



igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



בראשית
Bereshit

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

בְּרֵאשִׁית Bereshit

Hello and welcome to Spark!

Spark is a new idea from Tribe, aimed at facilitating the smooth running of Toddlers' Services, Children's Services and Youth Services across United Synagogue communities.

Firstly, thank you for offering to run a Children's Service in your local shul. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's services that are run every week across the UK, and we would not be able to do this without you!

Spark has been designed in order to help you run your Children's Services. Obviously, every Children's Service is different, in terms of how many children there are; what their age range is; how long it is for; and how knowledgeable the children are likely to be of this week's parasha.

Ideally, where possible, a Children's Service should consist of some time used to discuss the weekly parasha, and some time devoted to davening. Spark is aimed at the parasha part of the service. It gives you an overview of what happens in the weekly parasha, and then a song, activity, discussion or Dvar Torah to run with the children - depending on their ages.

After the parasha summary on the next page, Spark has been split into 5 sections. Larger communities may have 5 different Children's / Youth Services running concurrently. Each of these will be able to use one section for their relevant age group. If your shul does not have as many groups, then you should use the section that best suits the age range of your participants.

It has been created in a way to be flexible, so that it can be run in 10 minutes, if you have a short service, or longer if you have the time. If you also look at sections for other age groups, you may even find that you would like to use the ideas and information from more than one of the sections.

It is important to note that Spark should help you to run Children's Services, but it does not completely run it for you. It is not designed to give to one of the children to read out to the group for them to run themselves. You are running the Children's Service, and Spark is here to help you do it.

Largely, no props will be needed, but ideally you should read Spark before you start the Children's Service, so that you can think of further ideas to complement it.

We hope that you and the children in the Children's Service will benefit from Spark, we thank and congratulate you for doing it; and as always we welcome your feedback.

Shabbat shalom,

The Tribe Education Team

PARASHA SUMMARY

בְּרֵאשִׁית Bereshit

- Bereshit is the first of the 5 books of the Torah.
- It talks about the creation of the world, followed by the stories of our Forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- In this portion, God created the world in six days
- He rested on the seventh day - Shabbat
- Adam and Eve were living in the Garden of Eden



- The snake enticed Eve, they eat from the tree of knowledge and were sent out of the Garden of Eden
- Adam and Eve had two sons: Cain and Abel
- Cain gave an offering of fruit to God and then Abel gave an offering of animals to God. God accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's.
- Cain was upset so went to speak to his brother in the field and killed him.
- When God questioned Cain, he famously responded "am I my brother's keeper?" (Bereshit / Genesis 4:9) and then God punished him by banishing him to the East.
- Afterwards Adam and Eve had another son, named Seth.
- Genealogy from Adam to Noah is recorded at the end of the portion.

In this portion we learn that God created the world in seven days. Here's a song about the days of the week:

(Tune: For He's A Jolly Good Fellow)

There are seven days in a week
Seven days in a week
Seven days in a week
And I can say them all

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Shabbat is the last day
And I can say them all

And I can say them all x 2
Seven days in a week x 3
And I can say them all



YEAR 1 & 2

Ages 5-7

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Bereshit

There are so many things that happen in this week's parasha, including the creation of the world!

Activity:

- Tell a child something that was created, and they have to describe it to all the other children, without saying what it is. E.g. They are in the sky and are very bright - stars.
- Once the other children have guessed the key word, they should then guess on which day it was created.



Day 1	God separated light and darkness.
Day 2	God separated the waters, creating sky.
Day 3	God gathered the waters, creating land, with vegetation and sky.
Day 4	God created the sun, moon and stars.
Day 5	God created living creatures.
Day 6	God made man and woman
Day 7	God rested for Shabbat.

YEAR 3 & 4

Ages 7-9

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Bereshit

In this week's parasha, God creates the world in six days, and then rests on the seventh day. The concept of using our time wisely is apparent - God did specific things on each day, making sure that each day was used well. On Shabbat, we should use our time to rest, and to sanctify God.



Activity;

- Play the minute game with the children
- All children should stand up, and put their hands behind their backs.
- Start the time, and when they think that exactly one minute has passed, they should sit down.
- When all the children have made their guess, tell them who was closest to being right.

Discussion Points;

- Do we manage to do something important every day?
- Is it a waste if we don't?
- How do we know what are 'important' ways to use our time?

YEAR 5 & 6

Ages 9-11

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Bereshit

In Bereshit Adam is told to look after the Earth. Even in the Garden of Eden he is told to work in it and protect it.

Ask a child to read out the following story;

Mr Miller comes into the classroom at 9.45 on Friday morning. The boys at the back are fighting. Emma and Rebecca are having a tug-of war with a skipping rope. The ball misses and lands amongst a group of girls in the corner who are busy swapping packets of crisps and tubes of sweets. One or two kids are doodling intricate designs on the front of their exercise books. Benji and Jeremy are lying on the floor reading a comic together. Sarah is idly pulling off the leaves of a plant on the window sill near her desk.

The children in the front row are quietly waiting, ready to start the lesson. Mr Miller is just about to tell the class to settle down, when he notices the whiteboard. It is covered in a thick layer of patterns, pictures, scribbles and designs. Not a patch of white is visible.

The boys at the back continue fighting. Emma and Rebecca return to their seats. Rebecca clutches the skipping rope triumphantly. The girls in the corner are munching sweets. Jamie is arguing with one of them. He wants his ball back. Benji and Jeremy close their comic and get up. The children in the front row are still sitting quietly waiting for the lesson to begin.

"Sit down and be quiet everyone!" announces Mr Miller. David comes out dangling an exercise book at his side. "I need a new one, Sir." Mr Miller examines the book. The outside is covered in airplanes and there are lots of blank pages inside. One of the girls has accidentally knocked over an open crisp packet. The crisps spill out in all directions. Emma and Rebecca are still fighting over the skipping rope. The handle has just broken off!

"Will you all sit down and be quiet!" yells the teacher.

"Susie; no eating in my class. Put that sweet in the bin!"

Benji, clean the board please!"

"Jonathan, go to the office and get two more board pens."

The lesson finally begins.

Discussion Points:

- What does the above story tell you about the importance of respect for parents in Jewish thinking?
- Ask the children to think of positive examples where they have shown respect to their parents.
- How do our parents, show their parents respect?
- Should people be automatically respected, or do they need to earn it?

Dvar Torah

In this week's parasha, just after Adam and Eve had left the Garden of Eden, we are told the story of their sons, Cain and Abel. Abel was a shepherd, and Cain grew flax. They both decided to bring offerings of their produce to God. Abel brought the best of his flock, but Cain's offering was from the inferior portion of his flax. Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's was not. Cain was very upset, and he ended up killing his brother Abel, but beforehand, just after Cain's offering had been rejected God speaks to Cain and says: "Why are you annoyed and why has your face fallen?"

The great Reb Chaim of Brisk expresses surprise at God's question to Cain. The Torah has just explained that Cain's offering has been rejected, surely this is the reason why he is upset!

Reb Chaim explains that what God was asking Cain is actually a deeper question: What is the main reason why you are upset? Is it because your offering was not accepted - or because your brother's offering was accepted? Which hurt more?

When something great happens to one of our brothers or sisters or friends, we can either be upset that it never happened to us, or we can be happy for them. Which do you think is the better option?





igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



We hope you find our guide to this week's Parsha useful.

Be sure to look out for exciting Tribe programmes in your shul.

Shabbat Shalom!

The Tribe Education Team

t: 020 8343 5656

e: info@tribeuk.com

www.tribeuk.com

