –but I’m afraid we can’t play tennis, it’s too dangerous.”

Even though he was upset, Aaron decided that out of the three options, 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? Would just one be sufficient?

