



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  
[sharonradley@tribeuk.com](mailto:sharonradley@tribeuk.com)

## Terumah

### Parsha Summary:

- God instructs Moshe to take contributions from the Israelites for the construction of the Tabernacle. Precious metals, dyed wools, wood, flax, spices, gems, animal hides and olive oil are needed.
- God gives detailed instructions on how to build the Tabernacle and its vessels. The central feature of the Tabernacle was to be the Ark that housed the Tablets. These instructions are given first. The Ark was to be made of acacia wood and covered in gold. Rings were to be attached to the corners of the Ark. Inserted into the rings were the poles used to carry the Ark.
- A slab of pure gold out of which two golden, winged cherubs were to protrude was made to cover the Ark. God next gives instructions for the construction of the Table for the showbread. It too was to be made of pure gold plated acacia wood and was to contain rings for the poles used to transport the Table.
- The next section of the parsha deals with the instructions on how to build the seven branched Menorah. It was to be made out of a single block of pure gold with decorative cups, knobs and flowers hammered from it. The Tabernacle was to be covered by several layers of tapestry made from wool, linen, goat's hair, rams skins and 'tachash' skins.
- The walls of the Tabernacle were beams of acacia wood standing upright. The planks were to be covered with gold and held together by crossbars.

- The tabernacle was divided into two chambers. The Holy of Holies which housed the Ark and the Holy which housed the Menorah, the Table and the Golden Altar. They were separated by a curtain. At the entrance to the Tabernacle was another curtain.
- God then gives the instructions for the building of the Altar that was kept in the courtyard. It was to have a horn projecting from each corner and was to be covered with copper. Rings and poles to transport the Altar were to be constructed.
- The parsha concludes with instructions on how to build the Courtyard of the Tabernacle. It was to be made from curtains that hung from rods attached to wooden pillars that had silver bands wound around them. The entrance to the Tabernacle was on its eastern side in the centre of which was an ornate screen that allowed access from either side.

## Children's Service: Tots – Year 2

### Activity 1:

The parsha this week contains the instructions from God about how to build The Mishkan /Tabernacle. (See below for pictures of the Mishkan. The pictures have been taken from Rabbi Baruch Chait's book 'The Avoth Melacha of Shabbath'. Permission has been granted for them to be used only at your Children's Service. They are copyrighted.) Print out the pictures and **show** the children what the Mishkan looked like.

**Explain** that when the Jewish people were in the desert, after coming out of Egypt, they were instructed by God to build the Mishkan. The Mishkan would be the place where they would connect with God and where He would communicate with Moshe after the Ten Commandments were given. It was like God's home.

Show the children the Courtyard with the Mizbeach (Altar) in it and point out the coverings of the Mishkan. The central feature of the Mishkan was the Aron (Ark) which housed the Tablets, the Shulchan (The Table) which had twelve special loaves of bread on it at all times and the seven branched Menorah.

For more information go to:

[www.artscroll.com/Details.aspx?itemNo=9781422610749](http://www.artscroll.com/Details.aspx?itemNo=9781422610749), scroll down and click on the video to view more pictures of the Mishkan

Explain to the children that today we no longer have the Mishkan and synagogues are places that can inspire us to come closer to God.

## Activity 2:

*Sing* the Song, 'Hashem is here, Hashem is there...'

(The tune for this can be found on YouTube)

The children should point to the direction that is mentioned.

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

Talk about what items there are in a Shul. See how many the children are able to think of. (The Aron, Bimah, Sefer Torah, Ner Tamid, Yad, Siddur, Chumash...)

**Sing** the following song to the tune of 'The wheels on the bus.'

*The curtains on the Ark go swish swish swish*

*Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish*

*The curtains on the Ark go swish, swish, swish*

*All day long.....*

*The bells on the Sefer go ding a ling a ling*

*The people in the shul stand up and sit down*

*The Rabbi in the shul goes daven daven daven*

*The Chazzan in the shul sings nice and loud*

*The children in the shul sing Adon Olam*

*The people in the shul say Shabbat Shalom*

### Activity 3:

In the parsha we learn that the holy ark which held within it the tablets of the Ten Commandments was covered with pure gold - not only on its outside, which could be seen, but on its inside as well. Our sages teach us that we can learn from here that we too, should strive to keep our 'insides' -- our personal behaviour -- consistent with our 'outsides' -- the ideals we talk about and express to others.

Play: 'Mirror partner'

Split the children into two's and ask one of them to mime some actions such as a morning routine in the bathroom mirror (rub eyes, stretch, yawn, brush teeth, wash hands and face...) Number two child should mirror these actions by copying them. Change over when this is done.

When you have played the game, the children should sit down again.

Discuss that in the game they were acting like mirrors of each other.

- Was it difficult?
- Do they ever become influenced/ copy other children and end up behaving in a way that they really know inside themselves isn't how they think they really should be behaving?

If you have a picture of the Aron in the Mishkan, show it to the children. If not, explain that the Aron was covered with pure gold - not only on the outside which could be seen, but on the inside too. Why would the inside be gold if it couldn't be seen?

We learn from this that we too should work to keep our insides the same as our outsides. We should be 'true' to ourselves and try to not to become influenced.



## Children's Service: Years 3-6

### Activity 1:

The parsha this week contains the instructions from God about how to build The Mishkan / Tabernacle. (See below for pictures of the Mishkan. The pictures have been taken from Rabbi Baruch Chait's book 'The Avoth Melacha of Shabbath'. Permission has been granted for them to be used only at your Children's Service. They are copyrighted.) Print out the pictures and **show** the children what the Mishkan looked like.

**Explain** that when the Jewish people were in the desert, after coming out of Egypt, they were instructed by God to build the Mishkan. The Mishkan would be the place where they would connect with God and where He would communicate with Moshe after the Ten Commandments were given. It was like God's home.

Show the children the Courtyard with the Mizbeach (Altar) in it and point out the coverings of the Mishkan. The central feature of the Mishkan was the Aron (Ark) which housed the Tablets, the Shulchan (The Table) which had twelve special loaves of bread on it at all times and the seven branched Menorah.

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Explain to the children that today we no longer have the Mishkan and synagogues are places that can inspire us to come closer to God.

## Activity 2:

Explain to the children that the 39 categories of work that were performed in the construction of the Mishkan are the melachot that are prohibited on Shabbat. If you look closely at the pictures that have been attached you will see all of these 39 categories written inside the coloured boxes. Split the children into groups and ask them to choose one of the 39 categories to mime to the other groups. The other groups should guess what is being acted. Give the children some time to practise their mimes. (See below for the full list of the 39 melachot.)

Explain to the group that although many of these activities are not relevant to us today, (unless you are a farmer!) there are modern day equivalents. For example, one category is Mechabeh / Extinguishing (done in order to make charcoal.) Due to this we may not turn on and off lights on shababat. Another example could be Makeh B'Patish - the Final Hammer blow. (When creating an object.) Since this is forbidden, we may not open the stitched pockets of a new suit, put shoe laces in new shoes or use a screwdriver to fix something that is broken.

## Activity 3:

Mirror partner: Split the children into two's and ask one of them to mime some actions such as a morning routine in the bathroom mirror (rub eyes, stretch, yawn, brush teeth, wash hands and face...) Number two child should mirror these actions by copying them. Change over when this is done.

When you have played both games, the children should sit down again.

**Discuss** that in the game they were acting like mirrors of each other.

- Was it difficult?

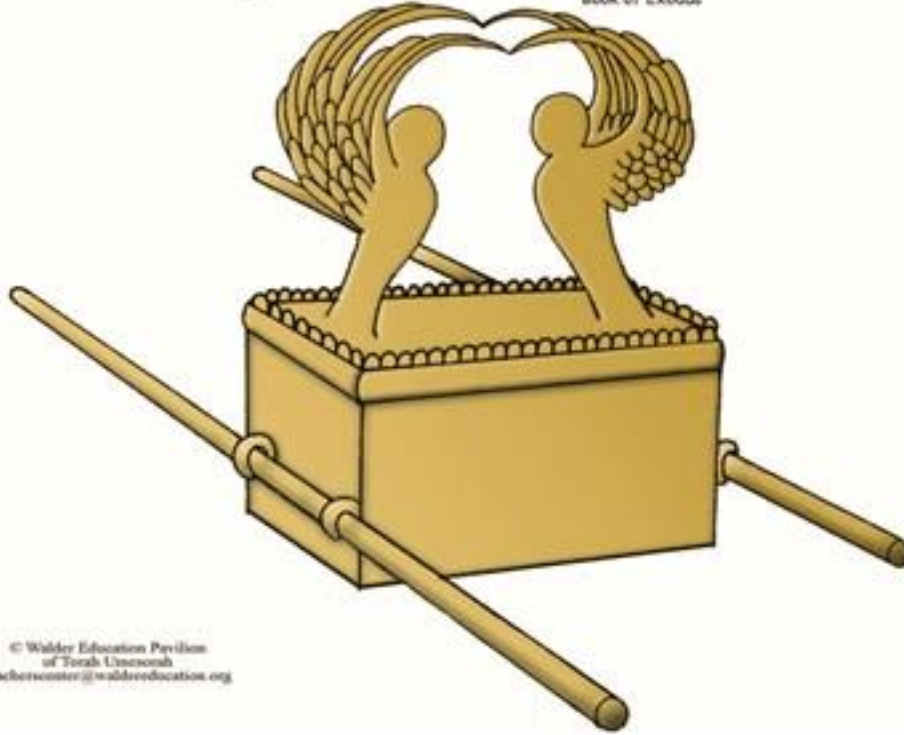


- In real life, is the way they behave a mirror of the way they present themselves?
- Do they ever say to people that they do one thing but then when they are not with those people they behave in a different way?
- Are they true to their inner beliefs?
- Do they know what 'integrity' means?

If you have a picture of the Aron in the Mishkan (see below) show it to the children. If not, explain that the Aron was covered with pure gold – not only on the outside which could be seen, but on the inside too. We learn from this that we too should work to keep our insides consistent with our outsides. The way we act and feel should be the same as the ideals we express to others. If one's inner self is at odds with the outer mask that he presents to the world he will never be at peace and will always feel that he is living a lie.

"They shall make an Ark of acacia wood...you shall cover it with pure gold, from within and without shall you cover it, and you shall make on it a gold crown all around" (Terumah 25:10-11).

Book of Exodus

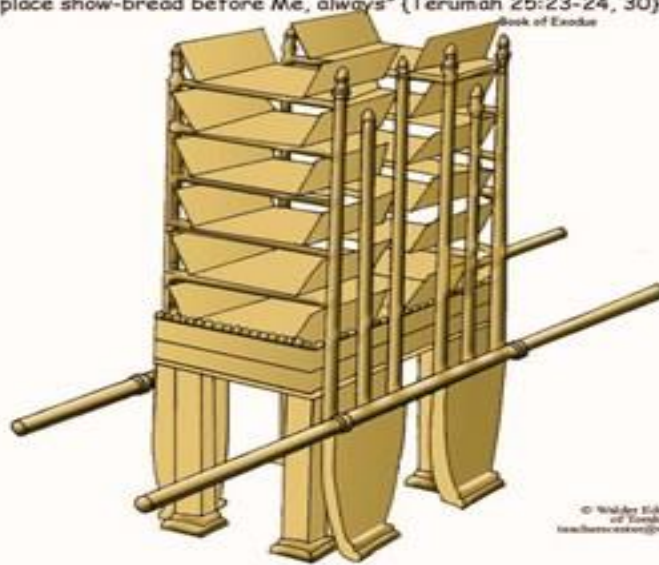


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"You shall make a Table of acacia wood...you shall cover it with pure gold and you shall make for it a gold crown all around...on the Table shall you place show-bread before Me, always" (Terumah 25:23-24, 30).

Book of Exodus

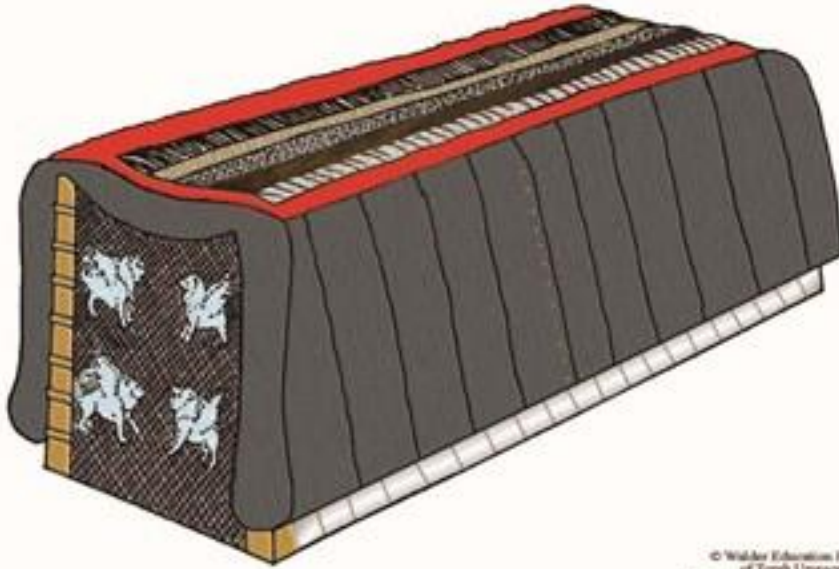


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\*You shall make the Tabernacle of ten curtains - twisted linen with turquoise, purple, and scarlet wool - with a wooden design of cherubim shall you make them\* (Terumah 26:1).

Book of Exodus



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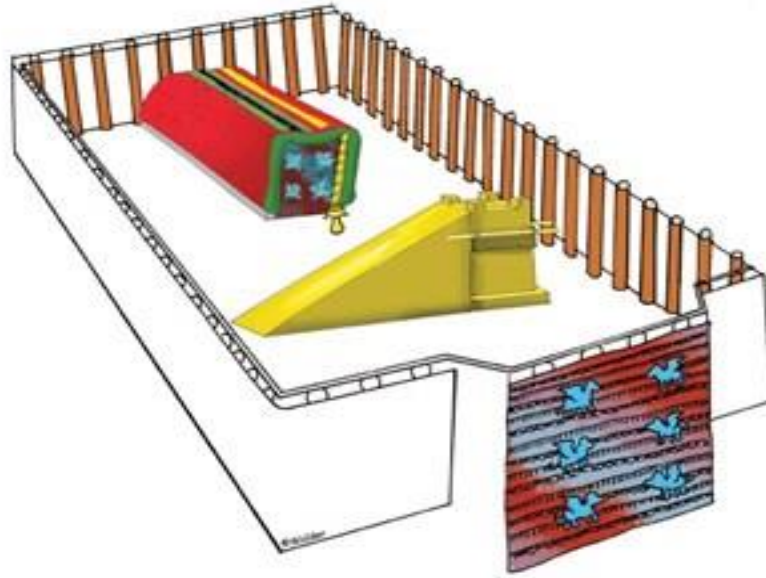
"You shall make a Menorah of pure gold...its base, its shaft, its cups, its knobs, and its blossoms shall be (hammered) from it. Six branches shall emerge from its sides..." (Terumah 25:31-32).

Book of Exodus



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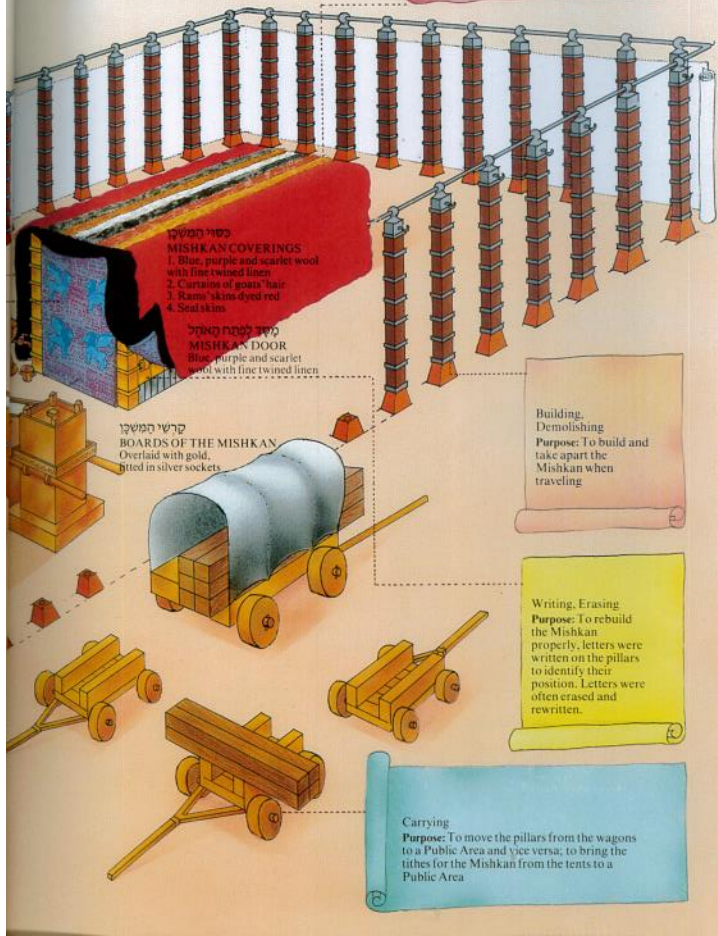


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THE TORAH TEACHES US THAT ONLY THE 39 MAJOR CATEGORIES OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MISHKAN ARE THE AVOTH MELACHA, PROHIBITED ON THE SHABBATH.

Trapping, Slaughtering, Skinning, Tanning, Smoothing, Marking, Cutting  
**Purpose:** To prepare the skins for the Mishkan covering



כסוי המיטקן  
**MISHKAN COVERINGS**  
 1. Blue, purple and scarlet wool with fine twined linen  
 2. Curtains of goats' hair  
 3. Rams' skins-dyed red  
 4. Seal skins

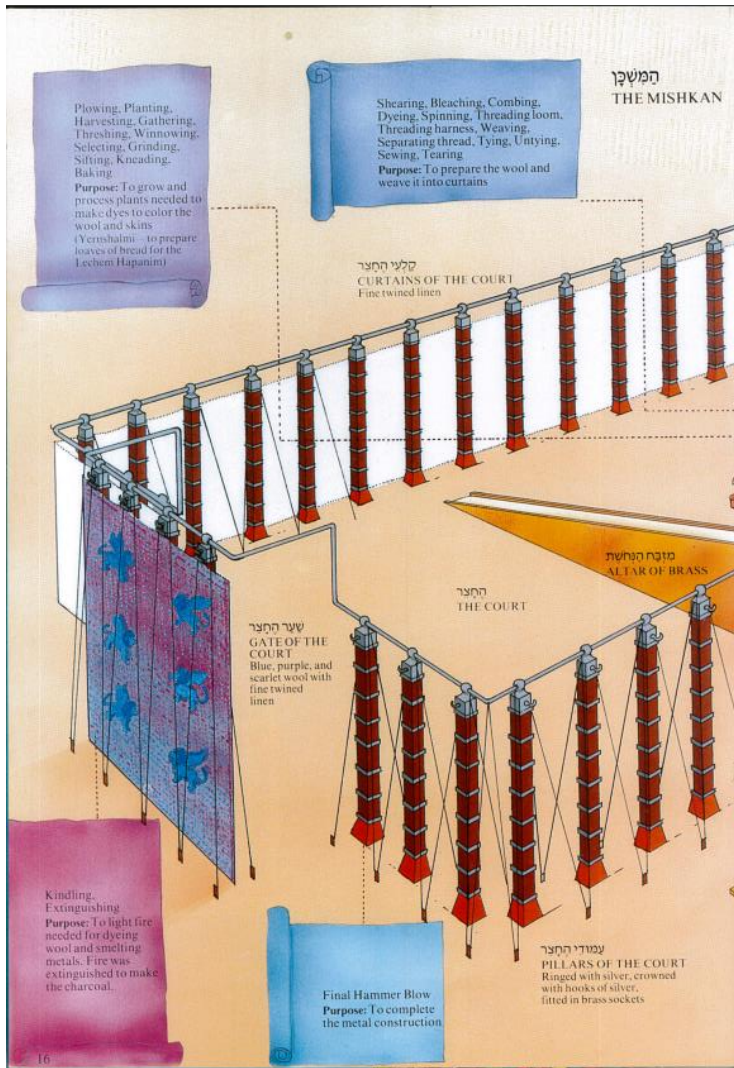
קישו למפת המיטקן  
**MISHKAN DOOR**  
 Blue, purple and scarlet wool with fine twined linen

קרישי המיטקן  
**BOARDS OF THE MISHKAN**  
 Overlaid with gold, fitted in silver sockets

Building, Demolishing  
**Purpose:** To build and take apart the Mishkan when traveling

Writing, Erasing  
**Purpose:** To rebuild the Mishkan properly, letters were written on the pillars to identify their position. Letters were often erased and rewritten.

Carrying  
**Purpose:** To move the pillars from the wagons to a Public Area and vice versa; to bring the tithes for the Mishkan from the tents to a Public Area



## The 39 Melachot:

(The laws can be divided into 6 groups according to the Mishkan's activity with which they are linked to.)

### **Field Work**

- Sowing
- Plowing
- Reaping
- Binding Sheaves
- Threshing
- Winnowing
- Selecting
- Grinding
- Sifting
- Kneading
- Baking

### **Making Material Curtains**

- Shearing Wool
- Cleaning
- Combing
- Dyeing
- Spinning
- Stretching the Threads
- Making Loops
- Weaving Threads
- Separating the Threads
- Tying a Knot
- Untying a Knot
- Sewing
- Tearing

## **Making Leather Curtains**

- Trapping
- Slaughtering
- Skinning
- Tanning
- Smoothing
- Ruling Lines
- Cutting

## **Making the Beams of the Mishkan**

- Writing
- Erasing

## **The Putting up and Taking down of the Mishkan**

- Building
- Breaking Down

## **The Mishkan's Final Touches**

- Extinguishing a Fire
- Kindling a Fire
- Striking the Final Hammer Blow
- Carrying