



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 raging flame of passion for Judaism.

With kindest regards,

Rabbi Nicky (Goldmeier)

Parasha Summary:

**This week's Parasha is read on the day before Shavuot, the festival on which we celebrate the greatest present ever given; the Torah! (Refer to the Shavuot Tribe Spark!) Shabbat will go straight in to Shavuot on Saturday evening and will end on Monday night.**

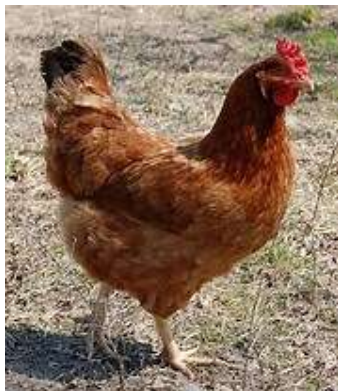


- At the beginning of the Parasha, Moshe and Aharon are commanded to count all the men between the ages of 20 and 60 years old, as it was this group of people who would fight in the army of B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel).
- The count revealed that there were 603,550 men available for duty in the armed forces.
- Order and discipline were maintained at all times, whether the B'nei Yisrael were camped or on the move.
- The camp of the B'nei Yisrael was arranged in a quadrilateral shape, with the Mishkan (Tabernacle) in the centre protected on all 4 sides by the tents of the Levi'im (Levites). The other 12 tribes were divided in to 4 groups of 3 Shevatim (tribes).
- The Parasha continues with Moshe commanding the Levi'im (Levites) that they, instead of the Bechorim (the first born men) would carry out the work of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Originally the first born men were chosen to be the workers in the Mishkan (Tabernacle), but they joined in with worshipping the Golden Calf and were therefore denied this great honour and privilege.
- A count of the Levites revealed there were 22,300 Levi'im.
- Each of the 3 Levitical families, Gershon, Kehat and Merrari were assigned specific jobs in the service of the Mishkan (Tabernacle)
- Whilst the 3 families each had important jobs to do, the family of Kehat had the very important task of carrying the Holy Ark, the Menorah (7 branched candelabra), the Shulchan (the special table for the showbread) and the copper and golden Alters.
- Aharon and his son Elazar would cover these holy objects before they were moved and transported to the next destination.
- Elazar was the general supervisor of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), watching in particular over the oil for the Menorah, the Ketoret (Incense), the Mincha (Meal offering) and the Shemen Hamishcha (the anointing oil with which the high priest and the kings of Israel were coronated)

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

**Activity** - The children should each be told that they are responsible for a particular item of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) or an item found in shul nowadays. Lay out pictures of these items on some chairs and ask the children to try to identify the item they were told to be responsible for, EG if a child was told that s/he is responsible for the Menorah, they should find the picture of the Menorah and take it back to their seat. Collect the pictures and give the children different items to look out for. Through this game, they will begin to understand what each item of the Mishkan was called and what it looked like. **(Pictures and labels for this activity can be found at the end of this document)**

**Story – 'The Little Red Rabbi' (based on the well-known story of 'The Little Red Hen').**



One Shabbat morning in Shul, the Little Red Rabbi noticed that the bells on the Torah, the beautiful Chanukiyah at the front of the shul, the curtain in front of the Ark and the Ner Tamid (the Everlasting Light) hanging in front of the Ark were all dirty and really needed a good clean.

So the Rabbi asked his very good friends Michael, Michaela and Morris if they would help him to clean these different things.

'Michael, will you help me to clean the Ark curtain?' said the Little Red Rabbi. 'Oh, I'm afraid I can't' came the reply from Michael. 'Don't worry. I'll do it myself', said The Little Red Rabbi. 'Michaela, will you help me clean the Ner Tamid (the everlasting light)?' 'Oh, I'm afraid I can't' came the reply from Michaela. 'Don't worry. I'll do it myself', said The Little Red Rabbi. 'Morris, will you help me polish the bells on the Torah scroll?' 'Oh, I'm afraid I can't' came the reply from Morris. 'Don't worry, I'll do it myself', said The Little Red Rabbi. So the Little Red Rabbi polished the bells from the Torah scroll, took the curtain in front of the Ark to the Dry Cleaner and went up a ladder with a cloth and gave the Ner Tamid (The Everlasting Light) a good clean.

The next Shabbat everything was back in its place and looking exceptionally clean. Michael came up to The Little Red Rabbi and asked him if he could open the Ark. 'Of course you can' said The Little Red Rabbi. Then Michaela asked if she could come in to the Shul and have a close look at the Everlasting light after the service had finished. 'Of course you can' said The Little Red Rabbi. Finally, Morris asked the Little Red Rabbi if he could dress the Sefer Torah and place the beautifully clean bells on it. 'Of course you can' said the Little Red Rabbi. Although Michael, Michaela and Morris weren't able to help, The Little Red Rabbi still felt so happy that his friends could use and enjoy the different things he had cleaned.

## Children's Service: Years 3- 6

### **How to play:**

Separate everyone into teams. 5 or 6 per team is the ideal number, and if you have mixed ages, mix them up!

One person is the caller. He calls out "Everyone please now line up ..." and fills in the blank with a statement such as the suggestions below. All the players go to find the right order and shout when they are finished.

### **Ideas:**

- Everyone please now line up in order of age, oldest at the front, youngest at the back
- Everyone please now line up in first name alphabet order
- Everyone please now line up by height, shortest first
- Everyone please now line up according to your birthdays - first in the year goes first
- Everyone please now line up according to who was in the room first
- How many cousins have you got? Line up with the least cousins in front
- What colour is your top? Line up in alphabetical order with the earliest letter first
- Most hair at the back, least hair at the front
- etc

The message this game should teach the children is that it isn't always easy organising yourself, especially when you are part of a large group of people. So too, the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) had to organise themselves so that they stayed in the correct formation when camping in a fixed place and when they were on the move.

### **Discussion Points**

We are told in this week's Parasha that the Levi'im (The Tribe of Levi) had a very important responsibility in looking after the holy artefacts/objects of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).



- Have you ever been asked to look after something important?
- How did it make you feel? Important/nervous/scared that it might get lost or break/proud.
- What did you feel when you handed it back to its owner?
- Would you give something valuable to a friend to look after?

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

**Song – Baruch Hagever**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WO4mQgtAaUI>

**'David Melech Yisrael'**



Holy Ark



Menorah



Golden Alter

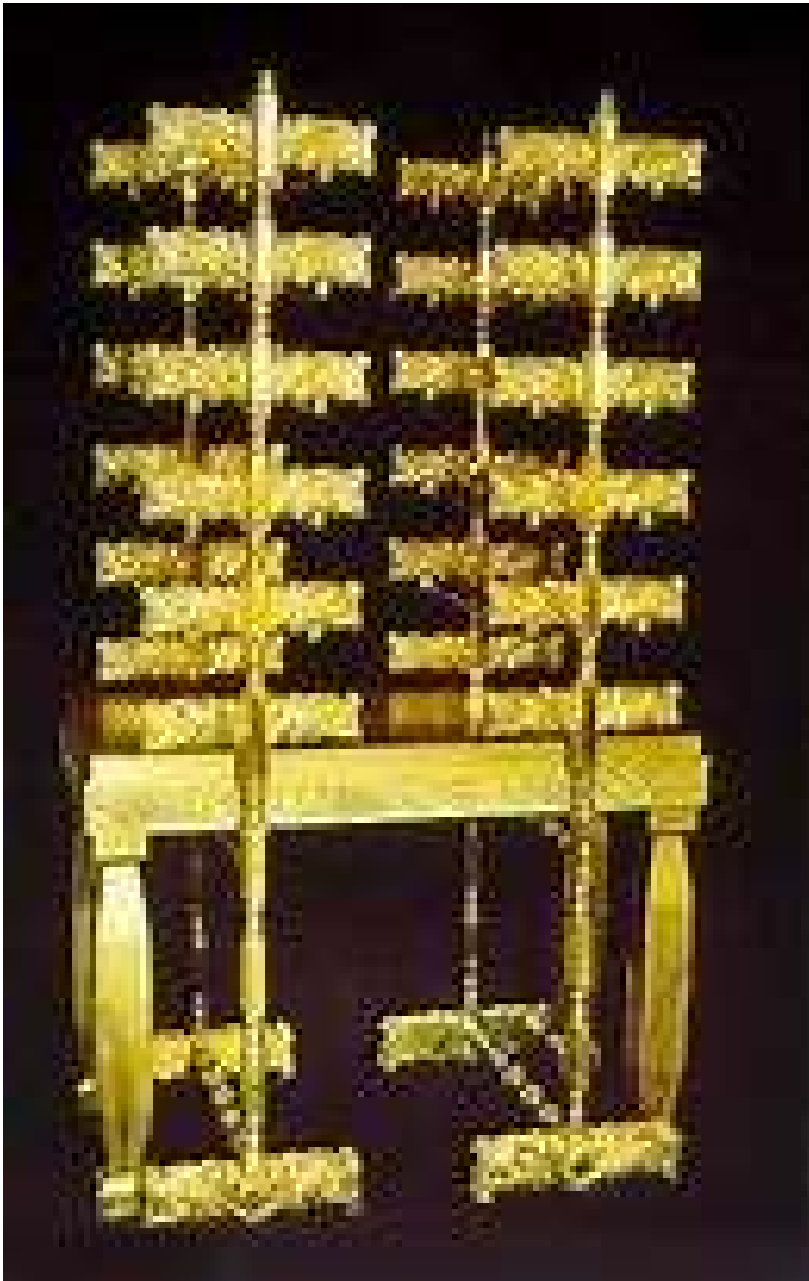
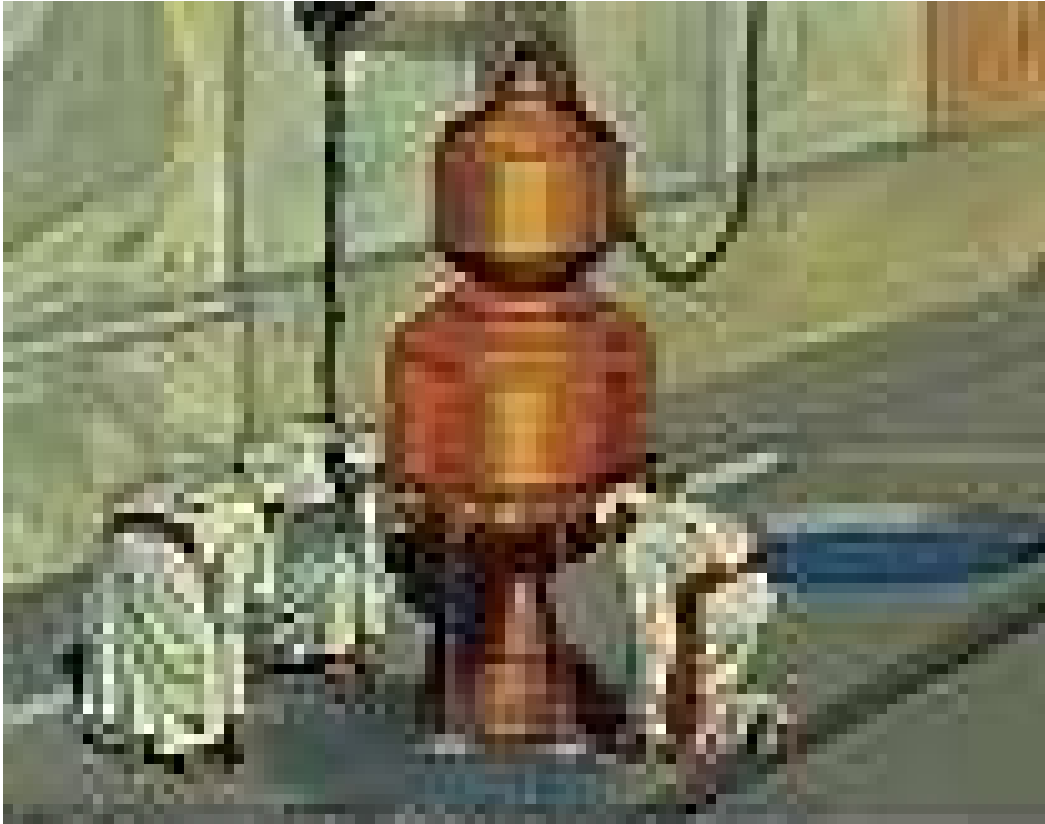


Table for Bread



Wash basin for Priests to clean their hands and feet, before they did work in the Mishkan

Wash basin for Priests to clean their hands and feet, before they did work in the Mishkan



Everlasting Light

Ner Tamid



Bimah  
Central Platform in Shul