



tribe

igniting your shabbat services

spark



מִקֵּץ

Miketz

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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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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- Pharaoh has two dreams, and Yosef is summoned from prison to interpret them.
- Pharaoh is impressed by his interpretations and appoints him to be in charge of his palace.
- Yosef has 2 sons, Menashe and Efraim. The 7 years of wealth end, and the famine begins, as predicted would happen by Yosef.
- Yacov sends his sons to Egypt. Yosef sees his brothers and they bow to him, but he acts 'like a stranger to them.
- Yosef remembers what he had dreamed about his brothers, and accuses them of being spies. The brothers regret the pain they caused Yosef.
- Yosef chooses 1 brother - Shimon, to be taken, and places him in prison.
- Yosef sends the other brothers back with their money and they relay all that happened with Yosef, back to Yacov, together with the instruction to bring Binyamin back with them.
- Yacov sends Binyamin to Egypt. Yosef sees Binyamin and tests his brother's sincerity, by accusing him of thievery.



PRE-NURSERY TO RECEPTION

Tots

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In this week's parasha the brothers meet Yosef, who has been appointed by Pharaoh to be the head of his palace. Here is a song, which talks about the preparation one goes through when preparing to meet someone important.



Tune: "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we wash our face, wash our face,
wash our face,

This is the way we wash our face, when we go and
see Pharaoh

This is the way we put on our clothes etc.

This is the way we bow to the King etc.

In this week's parasha, Yosef accuses his brothers of being spies. He then tests them by asking them to carry out specific actions, and looks to see what their responses are. The brothers were so afraid of Yosef that they did everything he told them to.



Play 'Simon Says...'

- Choose one child to be Simon (who in this game we shall call Yosef).
- Yosef should call out instructions for all the other children to follow. E.g. Run on the spot; rub your tummy; click your fingers.
- If Yosef begins the instruction by saying 'Yosef says...' then the children should do as instructed.
- If however Yosef gives the instruction without first saying 'Yosef says...' then the children should not follow the instruction. If they accidentally do, then they are out of the game.

YEAR 3 & 4

Ages 7-9

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In this week's parasha, Yosef accuses his brothers of being spies. He then tests them by asking them to carry out specific actions, and looks to see what their responses are. The brothers were so afraid of Yosef that they did everything he told them to.



Activity

- Play 'Follow my Leader' with the children;
- Choose one child to go out of the room
- All the other children should sit in a circle, and the 'leader' is chosen
- The leader starts doing an action, which all the other children follow
- The child comes back in to the room, and has to try and guess who the leader is
- The leader should continuously change actions, until they have been discovered

YEAR 5 & 6

Ages 9-11

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Yosef interprets Pharaoh's dreams, to predict that there will be seven years of plenty, which will be followed by seven years of famine. He uses the first seven years to prepare for the famine by storing huge amounts of grain, which can be used during the famine years. He knows that the famine will be so severe that it will not affect just the Egyptians, but will affect people from other countries too. This is proven to be correct, when his brothers come pleading for food.



Discussion Points:

- We have a responsibility to help our families. Do we also have a responsibility to help our entire community?
- What about helping people we don't know?
- Does this responsibility differ for Jewish and non-Jewish people?
- Do we have a responsibility to do our bit towards solving global problems, such as poverty in Africa?
- Or should we try and help those closer to home first?

Dvar Torah

Before Yosef accuses his brothers of being spies, the verse reads: "Vayizkor Yosef Et Hachalomot - And Yosef remembered the Dreams" Bereshit/Genesis 42:9. Why does the Torah need to tell us that Yosef remembered his dreams at this point?



The Chatam Sofer answers this question with a quote from the Ramban, Nachmanides. The Ramban asks, how did Yosef have the audacity to keep his brothers in jail for three days while his dear father was at home starving of hunger? The Ramban answers that at that point Yacov did not yet run out of food. The Torah tells us previously that Yacov only sent his sons for food so that their starving neighbours do not envy that they still had some food left.

If this was the case, how did Yosef know this, asks the Chatam Sofer? He answers that Yosef noticed how all these events were playing out the stories of dreams he had before his brothers sold him to slavery.

In the first dream the brothers' bundles of hay bowed down to Yosef's bundle. The bundles signified food. Yosef understood that the first time his brothers bow down to him they would still have food in their possession, unlike the second dream and the second time they came when their cupboards were actually bare by that point.

This is why the verse tells us that Yosef accused them of being spies and locked them up for three days. However he only did this after he remembered the dreams and realized his father would not go hungry in the interim.



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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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