



igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



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Noach

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



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

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Noach

- We are given an introduction to Noach and his family. He had three sons named Shem, Cham and Yafet.
- God instructed Noach to build an Ark that could hold his family and every species of animal.
- The ark contained two of each non-kosher species and seven of each kosher species of animals.
- God sent rain to punish the people for being wicked. It rained for forty days and forty nights, which created a flood that surrounded the entire planet and covered all the dry land.
- After it stopped raining, the flood stayed until Noach sent a raven to see if there was dry land but he didn't return; so then Noach sent a dove, who returned after three days with an olive branch in his beak.
- After the flood, God sent a rainbow as a sign of His covenant with all mankind never to destroy the World again with a flood, as long as everybody keeps the seven Noachide laws.
- We learn about how Noach and his offspring resettle the land after the flood.
- Noach planted a vineyard but he got drunk. Two of his sons embarrassed him, but Shem made sure he was ok.
- We are told about the descendants of Noach.
- We read the story of the Tower of Babel. The people wanted to reach God, so they tried to build a tower but God was not happy with them. So God confused and dispersed the people by giving them all different languages.



In this week's parasha we read about the animals who went on to Noach's ark. Here's a classic song - just right for this week's parasha:



The animals went in two by two. Hurrah! Hurrah!
The animals went in two by two. Hurrah! Hurrah!
The animals went in two by two,
The elephants and the kangaroos,
And they all went into the ark, for to get out of the rain.

To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat:

Noach sailed the ark,
Out into the storm.
Rain was falling all around,
But they were safe and warm!

YEAR 1 & 2

Ages 5-7

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Noach

The story of Noach's Ark is very well known, so ask the children what they know about it, and try to fill in any gaps.



Activity;

- All the children should sit in a circle. One by one they should act out, or make the noise of an animal that Noah took in to the Ark, for all the other children to guess.
- How many different animals can they think of?
- Alternatively, you make the animal sounds, and they all have to guess.

Noach obeyed God's command to build the Ark. It took him many years to build, and throughout this time people could see that he was building something and they came up to him and asked what he was doing. He told them he was building an ark because God was going to destroy the world. All the people around him laughed at him and made fun of him - they never believed that there would be a flood. But Noach still continued to build the ark.



Activity:

- Ask the children to act out the story of Noach's Ark

Discussion points:

- Why do you think God wanted the other people to see what Noach was building?
- What lesson can we learn from Noach?
- Is it easy to do something if other people are laughing or making fun of you?
- If we are doing the right thing, and other people are making fun of us, should we stop or carry on?

In this week's parasha we read about the Tower of Babel

Activity

Ask the children to act out the story of the Akeda (binding of Yitzchak.) Make sure they include the following;

- The whole earth had one language and one common purpose, until;
- They decided to build a tower ascending to heaven, to wage war against God.
- God 'confused' their languages, so that they were unable to understand each other.
- They were dispersed across the earth.

Discussion Points

- Do any of the children know other languages? Or speak other languages at home?
- How important is it to speak the same language as those around you?
- What ways are there to communicate other than speech?
- What can we learn from this story?



Dvar Torah

In this week's Parasha we read the following verse:

"These are the generations of Noach, Noach was a completely righteous man in his generation, Noach walked with God." (6:9)

Rashi, in his commentary on this verse, explains the meaning of Noach being "completely righteous in his generation". Some of our sages learn this as an expression of praise. If Noach was righteous in a generation full of wicked people, he would have been even more righteous if he had lived in a generation of good people. There are others that learn this as a criticism. It was only in relation to his generation that he was righteous. Had he been living in the generation of Avraham though, he would not have been considered so righteous in comparison to Avraham.

We may sometimes wonder how it could ever be possible to live up to the standards of the likes of Avraham and Noach. A famous Chassidic Rabbi, Reb Zusia was known to say the following: "When I appear before the Almighty, I am not afraid to be asked: Reb Zusia, why have you not been like Avraham, the patriarch, or like Moshe, our great teacher?" The question I truly fear is: "Reb Zusia, have you truly been Reb Zusia?"

Each one of us can be great in our own way, and should try to live up to our own potential.



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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!

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