



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,
Sharon Radley
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Vayakhel

Parsha Summary:

- Moshe gathers all the people together to inform them of God's desire for a Mishkan / Tabernacle to be built. He began however, with a reminder to keep Shabbat.
- This is followed by a description of all the materials needed to build the Mishkan and a list of all its parts, its vessels and the priestly clothes which were to be made.
- The people come forward and donate all the materials which Moshe had mentioned were needed.
- Moshe announces that Gad had chosen Bezalel and Oholiav to construct the Mishkan. They begin their work with assembling the tapestries which covered the Mishkan.
- Construction continues with the wall panels, their sockets, the curtains, the Ark, the Showbread Table, the Menorah and the Incense Alter. The incense and anointing oil are also made.
- The final part of Vayakhel describes the construction of the Outer Altar, the copper Wash Stand and the Courtyard.

Pekudai

Parsha Summary:

- Moshe counts up all the gold, silver and copper that had been donated to the Mishkan. Itamar, Ahron's son, double checks.
- The only thing left to make is the clothes of the Kohen Gadol. These were made exactly according to Hashem's specifications and were full of beautiful colours, including gold and red. The Choshen – Breastplate, had precious stones attached to it, each one engraved with the name of one of the 12 shevatim.
- The finished Mishkan is brought to Moshe for his inspection and approval.
- Hashem tells Moshe that in 3 months should be the "official opening" of the Mishkan.
- There is a big, joyous ceremony to open the Mishkan and enable it to be used to serve God. A cloud appears over the Mishkan meaning that Hashem has accepted it as His new "home."

Shabbat Mevorchim

This Shabbat is Shabbat Mevorchim Hachodesh, when we pray for a good month and announce the date of Rosh Chodesh. The tefilah for this can be found on page 155 of the new Tribe Siddur Shevet Asher.

Perhaps you may like to ask one of the participants at your service to announce the new month. If you have a 'Kiddush' or 'snack time' during your Children's Service you may be able to purchase crescent shaped biscuits that look like the moon or black and white biscuits that symbolise the moon in the night. Discuss the fact that when we see a new moon it is the start of a new Jewish month. The children should look out for the new moon this week!

For the younger children sing the song of the months and ask them to clap their hands together on the name for the new month.

To the tune of '*Bobby Shafto*':

Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz
Av, Ellul, Tishrei, Cheshvan
Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar
And Adar Sheni.

Children's Service Toddlers – Year 2

Activity 1:

In the parsha this week we are reminded to keep Shabbat. On Shabbat we are told not to work but to have a special day when we see friends, relax, go to Shul, spend time with our family and have delicious meals.

Sing the song below to the tune of '*Frere Jacques*':

Shabbat candles, Shabbat candles,
Burning bright, burning bright,
Challot on the table, challot on the table,
It's Friday night, it's Friday night.

Ask the children if they know any special Shabbat songs. You might want to sing Shalom Aleichem, Lecha Dodi or one of the Shabbat Zemirot.

Discuss:

- What is your favourite aspect of Shabbat?

Activity 2:

Show the children the picture of the *kiyor* – laver/basin (see below) that was built for the Mishkan and is discussed in the parsha this week. Explain that the basin was a very large copper basin that was placed in the courtyard of the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use it to wash their hands and feet before performing their service. The basin was not made out of regular copper but was made exclusively from the brightly polished sheets of copper that the women used as mirrors in those days. When Moshe asked for contributions for the Mishkan, the women came forward with their mirrors to give them to Moshe. In fact the Ibn Ezra, a commentator on the Torah, tells us that the Torah doesn't even mention the size of the *kiyor* because every single mirror that was donated by the women was used to make it! It didn't matter how big it became!

Mirror Game:

Place a long string in a crooked line on the floor. The children should take it in turns to walk along the line...backwards, whilst holding a mirror up to their face to see behind them. It is not as easy as it seems!

Activity 3:

Match the Kohen!

In the parsha this week we learn about the clothes that Aaron and the Kohanim would wear in the Mishkan. There are some excellent images of the clothes of the Kohanim to be found on the internet. They can be used to play a matching game: Print out several copies of the various items of clothes. Cut each one in half and give them out to the children. In pairs they have to fit the matching pieces together.

We learn in the parasha that the 'glory of God' filled the Mishkan. The song below talks about the presence of God everywhere:

(The children should point to the different directions.)

Hashem is here, Hashem is there
Hashem is truly everywhere
Up, up, down, down,
Right, left and all around
Here, there and everywhere,
That's where He can be found

Children's Service: Year 3-6

Show the children together the picture of the *kiyor* – laver/basin (see below) that was built for the Mishkan and is discussed in the parsha this week. Explain that the basin was a very large copper basin that was placed in the courtyard of the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use it to wash their hands and feet before performing their service. The basin was not made out of regular copper but was made exclusively from the brightly polished sheets of copper that the women used as mirrors in those days. When Moshe asked for contributions for the Mishkan, the women came forward with their mirrors to give them to Moshe. In fact the Ibn Ezra, a commentator on the Torah, tells us that the Torah doesn't even mention the size of the *kiyor* because every single mirror that was donated by the women was used to make it! It didn't matter how big it became!

Mirror Game:

Place a large string in one, continual, crooked line on the floor. The children should take it in turns to walk along the line...backwards, whilst holding a mirror up to their face to see behind them. It is not as easy as it seems!

Activity 2:

Match the Kohen!

In the parsha this week we learn about the clothes that Aaron and the Kohanim would wear in the Mishkan. There are some excellent images of the clothes of the Kohanim to be found on the internet. They can be used to play a matching game: Cut up the different items of clothing and give them out to the children.

Children walk around the room and find partners who have the same item of clothing that they have been given. Sit down when you find your partner. The last pair standing is out.

Activity 3:

Vayakhel, Chapter 38, 27-28:

‘The hundred talents of silver were to cast the sockets of the Sanctuary and the sockets of the Partition... a talent per socket. And from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy five he made hooks for the pillars....’

This week’s parsha begins with a detailed list of exactly how much gold, silver and copper was used in order to make the vessels for the Mishkan. Moshe was the leader and even though he was trusted by everyone he still made sure to account for every item and show how it was put to good use. This teaches us an important lesson..... We should always be extra careful and honest with other people’s money and things

Discuss:

- It is very important to be honest and careful with other people’s money.
- Can you think of ways that we may end up taking things that we shouldn’t or ways that we misuse things?

Dvar Torah with discussion points:

Vayakhel, Chapter 35, Verse 21 says:

“Every person whose heart inspired him came”.

This is referring to all those who came to do the weaving, sewing, building and other jobs needed in order to construct the Mishkan. The Jewish people had come from Egypt where they had been slaves for many years. They were only accustomed to manual labour and had no experience in the specialized crafts needed to build the Mishkan, yet they were inspired and courageous enough to try and do whatever was needed. They took the initiative and knew that God would help them succeed.

We all have unique abilities but it is up to us to work out how best to use them. We can learn from the construction of the Mishkan to be courageous, search out our own special talents and use them to do good.

Discuss:

- How can we discover our unique talents?
- Do you have a special talent that you can use in a positive manner?
- What would stop you using your talent?



The Kiyor