

Parasha Thinking



- 1) Why do you think Aharon never tired of doing the same mitzvah every day?
- 2) If the people were impure during the first Pesach (Passover), do you think they really deserved a second chance a month later?
- 3) How does the word, complain, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information



Summary

Hashem (G-d) gave Aharon (Aaron) a duty – he was commanded to light the lamps of the menorah every evening.

The Tribe of Levi had been taught how to do the service in the Mishkan (traveling temple) and their duties began.

There were people who couldn't join in with the Pesach (Passover) sacrifice as they were outside the camp at the time, due to being impure. They had asked Moshe (Moses) to speak to Hashem to ask for a second chance, a month later, when they were pure once more. Hashem agreed and Pesach Sheni (Second Passover) was introduced.

Hashem gave Moshe instructions on the way the Jewish people would continue to travel through the desert and the way they would camp. At this point they had been at Har (Mt.) Sinai for almost a year.

The Erev Rav was a small group of Egyptians who became Jewish to escape the plagues and more possible suffering in Egypt. Throughout Jewish History, they caused a lot of issues for the Jewish people in the way they behaved and they managed to convince others to join their cause. In this week's parasha, the Erev Rav started grumbling about the mahn (manna) that they were given each morning. The others hadn't seen this as an issue before but now they thought, 'yeahhh, we don't want mahn all the time!' They all demanded that Moshe should get them real meat to eat.

Moshe taught 70 elders the Jewish laws, so that they could help him lead the people.

Miriam (Moshe's sister) spoke badly about Moshe and she became impure. She had to leave the Jewish camp. Moshe prayed for her to get better and the Jewish people waited seven days for her, until she had healed.

Discovery

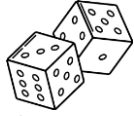
Did you know that Aharon did the same task every day and never tired of it.

Did you know that even though we don't have the Mishkan or the Beit HaMikdash (permanent Temple in Jerusalem) anymore, we still mark Pesach Sheni. Some people have Matza on that day.

Did you know that Moshe's prayer for his sister Miriam was only five words long? (Kel na, refa na, la – G-d please, heal please, her).

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!)

Games



1) Say it WRONG and say it STRONG

Divide group into two teams. Call up one player from each team and they have to stand opposite each other. Ask them a quiz question based on the Parasha summary. They have to purposely get the answer wrong and they have to answer convincingly. E.g. What did Aharon have to do every day? Whoever says the answer first and convinces you the most, wins a point for their team. Rule: 1) Their answer can't be outrageous. 2) If their answer is wrong because they simply can't remember what you've taught them so they make something up, they don't get a point. 3) if they don't know an answer they can run back and ask their team for help but time is not paused.

2) Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

Link: These actions are repeated. Aharon repeated lighting the Menorah each day and he never got tired.

Group sits in a circle and chants "Ali Baba and the 40 thieves," twice, while tapping their own knees. On the next chant, the group leader changes the action and then on the next chant, the person beside him/her does that action. The action follows its way around the circle and the whole time the group is repeating the phrase. The group leader must change the action on every repeat, so that every person in the circle eventually ends up doing a different action.

3) Chinese Whispers

Link: Miriam spoke badly of Moshe behind his back.

Children sit in a circle, and one person starts by whispering something to the next person. Whatever they hear, they must say that to the next person. The last player announces the message they heard, to the group.

How wrong was it? Where did it go wrong?

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



"I don't mind it at all," said Sarah, "I really don't!"

"Eugh, I do!" groaned Martin. "In my old school, the walls were painted white and here, it's this gloomy yellow!"

Sarah looked at the 'gloomy yellow' walls and thought to herself, 'ok, they're not the worst but they could be better!' She looked around some more and decided that Martin was right. The walls did need a new lick of paint.

She and Martin walked over to the popular crowd and mentioned the walls to them, saying, "wouldn't it be nice if these walls looked fresh and clean, and not so dreary!" They all looked around and made eye contact with each other. Pearl, (who was known to be the kindest) looked back at Sarah and said, "I really don't think it's a problem! It's not our house, after all, it's school and we're here to learn. We can learn perfectly well here!" "I actually don't agree," argued Kim. "They're right. I didn't notice this before but it doesn't look great. Imagine how calming and inviting this place would be if it looked fresh. I know I am just paying attention to this now but I actually HATE this shade of yellow, it's like we're learning inside a piece of cheese. DULL!"

Other people heard the discussion and came over to hear what it was all about. Soon the whole of Year 6 were involved and this was rapidly spreading to Year 5 and some of Year 4. A bunch of kids who had never really given it any thought now HATED the school walls and were geared up to knock on the Head Teacher's door, to ask him to do something about it. Some kids were even making placards.

Martin and Sarah agreed to be the spokespeople and they knocked on Mr Taubman's door, with 74 kids behind them. He opened the door and smiled pleasantly. "I can't invite all of you in," he laughed, "but Sarah and Martin, do have a seat!"

Before he followed them inside, he looked at the banners and posters that the other children were holding up and saw a sign or two that said 'no yellow – white like a marshmallow!' 'White walls make learning cool.' 'Yellow walls make us dreary, white walls make us cheery!' and he understood straight away, that the pupils had come to complain about the colour of the walls. Little did they know, though, that just the day before, he had had a meeting with a maintenance company and had got a quote for the whole school's interior to be freshly painted ... in white.

1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?

2) Have you ever been convinced to join in with protesting something you didn't notice at first?

3) Why do you think that so many children started to get involved?