



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)

Ha'azinu 5780



Parasha Summary:

Most of this week's Parasha (Torah Portion) is in the form of a poem and is set out accordingly in the Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll). Moshe (Moses) begins by invoking the heavens and the earth as eternal witnesses of his warnings. Moshe (Moses) urged the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) to look up to the older generation, who would reassure them that God looks after the Jewish people as an eagle watches over its young. Moshe (Moses) continued to remind the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that it is only because of God's protection that they will be able to be victorious in battle against their enemies. After speaking to the B'nei Yisrael for the last time, Moshe (Moses) is instructed to ascend Mount Nevo (Nebo) so that he could see the Promised Land before he died.

- At the beginning of the Parasha (Torah portion) Moshe (Moses) told the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) to listen to all that God tells them to do when they enter the Promised Land. Moshe (Moses) called upon the heavens and the earth to be witness to what he was saying.
- Moshe (Moses) told the people that the Heavens and earth would always be there and therefore will act as witnesses to what he has told the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel). They cannot say they were not warned.
- Moshe (Moses) told the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that if they ask the older generation about God, they would be told that He had chosen them to receive the Torah.

- The people were told that should they not show their appreciation for what God had done for them, God would turn away from them. The Jewish people's enemies would be victorious over them and it is only because God does not want the enemy to gloat, that will prevent Israel's complete destruction.
- The B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) were told to acknowledge that there is only one God whose might and power is complete.
- Moshe (Moses) was not allowed into the Promised Land and was therefore told by God to go to the top of one of the mountains named Nevo (Nebo), so that he could see the land from afar.

Children's Service: Tot's – Year 3

We learn in this week's Parasha (Torah portion) that Moshe (Moses) told the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel) that they should follow the ways of God and that he was calling upon the heavens and earth to be witnesses that he warned them about this.



This simple game will enable children to understand the role a witness plays in confirming the truth.

Activity – Divide the children into groups of 4, with 2 children being the witnesses and the other 2 children having a conversation.

The children having the conversation should ask each other what they have done this week, while the 'witnesses' listen. After a few minutes, call all the groups back together and ask each group's 'conversation' children to repeat what they heard each other telling them. After they have finished retelling what they heard, the 'witness' children should verify that indeed that is what was said (or otherwise!).

After all the children have had a turn, explain to them that the only way we can all be sure that what the 'conversation' children have told us is what was really said earlier, is because we have witnesses. In the same way, the Heavens and the earth witnessed what Moshe (Moses) said to the B'nei Yisrael (Children of Israel).

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



One chilly Friday morning, the Little Red Rabbi was preparing for Shabbat. He made sure that he put out his best suit, polished his shoes until they were really shiny and made sure the beautiful silver candlesticks were polished as well.

As the Little Red Rabbi was standing in the kitchen, helping his wife load the dishwasher from breakfast, she said to him, ‘please would you go down to the bakery and buy 50 bridge rolls for the Kiddush in shul (Synagogue) tomorrow?’ ‘Of course, replied the Little Red Rabbi and making sure to wrap up warmly with his coat and scarf, he set off down the road to the bakery.

Now being a Friday, the bakery was very crowded and everyone was buying cakes and Challah-rolls for Shabbat. As the Little Red Rabbi stood in the queue waiting to be served, he saw his very good friends, Michael, Michaela and Morris.

‘Hi Michael’, said the Little Red Rabbi. ‘Hi Little Red Rabbi’, replied Michael. ‘What are you buying today Little Red Rabbi?’ ‘Oh, I’m buying 50 bridge rolls for the Kiddush in shul (Synagogue) tomorrow.’

‘Would you like some help?’, asked Michael. ‘That would be amazing’, said the Little Red Rabbi. ‘If you could take them to the Shul (Synagogue) once I have bought them, it would be such a massive help.’ ‘Sure’, said Michael.

‘Would you like me to do something to help’, said Michaela. ‘If you could help Michael take the bridge rolls to the Shul (Synagogue) that would be so very helpful’, said the Little Red Rabbi. ‘No problem’, said Michaela.

‘What would you like me to do?’, said Morris. ‘If you could help me carry my other bits and pieces, that would be great.’

So the four friends stood by the counter as the baker passed them the bridge rolls. ‘Are you sure there are 50 bridge rolls in the bags’, said the Little Red Rabbi. ‘Absolutely sure’, replied the baker. The Little Red Rabbi looked at Michael, Michaela and Morris, to make sure they had heard the baker saying that there were 50 bridge rolls in the bags they had been given. Michael, Michaela, Morris and the Little Red Rabbi said goodbye and Shabbat Shalom to the baker and Michael and Michaela headed off to the Shul (Synagogue) with



the bridge rolls, while the Little Red Rabbi and Morris headed to the Little Red Rabbi’s house with the other shopping.

The next day, on Shabbat morning (Saturday morning), the Little Red Rabbi and his family went to shul early, so that they could prepare the Kiddush for later that day.

They went to the kitchen and saw the bag of bridge rolls which had been left there by Michael and Michaela. The Little Red Rabbi opened the bags and started to cut the bridge rolls, while his wife started filling them with smoked salmon, egg and cream cheese.

At that moment, Michael, Michaela and Morris walked in. ‘Any help needed here, Little Red Rabbi?’ No thanks, but thanks so much for offering. Just then, the Little Red Rabbi took out the last bridge roll and cut it in half ready to be filled. ‘But that’s only 30 bridge rolls’, said the Little Red Rabbi and I asked for 50.’ Are you sure you asked for 50 and not 30?’ said the Little Red Rabbi’s wife. The Little Red Rabbi was absolutely sure he had asked for 50. Mmmmmmm, he thought for a moment. ‘Michael, Michaela and Morris, you can be my witnesses. I definitely asked for 50 bridge rolls, didn’t I?’ And Michael, Michaela and Morris all nodded their heads and said together, ‘We definitely heard the Little Red Rabbi asking for 50 bridge rolls.’

‘Not to worry, there should be enough for everyone’, said the Little Red Rabbi’s wife. But it was so good that your 3 friends were witnesses that you asked for 50, because we can now go to the bakery and explain that a mistake was made.

The Shabbat morning Tefillot (prayer service) finished and everyone headed over to the hall for a lovely Kiddush and as the Little Red Rabbi went to the kitchen cupboard to get the grape juice, guess what he saw. THE OTHER 20 BRIDGE ROLLS! They had been moved to a different place! The Little Red Rabbi and his wife, Michael, Michaela and Morris looked at each other and began to laugh. 'We know what we're going to have for Kiddush next week. Don't we?'

Children's Service: Years 3- 6



Activity: There is a specific verse in this week's Parasha (Torah portion) which reads, 'You ignored the Rock who gave birth to you and forgot God who brought you forth.' (Ha'azinu, Chapter 32, verse 18). An interpretation of this poetic verse is that God gave us the gift of forgetfulness in certain situations. So that some of our negative experiences do not linger in the forefront of our minds. But God urges the Jewish people not to use this gift to forget Him and His Torah.

Here are some Memory games!

Activity - The Magic Cup Game

What Do You Need - Three large paper cups, a small object like a ball or small fruit.

How to Play – Turn the 3 cups upside down, placing them in a line. Put the object (ball or a fruit) under any one of the cups, making sure whoever is watching knows which cup it is under. Move the cups around for a while, stop and put them back in line. Ask which cup the object is under. Whoever chooses correctly wins. Take turns with moving the cups. You can see which player is best at finding the object.

Activity - Rhyming Game

How to Play - The game starts when a player says a sentence. It can be anything, from “I fed the dog” to “I love Shabbat”. The next player has to say the sentence followed by a word that rhymes with the last word and having the same vowel sound. For example, “I fed the dog” can be followed by “I fed the dog....log...”. The other players follow up with other rhyming words. They have to say all the words in order and are ‘out’ if they repeat a word already said. The player who is left in the end is the winner.

A Story to Discuss



There was once a man who borrowed money without actually paying it back. He owed so much money that he simply could not afford to repay what he had borrowed. So, he went to his good friend for some advice as to what he should do.

His friend told him that if someone came to him to ask for the money back, which he had borrowed, he should act as if he had totally forgotten. He should act as if he had absolutely no idea what was being asked of him. This way, people would eventually stop bothering him about the money he owed.

His friend's advice works perfectly and people from whom he had borrowed money soon stopped asking him for the repayment. Until one day, the friend who had given this advice came to ask for the repayment of his loan. Just like he had done with everyone else, he simply said he could not remember at all. But his friend was not amused and told him off. 'I was the one who gave you this advice. You can't use the same trick against me!'

A famous Rabbi known as the Dubno Maggid (1740-1804) said about the above verse, 'God created you with the power of forgetfulness, but do not use that power to forget God and His Mitzvot (commands).'

Discussion Points

- Why do you think God gave people the ability to forget certain things?
- What do you think would happen if we remembered every bad experience in our lives?
- How could we use the power of forgetfulness in a good way?
- How could we use the power to forget in a negative way?



Tefillah Treasures

Praying 3 Times a Day

We have learned over the past few weeks that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob established Shacharit (the morning prayer), Mincha (the afternoon prayer) and Maariv (the evening prayer) respectively.

King David wrote in the book of Psalms
Chapter 55 Verse 18



עֶרֶב וּבֹקֶר וְצַהֲרַיִם אֲשִׁיחָה
וְאֶהְמָה וַיִּשְׁמַע קוֹלִי:

Erev Vavoker Vetzahoraim
asicha ve'eheme vay-
ishma Koli

'Evening, morning and
noon I talk and moan and
my voice is heard'

King David, the composer of most
of our prayers, prayed morning,
afternoon and evening