



igniting your shabbat services

**tribe spark**



חַיַּי שַׂרָה

Chayei Sarah

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

# חַיֵּי שָׂרָה Chayei Sarah

## 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

- Sarah's death is recorded - she lived for 127 years.
- Avraham negotiates with Ephron to buy the Cave of Machpelah as a burial place for Sarah. Tradition says that this is also the burial place of Adam and Chava.
- Avraham sends Eliezer, his trusted butler, to find a wife for Yitzchak (the first shidduch!).
- After his journey, while resting by a well, Eliezer devises a test to ascertain the worthiness of a potential wife for Yitzchak.
- Rivka (Yitzchak's first cousin once removed) meets all the criteria and Eliezer presents her with the appropriate gifts.
- Eliezer is invited into Rivka's father's home, and he relates the story of his mission and his encounter with Rivka. Eliezer asks for her hand in marriage to Yitzchak. Betuel (her father) and Lavan (her brother) agree.
- Yitzchak and Rivka are married shortly after.
- Avraham then married Ketura (some say she was Hagar) and had six more sons.
- Avraham died at the age of 175. His two older sons, Yitzchak and Yishmael make peace and come together to bury him in the Cave of Machpelah, beside Sarah.



In this week's Parasha, Eliezer goes to find a wife for Avraham's son, Yitzchak. Teach the children this song, all about Eliezer's journey.

**Parsha Song**

(To the tune of 'God gave us a present, do you know what it was? He gave us the Torah...')



Now it was time for Yitzchak to marry  
Hashem's bracha, his children would carry  
Eliezer was sent a wife to find  
She must be good and kind

He took camels and jewellery the best  
On his way, he sat down to rest  
"Please Hashem" he said, with all his might  
"Help me find the girl who is just right."

Then he saw Rivka, Betuel's daughter  
Ask: "may I give you and your camels some water?"  
At the moment the good deed was done  
Eliezer knew that she was the one

Eliezer and Rivkah to Canaan did ride  
Yitzchak took Rivka, for his bride  
Now Yitzchak at last was sure  
That Hashem's help, was back at his door

**YEAR 1 & 2**

Ages 5-7

# חַיֵּי שָׂרָה Chayei Sarah

In this week's parasha, Avraham sent Eliezer to go and find a suitable wife for his son Yitzchak. Eliezer needed to find someone who was very kind hearted, and so he devised a test. He stopped at the well, and decided that whoever offered to get water for him AND for his camels, would be suitable.



Eliezer, his men and ten camels arrived from their journey at the end of the day. They went to the well and Eliezer asked Rivka for a little water to drink. She drew enough water from the well for him, his men, and his ten camels.

It was quite a feat for one girl to draw all of that water by hand. It was clear that Rivka was a great person, overflowing with loving kindness and concern for others.

## Activity:

Play the game Fruit basket with the children, with Kosher foods instead of fruit.

- Play the memory game with the children, with a slight variation.
- The first person says 'The most important thing somebody should be is kind.'
- The next person repeats this, and adds another characteristic.
- Play continues round the children, getting more and more difficult, as they have to try to remember the characteristics that everyone has already said.

**YEAR 3 & 4**

Ages 7-9

# חַיֵּי שָׂרָה Chayei Sarah

In this week's parasha, Avraham sends Eliezer to go and find a wife for his son Yitzchak. He finds someone who meets all the criteria, and then Yitzchak and Rivka get married.



## Activity;

- Play 'Mr and Mrs' with the children:
- Ask for two volunteers who are friends.
- Send one child out of the room whilst the other should stand in the middle of the circle.
- The other children ask them questions about the child outside. Examples include: What toothpaste does your friend use? What's their favorite colour? What's their favorite food? Where did they go on holiday this year?
- Then ask the child who was outside to come back in, and ask them the same questions, to see if their friend was right about them.
- Do this with a few pairs of children.

**YEAR 5 & 6**

Ages 9-11

# חַיֵּי שָׂרָה Chayei Sarah

In this week's parasha, Avraham sends Eliezer to go and find a wife for his son Yitzchak. He finds someone who meets all the criteria, and Yitzchak and Rivka get married.

## Activity:

- Play 'Mr and Mrs' with the children.
- Ask for two volunteers who are friends.
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- Do this with a few pairs of children.



## Discussion Points:

- Is it necessarily true that the pair of children who answered the most questions correctly are the closest friends?
- If you answered these questions with your siblings, would the answers be any different?
- What does friendship depend on? Shared interests? Known each other a long time?
- How does marriage compare to friendship?
- How did Eliezer know that Yitzchak and Rivka would be a good match?

**YEAR 5 & 6**

Ages 9-11

# חַיֵּי שָׂרָה Chayei Sarah

At this time, Sarah had just passed away, and Yitzchak was still mourning the death of his mother. But soon after he married Rivka, he was comforted, because he saw how special she was. How did Yitzchak know this?

**There were three signs:**

1. When Rivka entered Yitzchak's tent, a cloud of glory hovered above. Yitzchak said, "While my mother was alive, a cloud of glory always rested upon her tent. But it disappeared when she died."
2. As Rivka baked the challah for Shabbat, she modestly told Yitzchak: "There seems to have been a special blessing in the dough, it rose so well." Yitzchak was overjoyed. He recalled that his mother's dough had the same blessing.
3. Rivka's Shabbat candles burned all week long, just as Sarah's had. During the entire week, Yitzchak and Rivka felt the holiness which came from the light of the Shabbat candles. Every mitzvah which we perform brings light into the world. But we don't always see or feel this light. The Shabbat candles are special, because we can actually see their light, the light of the mitzvah, shining in our homes. When we watch the peaceful flickering of the Shabbat candles, we understand and feel the special holiness that comes with this mitzvah. The Shabbat candles bring us feelings of joy and peace. Although we may be very rushed and busy on some Fridays, our homes suddenly become calm as soon as we light the Shabbat candles.



## Dvar Torah

In last week's parasha we learned about how Avraham treated his guests. Avraham told the angels that he would bring them a bit of bread, but in fact he brought them a whole meal. We learn from Avraham, 'Say a little; do a lot'.



This week, we see how Avraham treats Efron with the utmost respect. Efron was the man who sold Avraham the Cave of Machpelah. He does not pressurize Efron, nor lose his cool with him due to Efron's incessant changing the price of a burial plot for Sarah. Not only did Avraham want to bury his wife as soon as possible, he was originally told that he would be given the land for free. However, Efron soon changed his mind and insisted on selling it to Avraham for a steep price. Not only that, but Efron insisted on Avraham buying the field adjacent to the cave as well, refusing to give Avraham access to the cave without it. Efron was acting in the way of 'Say a lot; do a little'.

Avraham was full of humility, whilst Efron was boastful and arrogant. Indeed, whilst Avraham's name means 'father (figure) of all nations,' he humbly called himself 'dust and ashes.' In stark contrast, Efron was a real nobody - and his name connotes 'dust' - but he made himself out to be an important person.



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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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