



KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Bo

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 3rd Sh'vat, 5785

Gregorian date: 31st Jan – 1st Feb, 2025

London Shabbat times: 16:33 – 17:39

Special events: n/a.

Upcoming events in the week: n/a

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com

Parasha Thinking

- 1) If there was such thing as a kosher pickled locust, would you try it?
- 2) The lamb that the Jewish people had to use for the sacrifice was the Egyptians' main god. How do you think they felt, using the lambs?
- 3) How does the word, save, link to the Parasha?

Summary

In last week's Parasha, we heard about the first seven of the 10 Plagues and here we read about the final three. Ravenous locusts ate all the crops and greenery, leaving no plant food for the Egyptians to eat. Paro (Pharaoh) begged Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) to ask Hashem to stop the plague, promising to release the Jewish people from slavery but as soon as Hashem (G-d) sent a Western wind to blow away the locusts, Paro changed his mind. Next Hashem warned of a plague of darkness and Paro didn't flinch. A thick darkness covered the entire land and the pattern repeated itself, with Paro not allowing them to leave once the plague ended. Paro was given the warning of the 10th plague - at midnight on the 15th Nissan, all the firstborn sons in Egypt will be killed.

The Jewish people were given their first mitzvah as a nation: to make a calendar based on the moon's cycle. They were also commanded to bring a "Pesach (Passover) sacrifice" to Hashem. A lamb must be slaughtered, and its blood should be sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of every Jewish home in Egypt, and Hashem will pass over these homes when He comes to kill the Egyptian firstborn. The meat of the sacrifice was to be eaten that night together with matza (unleavened bread) and bitter herbs.

At midnight, a scream was heard all over Egypt as people discovered their firstborns had died. When Paro saw the death of the firstborn males, Paro became scared because he was a firstborn himself and didn't want to die. He sent the children of Israel out of Egypt but Moshe waited overnight to lead everyone out. In the morning, there was no time for their dough to rise and in the heat of the sun, it baked quickly into Matza. Before they went, they ask their Egyptian masters for a salary for the span of 210 years that their family had been working for them as slaves. They left Egypt with great wealth, fulfilling the promise made to Avraham (Abraham) that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth.

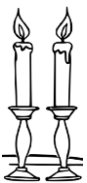
The Jewish people were commanded to recognise every firstborn male as being Holy for Hashem. Every year, we need to remember that Hashem freed us from slavery in Egypt, by removing all Chametz (leaven) from their homes and offices, eating matzah, and telling the story in the Hagada. We were also commanded to wear tefillin on the head and arm as a reminder of leaving Egypt and their faith in Hashem.

Discovery

Did you know that some Egyptians caught locusts in jars and pickled them. At the end of the plague when the Western wind came, even those were blown away.

Did you know that during the plague of darkness, the Jewish people could see perfectly. They were commanded to go into the Egyptian homes and look around, though they were forbidden to steal anything. When they asked the Egyptians for a salary as they were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians said, "So sorry, I don't have anything valuable to give you!" and the Jewish people were able to say, well, actually, under the fourth floorboard, there is a sack of gems.

Paro was spared from death so that he could actually face what he'd done to his nation and see all the destruction he'd brought to them.



Games

1) Noughts and Crosses

Divide group into two teams and ask them quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. Each time a team gets a question right, they earn a nought or a cross and can place it down for their team.

Resources: four scarves for the noughts and crosses board, pre-printed noughts and crosses.

2) Chametz basket

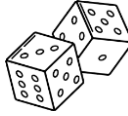
Link: No chametz during pesach

Place a chair in a circle for each child, minus one. One child stands in the middle. Leader goes round the circle, giving child 1 in the circle, Bread, child 2 – pasta, child 3 – challah and continue with these three names round the circle, until everyone but the child in the middle, has one of those three names. The child in the middle calls out one of those names and all the people in the circle with that name, must stand up and quickly change places. The child in the middle needs to try and sit in one of their chairs. Whoever is remaining without a chair, is the one who now stands in the middle and calls out the next name. If the person in the middle shouts out, 'fruit basket' then every child must move to a different seat.

3) Sensory Blind Fold

Link: During the plague of darkness the Egyptians couldn't see

Gather a bag of Shabbat friendly items in advance and choose one child to be blindfolded. Pass them one item from your bag and see if they can guess what it is. Switch blindfold and pass that child a different item to identify. Others on the circle can help them out by giving clues, if they need them.



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



“WHAT??? No bagels?” Cried Rafi. “Nope!” Chorused his friends. “No pretzels?” squealed Rafi. His friends laughed and shook their heads. “But I LOVE pretzels. I’ll be able to have pizza though, right?????!!!!” His friends looked at him and said, “Rafi, pizza is also chametz!” Rafi slumped back on his chair. In despair, he asked, “How will I cope for eight days with no pasta, pizza, cake, bread, crackers? I’m going to STARVEEEE!!!”

Sammy was the most sensible person in the friendship group. He put his hand on Rafi’s shoulder and said, “You’ll cope because there are so many things that you CAN eat, you’ll just have those. There’s Pesach cake, there are specially made schnitzels, there are Pesach cereals – they make everything, well, almost everything.”

When Rafi got home that afternoon, he was particularly glum. In 13 days’ time, it would be Pesach. He devised a plan. He was going to find a spare shoe box and hide it under his bed, once he’d secretly filled it with packets of pretzels, biscuits and crackers. That way, nobody would know that he was still eating chametz.

His plan seemed to be going really well and nobody noticed what he had done... that was until the night before Pesach, when it was time for bedikat chametz – searching the home (or office) for chametz. Rafi’s mum hid ten wrapped pieces of bread around the house and everyone went round with a candle, trying to find them.

As soon as the family entered Rafi’s room, Rafi paled and started to worry. ‘They’re going to find it, they’re going to find it, he panicked. Oh, I’m going to be in SO much trouble. Oh my goodness. I wish I’d never thought of this ridiculous idea.’ The family looked on the bookshelf – the last piece of bread wasn’t there. They checked the windowsill – nothing. The desk where Rafi did his homework – no bread. Rafi’s little brother was getting restless and his Mum said, “Why don’t you have a quick look under the bed?” Rafi froze but no one noticed. His brother crouched down on the floor and peered under the bed. He spotted the box, pulled it out and said, “Maybe I can find the last piece of Chametz in here.” Rafi was just about to say, “No, Nafti, don’t do that!” but it was too late! He’d opened the box and the treats that Rafi had stored were now all over the floor. Rafi’s parents were shocked but they didn’t shout. They asked Rafi to explain why he needed those things and Rafi told them, as he was picking up all the packets, that he was going to be so hungry on Pesach. Rafi’s mum smiled, and took his hand. She led him to the kitchen and opened cupboard after cupboard, showing him that they were blessed with so much food - even Pesach pretzels. Mum then opened a recipe book to the bookmarked page. “This is the first thing I am going to make for everyone – it’s Pesach pizza.” Rafi smiled and let out a huge sigh of relief when he saw the photograph of the pizza. He looked at his mum and said, “I think we need to give this box of chametz to the neighbours, pronto!”

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

2) Have you ever been nervous about something and then it worked out ok?

3) In your opinion, do you think Rafi’s parents knew about his plan and was this the right way to help him?