



igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



שְׁמוֹת
:
Shemot

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

שְׁמוֹת Shemot

- This week's parasha begins the second book of the Torah. The book of Shemot talks about the slavery of the Jews in Egypt, which culminates in the Exodus and the splitting of the Red Sea. We then see the beginning of the commandment to build the Sanctuary.
- Egypt has a new king, Pharaoh, who plots to wage war against the Children of Israel. He tells all the Hebrew midwives to kill any boys who are born, but to allow girls to live.
- Moshe is not killed; rather he is hidden in the River, where he is found by Pharaoh's daughter, Batya.
- Moshe grows up, and sees an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew man so he kills him.
- As a result, he flees Egypt and takes sanctuary with Yitro (Jethro), the High Priest of Midian.
- Moshe marries Zipporah, one of Yitro's daughters.
- One day whilst herding flocks, Moshe sees the burning bush, where God speaks to him and instructs him to lead the Jews to freedom.
- Moshe questions whether he is the right person to take the Children of Israel out of Egypt. God gives Moshe a stick, and tells him to put it on the floor and it will turn into a snake, showing that God has bestowed power in Moshe.
- Moshe pleads with God, saying he is not a man of words, and so Aharon is chosen to speak to Pharaoh.
- Moshe and Aharon go to Pharaoh and ask that he 'send the Children of Israel out of Egypt.'
- Pharaoh increases the burden on the people.
- The Jews complain to Moshe and Aharon who in turn complain to God, but He brings salvation.



In this week's parasha, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt summons the Hebrew midwives, and tells them to kill any Jewish sons who are born. He did this because he did not want there to be too many Jewish boys, who may be able to overcome the Egyptians in a war.

The midwives however did not listen to him, and so they had to hide baby boys. Moshe was hidden in the river in a basket.



Activity:

- Play a 'hiding' game; choose one child to go out of the room.
- All the other children should decide where to hide a specific object.
- The child should come back into the room, and try to find the object. The other children should help them by saying colder / hotter, depending on how close they are to the object.

YEAR 1 & 2

Ages 5-7

שְׁמוֹת Shemot

In this week's parasha, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt summons the Hebrew midwives, and tells them to kill any Jewish sons who are born. He did this because he did not want there to be too many Jewish boys, who may be able to overcome the Egyptians in a war.

The midwives however did not listen to him, and so they had to hide baby boys. Moshe was hidden in the river in a basket.



Activity:

- Play 'wink murder.' One person is chosen to be the 'detective' and goes out of the room.
- Everyone stands in a circle, and one person in the circle is selected as the 'murderer'.
- The detective is called back and stands in the center of the circle. The murderer has to 'kill' as many people as they can by winking at them.
- A 'dead' person has to dramatically fall down screaming and shouting. The detective has 3 guesses of who the murderer is.
- The murderer wins if they manage to kill everyone in the room, before the detective correctly guesses their identity.
- It's fun to play this game a few times, giving a number of children the chance to be the 'detective' or the 'murderer.'

In this week's parasha we learn all about Moshe's early life.

- He is born prematurely, after it has already been decreed that all Jewish boys should be killed.
- When he is 3 months old, he is placed in a basket in the river, where he is found by Pharaoh's daughter, Batya.
- He grows up in the Egyptian palace, but still feels an affinity towards his own people, which causes him to kill an Egyptian when he witnesses him attacking a Jew.
- He runs away, and meets Zipporah, whom he marries. They have a son named Gershon.
- Moshe was a shepherd for his father-in-law, when he sees a burning bush, and an angel appears to him.
- God tells him to go and speak to Pharaoh, and take the Children of Israel out of Egypt.
- Moshe doubts that he is the right person for this, and God performs a miracle for him, to prove it.
- Moshe pleads desperately, and God agrees for Aharon to speak with Moshe.
- Moshe and Aharon approach Pharaoh, who responds by increasing the Jewish people's workload.



Activity:

- Split the children in to groups, and ask them to act out an extract of Moshe's life.

Discussion Points:

- What can we already learn from Moshe in his early years?
- Was Moshe wrong to kill the Egyptian man?
- Why did God want the future leader of the Jewish people to be a humble shepherd?
- What was Aharon's role here?

YEAR 5 & 6

Ages 9-11

שְׁמוֹת Shemot

In this week's parasha Pharaoh, the king of Egypt summons the Hebrew midwives, and tells them to kill any Jewish sons who are born. He did this because he did not want there to be too many Jewish boys, who may be able to overcome the Egyptians in a war.

The midwives however did not listen to him, and so they had to hide baby boys. Moshe was hidden in the river in a basket. His sister Miriam watched over him, until he was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter.



Activity:

- Play wink murder. One person is chosen to be the 'detective' and goes out of the room.
- Everyone stands in a circle, and one person in the circle is selected as the 'murderer'.
- The detective is called back and stands in the center of the circle. The murderer has to 'kill' as many people as they can by winking at them.
- A 'dead' person has to dramatically fall down screaming and shouting. The detective has 3 guesses of who the murderer is.
- The murderer wins if they manage to kill everyone in the room, before the detective correctly guesses their identity.

Discussion Points:

- Ask the children to try and imagine a similar scenario in today's modern world.
- Would the king be able to do this?
- Would they risk having any children, in case a boy was born?
- If they were the midwives, would they be brave enough to go against the king's wishes?

Dvar Torah



We learn a lot about a very significant mother this week. Yocheved (Aharon, Miriam and Moshe's mother,) was the only survivor of the entire 210 year period of Egyptian captivity. She was conceived in the Land of Israel and born as her family were entering Egypt. We are told this week that there were two Jewish midwives, Shifra and Puah. Our Rabbi's teach us that these two women were actually Yocheved and Miriam.

Moshe was born prematurely, so that no one would be looking for him. When he reached three months old and Yocheved knew that everyone would now be expecting her to have a baby, she prepared a special basket to put Moshe in. Miriam was told to watch the basket, and it was then discovered by Pharaoh's daughter.

When Pharaoh's daughter took Moshe though, he refused to nurse from any Egyptian women. She became so desperate, that she called on Yocheved to nurse and look after him for another two years, until he went back to the palace.

Although Yocheved's contribution is clearly significant, her name is only mentioned directly in the Torah on two occasions. Yocheved had three very great children, Moshe, the leader of Yisrael and scribe of the Torah; Aharon, the first Kohen Godal; and Miriam, the prophetess of Yisrael. Each like their mother were exceedingly humble.



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

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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