



Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Pinchas felt, knowing that all the future kohanim (priests) would be his descendents?
- 2) What do you think the daughters of Tzelaphechad did to prepare for when they made their case to Moshe, asking for land?
- 3) How does the word, split, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

At the end of last week's parasha, Aharon's (Aaron's) grandson, Pinchas (Phineas) saved the Jewish people from a plague. He was rewarded for this and Hashem (G-d) blessed him with a covenant of peace and the promise that the priesthood would go through his bloodline.

After a census was taken of the Jewish people, Hashem informed Moshe (Moses) of how to divide the Land when they reached Israel. There would be a lottery between the tribes. Each family was recorded by the name of the father or husband as there were no surnames at that point in history. A gentleman called Tzelafechad (Zelophehad) had died and left five daughters who were not yet married and no sons. The five daughters asked Moshe to be given land when they reached Israel as they had no father or husbands. Moshe asked Hashem who agreed for this to happen and this law was then included in the detailed Torah laws of inheritance.

Moshe prepared Yehoshua (Joshua) to take over from him as a leader to bring the Jewish people into the Land of Israel.

The Parshah ends with details of the korbanot (sacrifices) that were carried out daily, on festivals and on special occasions.

Discovery

Did you know that Pinchas was the son of Elazar who was the son of Aharon.

Did you know that larger tribes were given more land and smaller tribes were given less, in order to accommodate the amount of people?

Did you know that apart from Calev (Caleb) and Yehoshua (Joshua), no one else that had lived at the time of the spies was counted in the census taken here, as they all didn't survive because they listened to the report of the bad spies?





Gratitude

Who has done something special for you this week and what did they do? (If they are present, go up to them and say thank you!)

THANK
YOU!



Games

1) Quiz

Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Alternate between team A and team B. Children stand in a circle and jump in if they know the answer.

2) Everyone in the middle

Link: the land was divided up

Children huddle in the middle of the room except for one child, who says, "If you like spicy food, go to this side of the room and if you don't, go to that side!" Group is divided up by children's preferences. Huddle back in the middle. Next child gets to choose how to divide the group and which wall they stand at. Ideas: if you have cousins abroad, if you know how to tie shoelaces, if you are a good singer, if you are good at maths, if you love reading.

3) Captain Freeze

Pick one person to be Captain Freeze. Everyone walks around in slow-mo. When Captain Freeze freezes, everyone else must freeze too. Whoever freezes the last, sits out, until there is one winner.



Story (One of the children can read this out loud – encourage them to use expression.)

"Thirteeeeeeen bedrooms? Are we staying in a mansion?" asked Benny.

"No but it's pretty large," said his Mum.

It was Benny's cousin's bar mitzvah and all the cousins had flown to Manchester, to celebrate with Eitan and his family. One set of cousins came from LA (that was Benny's family), two from Perth and one from Nice. Everybody loved the accents, especially the French one.

"How should we divide up the rooms?" pondered aunt Muriel. "There are definitely enough beds for everyone, that's why we're renting this house but I need to work out a way to do this properly."

Benny peeked over the newspaper he'd picked up at the airport – oh how he loved British journalism. "Aunt Murie, can I help?"

"Oh I would be so grateful, Ben-Ben." Even though Benny was now 15, he didn't mind his family calling him Ben-Ben.

"Right," he started, "let's begin by making a list of how many beds are in each room. They we can see which people go where. It could be that we mix some families up and all the cousins stay in one room, like a giant sleepover. We won't know until we can see it mapped out clearly."

Aunt Muriel looked at Benny and smiled, "I am so glad that you are helping me! I would never even have thought of doing that! Oh wow, the kids would LOVE that! Let's see if we can make it work."

Benny and Muriel made a name card for all the people and shuffled the names around – the families with more young children were given the larger rooms, with more beds, so that the parents could look after their kids. The teenage cousins split into groups of three, enabling them to share together in the smaller rooms, the children who were not young but not teenagers were put in twos and they got to share bunkbeds and lastly, Mike, who was the world's loudest snorer, got his own room, with one bed. Nobody would have minded sharing with him but that's how it worked out.

Everyone was SO happy with the way that Muriel and Benny sorted the rooming arrangements and all agreed that for every family Simcha (festival) in the future, the two of them would be in charge.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever helped to arrange something?
- 3) How do you think the family felt when they saw how well the rooms were divided between all the people?