



igniting your shabbat services

tribe spark



הַאֲזִינוּ

Haazinu

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

הַאֲזִינוּ Haazinu

- This portion features the song of Moses.
- It talks about the kindness that God has bestowed upon Israel.
- It includes the last commandment that God gave Moses.



This is the Shabbat before Yom Kippur, where we confess and repent for all the sins that we have committed during that year.

Sing this song about being good:
(To the tune of: This Old Man)

Have the children standing up in pairs and doing the actions whilst singing the song.

Please don't fight,

It's not right,

Take my hands and

Hold on tight.

Best of friends we now will be

Won't you come and play with me.

X 2



In last week's parasha, we read that Moses told the children of Israel that Joshua would be their new leader. In this week's parasha, Joshua is referred to by a different name, Hoshea. Rashi tells us that his name was enhanced, as he was going to be such an important person for the Jewish people. His original name was Hoshea and God changed it to Yehoshua, adding the letter 'Yud' to signify God's presence with him. He is mentioned by his former name here though, to show he has stayed as modest as he has always been.



Activity:

Talk to the children about the importance of names, by asking the following questions;

- How many names do they have?
- Do they have Jewish / Hebrew names?
- Are they named after anybody?
- Why is someone's name important?
- Would they ever change their name?
- Do they know what their name means?

YEAR 3 & 4

Ages 7-9

הַאֲזִינוּ
Haazinu

In this week's parasha, Moses is given his final commandment to go to the Mountain of Abarim, Mount Nebo where he will die. During his Life, Moses has experienced many different, yet amazing events.



Activity;

-Split the children into groups and ask them to each act out a part of his life.

Episodes include:

- When he is young in Egypt and kills the non Jew who is bullying the Jew
- The escape from Egypt and the Splitting of the Sea
- Going up to Mount Sinai to get the 2 Tablets and then discovering the Children of Israel with the Golden Calf.
- Moses hitting the rock and not being allowed into Israel

Each group should act out their scene, for the other children to guess what it is.

YEAR 5 & 6

Ages 9-11

הַאֲזִינוּ Haazinu

We usually read this parasha the week before Yom Kippur. We are currently in the time period between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, which is known as 'The 10 days of repentance.' We should use this time to think about what we may have done wrong in the past year, apologize for our mistakes, and strive to be better in the future.



A famous Rabbi, known as the Rambam or Maimonides, said that when we do something wrong, being sorry is not enough. He believed that we had to go through at least four different stages before our teshuva (repentance) is complete.

Activity:

Ask the children which charities have they heard of? E.g. United Synagogue, Project Chesed...

- Ask the children to think of something that they have done wrong.
- Then ask what they think they could do to make things right.

Talk to them about the following four concepts;

- Know that you did something wrong.
- Say you are sorry for what you did.
- Promise not to do it again.
- Do the right thing if something similar happens again.

Which of the above do they think is the hardest thing to do? Why?

Dvar Torah

In this week's parasha, God tells Moses that he is not allowed to enter the land of Israel "...because you trespassed against me in the midst of the Children of Israel at the waters of Merivot-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not sanctify Me in the midst of the Children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 32:51).



The second half of the verse seems to be redundant, but our Rabbis explain that the concept of judgment is being referred to in this verse. Moses' sin was twofold - first, he transgressed against God, by hitting the rock, rather than speaking to it.

Secondly, Moses did not make the most of an opportunity to sanctify God, i.e. make a 'Kiddush Hashem.' This literally means 'sanctification of the name of God.' Any action by a Jew, that brings honour, respect and glory to God, is considered to be a Kiddush Hashem. If a Jew does something that disgraces, harms or shames God and his Torah, this is known as a Chillul Hashem, literally meaning, a desecration of God's name.

Before we act, we must consider not only the possible harm of our action, but also the lost opportunity for accomplishing something positive.



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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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