



Welcome to Spark2, the Tribe weekly parsha activity sheet for Children's Service Leaders across the United Synagogue communities.

Thank you for offering to run a service. 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.

Spark2 gives you an overview of the weekly parsha, a song, activity or Dvar Torah linked to the parsha 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 hope you and the children at your service will benefit from Spark2. Please be in touch if you have any queries, feedback or if I can be of any help.

With best wishes,  
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## Shemini

### Parsha Summary:

- The parsha opens with details of the priestly service. The kohanim – priests, gave a sin offering to repent for the people.
- Nadav and Avihu, the sons of Aharon, took a fire pan and placed incense in it, creating their own sacrifice and not following God's instructions. Therefore they were punished by death
- The commandment is given to Aharon against drinking intoxicants e.g. wine.
- We learn about the laws of kashrut, what is permitted and forbidden to eat. These include specific laws for animals, fish, birds and insects.

## Children's Service: Tot's – Year's 2

### Activity 1:

In this week's parsha, Aharon was in a very difficult situation. We would have understood if he would have raised his voice and argued with God, but the Torah says "Aharon remained silent." He was in control of his tongue and acted in a dignified way.

In the story below see how keeping quiet can sometimes be the best course of action.

### "TONGUE TIED"

It was a cool, windy day, and rain was drizzling on and off from the grey skies. But Larry White, the goalie for the Fordsville Day School Lions football team, was feeling pretty hot under the collar.

The Lions were in the middle of a tight game with their main rivals, the Lakeshore School Rangers. But it wasn't the pressure of the game that was bothering Larry; he loved the action. Rather it was this one, obnoxious, loudmouthed Ranger fan who had planted himself as close to him as he could. He was barraging the boy with every type of insult and put-down he could think of.

Larry wasn't the type to take insults sitting down, and he soon started giving the noisy kid back some of his own medicine.

It was late in the game, which was tied, 2 to 2, and Larry readied himself to prepare for the next play. Once again, he heard the now-familiar voice of the loudmouth piping up with some particularly nasty comment. But this time, as Larry turned to

answer back, he suddenly heard the whoosh of a speeding football ball whizzing past his head. He rushed to turn around, but it was too late.

"Goal!!" cried out the Rangers, and their happy fans.

"Oh no!" cried Larry. "How did I ever let that happen?"

He scanned the crowd and cringed at the smiling face of his tormenter. "I'll bet that's just what he wanted," Larry thought angrily.

The game resumed, and not long after, the Lions scored a goal to tie the score once again.

"Okay, time to really concentrate," Larry told himself as the action resumed. But just a moment later, the obnoxious fan was calling out to him again, now worse than ever.

Larry was about to answer back. He would really give it to him this time! But then he had a second thought. "Wait a minute ... what am I doing? Last time I turned around, I blew a goal because of it. Should I make the same mistake again?"

Larry kept silent and tried to focus all his attention on the game. But as the loudmouth kept it up even more, Larry felt himself getting ready to turn around.

"No!" he told himself. "Just because this joker wants to shoot off his mouth, doesn't mean I have to shoot back."

He decided to ignore the guy, and keep his position. Larry felt good. Not only didn't he let the kid distract him, but he also felt in control. It was as if the loudmouth had lost all the power that he had had over him until now.

Sure enough, at that moment, one of the Rangers took a blistering shot at the goal. But this time Larry was ready. He deftly dove to his right, and blocked the flying ball from reaching the goal.

"Great save!" shouted his teammates, slapping his back with joy.

Larry smiled back. He was glad he had blocked the shot, and even gladder he had learned how to control his mouth.

Adapted from Aish

### **Discuss:**

Q. How did Larry feel when the Rangers fan first began to insult him?

A. He felt as if he had to answer back with some insults of his own.

Q. How did he feel about this in the end?

A. Larry realized that he really felt much better when he was able to control himself and keep silent. He learned that you don't always have to get the last word in.

Q. Was there ever a time when you kept quiet in a difficult situation? How did you feel?

### **Activity 2:**

The parsha this week gives us a long list of animals, birds and insects, which are kosher and not kosher for us to eat. One of the birds named, is the *Chasida* – the Stork. We learn that the bird is a very kind bird, and this is reflected in its name – Chessed, is kindness in Hebrew.

Go around the circle and ask the children if they can think of a time someone was kind to them.

What about different opportunities for us to be kind to other people?

How can we be kind in school? At home? To elderly people?

### **Children's Service: Years 3-6**

#### **Activity 1:**

Sometimes a person's silence can be more powerful than a thousand words. We see in this week's Torah portion, that Aharon, Moshe's brother, was faced with a very difficult situation where he could have been tempted to speak angry words against God and man. Yet, as the Torah teaches, "Aharon remained silent." He was able to control his tongue, and accept his situation in dignified silence. We too, can tap into the power of silence, refrain from angrily speaking out when insulted or hurt, and reap the rewards that such self-control can bring.

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### **Discuss:**

Q. What did Larry gain by keeping silent?

A. The most obvious thing he gained was the ability to concentrate on what he was doing, and become a much more effective player. But even more than this, he discovered that in the battle of words, restraint is often the greatest strength. By keeping quiet even in the face of insults, he was able to rise above the situation, and regain his self-control.

Q. Is there ever a time to answer back an insult?

A. Certainly not when we are angry. For then we can almost be sure that we will come to say something we'll later regret. Perhaps after we completely calm down, it might be appropriate to go over to the person privately, and calmly explain how his comment made you feel, and ask him to please not speak like that in the future. The results of this method are usually much more

pleasant for everybody. But even this is only worthwhile if you judge that the other person is someone who is capable of listening to reason. If not, better to just let it go.

Q. Was there ever a time when you kept quiet in a difficult situation? How did you feel?

### **Activity 2:**

The parsha this week names the various types of birds that are non-kosher and kosher. One of them, is a very kind bird whose very name in Hebrew, "*Chasida*," means kindness. It is kind as it shares its food with other birds of the same species. However, it does not share with all birds. A lesson hinted from the fact that it is listed among the non-kosher birds, is that we shouldn't imitate this negative trait. Rather we should extend ourselves to be kind to everyone, whether they are like us, or not. It's natural to be nice to and help out others that are part of 'our crowd' - people who we think are similar to us. But the real test of kindness is if we can extend that same treatment to even those who are different from us.

1. Ask the group to find a partner and pair up. If possible the children should team up with someone they have not partnered with before. The pairs sit on the ground with their backs to each other. The partners then reach behind their backs to link arms with each other. When the leader says, "Go," the partners attempt to stand up without separating. The leader can specify that the partners can't talk to make the activity harder.
2. Divide players into groups of three or four. Again, try and choose new people to join together. The leader then calls out a

letter, and the groups must then form that letter using their bodies. The groups can decide if they want to build the letters standing or laying on the ground. You can have the different groups spell out words as well.

Once these games are done, bring the group back to the circle. Explain to your group that when we work together as a team, when we look past each other's differences and focus on kindness and moving forward together, we can achieve so much more.