



Welcome to Spark, the Tribe Parasha activity sheet that will help you bring Judaism to life in a varied and exciting way. I'd like these activities to enthuse the children and show them how the Torah given almost 3500 years ago is still as relevant and as exciting in our lives today.

Thank you for offering to run a Children's Service, for all the hard work you put into it and for making a real difference to so many young people. The US is very proud of the numerous Children's Services that are run every week across the UK and this would not happen without you.

Spark gives you an overview of the weekly Parasha, songs, an activity, discussion questions or D'var Torah linked to the Parasha or important event that week. Every Children's Service will be different, in terms of how many participants there are, their age range, its length and the varying abilities of the children. Please read through the document and find the activities that will best suit the needs of your group. It is advisable to read it before Shabbat in case there is some preparation that may be needed in advance.

I am sure the children at your shul will benefit from Spark. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if we can be of any help. Thank you again for the work you do in enabling so many young Jews to access their heritage and traditions in such an exciting way.

All it takes is a small spark of interest, to ignite a flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)
Spark Editor and Education Consultant

Parashat Beha'alotcha

Beha'alotcha Summary:

Parashat Beha'alotcha is the third Parasha in the 4th book of the Torah, Bamidbar. The Parasha begins with an instruction to Aharon that he should light the lamps of the Menorah in the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The Levites were prepared for their service in the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and only those Levites between the ages of 30 and 50 could serve inside the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The Parasha also tells us that the first Pesach (Passover) since leaving Egypt was observed on 14th Nissan and Moshe (Moses) was commanded by God to make 2 silver trumpets. These had multiple purposes (see below). The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) complained that there was no meat in the desert, so God sent an abundance of quails (a type of bird) for the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) to eat. Moshe's sister Miriam was sent outside the camp for 7 days because she spoke Lashon Harah (gossip) about her brother Moshe (Moses). We are also told, towards the end of the Parasha, that Moshe (Moses) was the humblest of all men.

- Aharon was told to arrange the six lamps of the Menorah so that their light shone toward the seventh and central light.
- The Levites between the ages of 30 and 50 were shown how to purify themselves through washing and through bringing offerings, so that they could start to serve in the Mishkan (Tabernacle).
- Those Levites between the ages of 25 and 30 were trained in how to serve in the Mishkan (Tabernacle), so that when they reached the age of 30 they would be fully prepared and know what to do.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) celebrated their first Pesach (Passover) on 14th day of the month of Nissan, but some people were not able to partake of the Paschal lamb. Moshe asked God what these people could do so as not to lose out on this very special Mitzvah (command) and He replied that they should eat the Paschal lamb a month later on the 14th day of the month of Iyar.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were told that when the clouds of glory lifted from above the Mishkan (Tabernacle), this meant that they should continue their journey.
- Moshe was commanded to make 2 silver trumpets and they were to be blown to announce that the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) should march forward. They were also blown to assemble the people to the Mishkan (Tabernacle), to sound the alarm before going in to

- battle and on joyous occasions such as festivals and the New Moon.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) started, once again to complain about God's leadership. This angered Him and He sent a fire to burn amongst the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel), which caused terror and destruction. The fire stopped when Moshe (Moses) prayed to God on the people's behalf.
 - The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) then complained about a lack of meat in the Midbar (wilderness). So God sent quails and some of the people ate these birds greedily and they were punished for doing so.
 - Miriam, the sister of Moshe (Moses) spoke badly about her brother and was stricken with Tzaraat (white patches on the skin when someone spoke badly about someone else during the times of the Tabernacle and the Temple). She was quarantined for 7 days and the people pleaded with Moshe (Moses) to wait for her return before moving the people onwards. Miriam was very highly regarded by all the people, for her amazing qualities (see this week's Tribe Scribe).
 - Finally, we are taught how Moshe (Moses) was the most humble of all men. He was the greatest leader, but he led the people with humility.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3 – Activity

Activity

The children should ideally be sitting in a circle and an adult should start clapping a rhythm with their hands. They should change that rhythm, using their hands and laps as well. As the rhythm and beat changes, the children must focus on the leader and change rhythm accordingly. Once an adult has started and the children get the hang of the game, children should be chosen to lead. Explain to the children that the rhythm can't be too complicated, otherwise children won't be able to follow. Explain to the children that if we are leading a group of people, we must make our instructions very clear.

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

Activity – Teams of Two (You will need a number of scarfs to blind fold players for this game)

Divide the children into two equal sized groups. One group should leave the room, blindfold them, then set out a few objects in the first room. Each player in the first room goes out and picks a blindfolded player to lead. Their goal is to bring their blindfolded partner into the room to each object and help them figure out what they are. The non-blindfolded player can't speak. When they have finished their turn, you can switch the children and use two new objects. This gives everyone a chance to test out his/her leadership skills, as the Parasha this week teaches us about Moshe's (Moses') leadership skills (he prayed on behalf of his people, he was patient and most importantly, he was humble/modest).

Story - King David – A Brilliant Leader (for Tots – Year 3)

Many years ago there lived a boy named David. David was a Shepherd, looking after the sheep to make sure they didn't get lost. One day, a huge giant called Goliath came to challenge King Saul. Although Saul was a very tall man himself, he was nowhere near as tall as Goliath and Saul was very scared.

David however, showed how brave he was by stepping forward to challenge this huge man Goliath. This bravery shows us what a great leader David was.



Everyone else was scared of the giant Goliath, but David showed a lot of courage and stood up to that terrible giant. David became the king of Israel and ruled for 40 years as a brave and brilliant leader.

Discussion Points

We are told in this week's Parasha that the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) complained about God's leadership and about the lack of meat. They were bored of the Mann (the Manna which fell from heaven each morning).



- Having seen so many wonders and miracles during their journey out of Egypt, why do you think the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) complained so bitterly?
- Do you think they were justified in their complaints? Explain why/why not?
- How do you think you would have reacted had you been there in the Midbar (wilderness)?
- Do you think Moshe (Moses) was right to pray on behalf of the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel). What leadership qualities does this show?
- Would you like to share an occasion when you showed good leadership qualities in your behaviour?

Tefillah Focus

I will occasionally focus on the meaning of key prayers which are said each day and on Shabbat, so as to enhance the children's understanding and appreciation of the prayers which are said in homes and shuls throughout the world.

One of the central prayers in the morning and evening is the 'Shema'. The 3 paragraphs of the Shema come directly from the Torah, with each one of the 3 paragraphs giving a message. I will focus on one of these 3 paragraphs over three weeks, starting with the first.

The First paragraph of the Shema comes from the 5th book of the Torah, Devarim, in the portion of 'Vaetchanan'. This paragraph contains 7 mitzvot

(commands).

They are;

1. To believe in One God – **Hold the index finger in the air**
2. To love God – **Place your hands on your heart**
3. To learn and teach the Torah – **Use your hands as if you were opening and closing a book**
4. To say the Shema in the morning and in the evening – **cover your eyes as if saying the first line of the Shema**
5. To wear Tefillin on the arm – **miming the wrapping of Tefillin on your arm**
6. To wear Tefillin on the head – **miming placing the Tefillin on your head**
7. To fix a Mezuzah on your door and gate posts – **Miming a hammer motion, as if nailing a Mezuzah to a doorpost**

Try adding these (or other actions that you want to make up, to depict each one of these Mitzvot) actions to the recital of the Shema, whereby the children are acting out each one of the 7 Mitzvot as they say the Shema. This enhances the children's understanding of what they are saying.

Songs – The links have been included for you to watch before Shabbat and if you so wish, to teach the children these songs.

Tots – Year 3

David Melech Yisrael (to tie in with the story above)

Years 3 - 6

Shema Yisrael – this is a very simple tune by the singer Mordechai Ben David and can be easily taught to children.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=you+tube+shema+song+mordechai+ben+David&view=detail&mid=0C5B32940BEB9F798A940C5B32940BEB9F798A94&FORM=VIRE>