



igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



לך-לך
Lech Lecha

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

לך-לך
Lech Lecha

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

לך-לך Lech Lecha

- God tells Avram to leave his homeland.
- Avram goes to Canaan with his wife Sarai, then to Egypt, and then returns to Canaan.
- Avram and his nephew Lot part ways.
- There is a war between local kings, and Lot is captured. Avram rescues Lot.
- We learn about the Covenant between God and Avram
- Avram marries a second wife, Hagar, and has a son, Ishmael.
- Avram has his name changed to Avraham and Sarai becomes Sarah
- Avraham has his Brit Mila - Circumcision - at the age of 99!



PRE-NURSERY TO RECEPTION

Tots

לך-לך

Lech Lecha

In this week's Parasha, Avraham listens to God when He tells him to pack up and leave his home and move to a very special land, the ancient land of Canaan, which is Israel. Israel is a special place where we are extra close to God. However, as we know, God is everywhere. Here is a song you can sing about God being everywhere:



Hashem is here,

Hashem is there,

Hashem is truly everywhere,

Up up, down down,

Right, left, and all around,

Here, there, and everywhere,

That's where He can be found!

YEAR 1 & 2

Ages 5-7

לך-לך

Lech Lecha

In this week's parasha, God tells Avraham to pack up all his belongings and move to the land of Israel. Avraham had never been there before and didn't know what to expect when he got there. He also didn't know how long the journey would take and what would happen on the way.



Activity:

- Ask the children what they think would be useful to take with them for a long journey to Israel, and what they should not bother taking.
- If possible, prepare a pile of objects from around the room, so that they can decide with visual aids, what should go in their useful and not useful piles.
- If not, you can suggest items for them to decide upon e.g. toys, clothes, pictures, books, food, sunglasses, water, siddur, music etc.

In this week's parasha, after Avraham and his family had settled in the Land of Canaan, they found that it was a very fertile land (it had a lot of trees and grass). As there was plenty of pasture, their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle grew in size. Avraham's nephew, named Lot, also became prosperous in this good land. Their flocks grew so big that there was not enough room for all of them. The shepherds of Avraham quarreled with the shepherds of Lot, so they decided to separate.



Lot moved to Sodom, but the people there were wicked people. Lot was captured by the four kings, in the war between the four kings against the five kings. Avraham helped and defeated the four kings in order to rescue Lot.

Activity;

- Split the children into two equal sized teams, telling each team to stand on either side of the room.
- Every child should be given a number, both teams starting with number 1, and continuing for however many children are in the team.
- A small object (ball / scarf / paper) should be placed on the floor in the middle of the room, equidistant from where both teams are lined up.
- Call out a number, and the person from each team with that number has to try and run to the middle, pick up the object, and run back to their team.
- If they manage to do this, they have captured the object and win a point for their team.
- If however they get tagged by the opposing team member, while holding the object, then it's the other team who get the point.

Discussion Points;

- It is fun to play a game about capturing objects, but unfortunately war is not a game. Do we learn anything new about Avraham, from going to rescue the captured Lot? (e.g. His physical courage in battle.)
- Should we always go and rescue those in trouble?
- What if they do not appear to deserve it?
- Should we always try and refrain from conflict, or get involved?

YEAR 5 & 6

Ages 9-11

לך-לך

Lech Lecha

After Avraham and his family had settled in the Land of Canaan, they found that it was a very fertile land (it had a lot of trees and grass). As there was plenty of pasture, their flocks of sheep and herds of cattle grew in size. Avraham's nephew, named Lot, also became prosperous in this good land. Their flocks grew so big that there was not enough room for all of them. The shepherds of Avraham quarreled with the shepherds of Lot, so they decided to separate.



Avraham let Lot have the first choice of where to go. Lot looked across and saw the plain around the River Jordan, full of grass and other plants, so he chose to go there. But the people of that city (Sodom) were wicked people. If travelers came to the city, instead of making them welcome and offering them food and lodging, they would often rob and kill them.

Discussion Points:

- If you were Lot, would you have chosen first, or let your uncle have the first choice? Why?
- Would you choose to live in a city of wicked people, with very fertile land, with lots of pasture for your sheep, or live separately, even if it is not as comfortable? Why?
- Are we influenced by the people living around us? Is this something positive or negative?
- How should we influence people who live around us?

Dvar Torah

We read that Avraham was blessed by God for leaving everything behind and following God's command to go to the Land of Canaan. One of the blessings he received is that he himself would be a blessing (12:2). But how does one become a blessing?



Furthermore, Rashi explains that God promised Avraham that although he would be identified with Yitzchak and Yaacov, any such blessings would end with Avraham's name at its conclusion (Which is exactly how the first blessing in the Amidah goes - we start by mentioning all three forefathers, and end off with just Avraham). However, Yitzchak and Yaacov were also special, so what made Avraham so great that any blessing would end with him?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein explains that Avraham merited greater distinction because he was the first to establish faith in God. Although those after him may have reached greater spiritual heights, Avraham's accomplishments were more worthy. Why? Because everyone else had someone (Avraham) to teach them about God! But Avraham didn't, he "discovered" that there was a God in the world without being taught this by anyone.

Maybe this can explain how Avraham himself became the blessing: Taking initiative and starting something you believe in is a blessing on its own, because it lays the framework for others to build on it! God promised Avraham, and in turn promised us, that if we become leaders and initiators, our initial efforts will never be forgotten and we will always be remembered as a blessing!



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

