



1) Why do you think Moshe was given such a harsh punishment (not being allowed to enter the land that he yearned for – Israel)?

2) The Emorite kings didn't let the Jewish people pass through their land, waged war upon them and lost. What could they have done instead?

3) How does the word, water, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

There are different ways to categorise Mitzvot. One way is splitting them into **mishpatim** (mitzvot that have a clear and logical reason behind them), such as, 'do not steal' or 'do not murder' and **chukkim** (mitzvot that don't have a clear reason but we trust that Hashem has given us those laws for our benefit), such as, 'don't wear wool and linen together'. In this week's parasha, Moshe (Moses) was taught a new chok (singular of chukkim – please see above) and all the details surrounding the law. These laws were concerning the Para Aduma (red heifer). If someone was impure because they had been near a dead body, the ashes of the Para Aduma would purify them.

The Jewish people had been walking and camping through the desert for forty years. Miriam (Moshe's sister) died and the well that accompanied the Jewish people in her merit, dried up. Hashem (G-d) told Moshe to speak to a certain rock and order it to pour out water. Moshe had mistakenly chosen the wrong rock and felt angry when no water appeared. Moshe felt angry and was frustrated by the Jewish people who were complaining, and he hit the rock. Water poured out but Hashem told Moshe that now, he will not be able to enter the Land of Israel.

Aharon (Aaron – Moshe's brother) died at Hor (Mt) Hahar and his son, Elazar, took over the role of Kohen Gadol (High Priest). Next, poisonous snakes attacked the Jewish camp after the Jewish people complained about Hashem and Moshe once more. Hashem told Moshe to put up a high pole with a snake made of brass upon it and all the people who look towards the heavens will be healed. The people sang a song in honor of Miriam's well that provided them water throughout their time in the desert.

The Emorite kings; Sichon and Og waged war against the Jewish people and wanted to stop them from passing through their land. Moshe led the battle and the Jewish people won, thereby conquering their lands, which were East of the Jordan river.

Discovery

Did you know that another way to categorise mitzvot is by positive mitzvot (you shall) and negative mitzvot (do not)?

Did you know that before Aharon died, his son, Elazar, came to him and he put on the Kohen Gadol clothing and this brought him so much joy because he could see that his son was good and worthy of continuing his job?

Did you know that when Aharon died, the whole of the Jewish people were distraught because Aharon was an amazing peacemaker?





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 line and sit down if they know the answer.

2) Moo-Off

Link: The Para Aduma (Red Heifer) was a cow

Children pair up and stand opposite each other. Child A moos at child B. Child B moos back at child A. The aim is to make the other person laugh. They are allowed to moo in opera style, in an accent, for a long time, repeatedly. If any child is out (from laughing), the next person from their team takes over.

3) Shabbat Shalom

Link: Shalom means peace and Aharon was a fantastic peacemaker

All the children stand in a long line and one child is chosen to step out and when the children's service leader says go, they have to shake hands with everyone in the line and say, Shabbat shalom. This is done whilst the group sings Shalom Aleichem (or any shalom song). How many times can they go up and down the line, shaking people's hand and saying "Shabbat Shalom", before the song finishes? Can anyone beat their score?



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

"AAAAAAA!!!!!! YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERRRRVESSS!" screamed Yoni.

"How DARE you say that!!" screamed back Avi, who was trying to study but Yoni kept coming in, asking for a pencil, then for a calculator then a protractor, after that, a ruler, a hole punch. "I've given you, like, thirty things already today! You've literally disturbed me non-stop. It's perfectly reasonable that I chant my learning – that helps me remember everything. I don't really care if it disturbs you – you deserve it!"

Yoni belted back, "WHY DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR STUDYING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MINE? I'VE ALSO GOT EXAMS AND YOU'RE GOING ON, AND ON, "y=mx+c, y=mx+c, y,y,y,y,y,yyyyyyyyyyyy!" JUST BE QUIET!!!!!"

Avi glared at him, "If it disturbs you so much then shut the door! If you actually do that after every time you come it, you wouldn't hear my chanting!"

Yoni retaliated, "I WOULDN'T HEAR IT? I WOULDN'T HEAR IT??? THEY CAN PROBABLY HEAR IT IN FRANCE – YOU'RE SO LOUD!"

In came Ezra - he was the oldest brother. He always knew how to sort out their fights. He was such a good peacemaker. "Right," started Ezra, "I've heard exactly what's going on, and we will not be speaking to each other that way in this house. I acknowledge that you have annoyed each other, and you're both feeling frustrated but let's find a way to get along!" Both of the younger brothers lowered their head and nodded.

"Yoni," continued Ezra, "you need to make a list of all the equipment you will need before you start studying, and that way, you'll only disturb Avi once. Can you do that?" "Yes, that makes sense!" agreed Yoni.

"Right, Avi!" Ezra looked in his direction. "You have every right to chant but you have to be considerate of all the people around you! If you're going to chant your learning, you need to send all the other people a track of white noise, that they can play so it will block out the sound of your learning. You also need to put a pillow or a towel in front of your bedroom door at the bottom so that it can block some of the noise. Can you do that?" "I don't know why I didn't think of that myself! – of course I can!" responded Avi.

The three brothers hugged and then Yoni started crying. "What's up?" asked Ezra, concerned. "What will happen next year when you go to university? Who will sort us out then?"

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever helped people to make peace? (Don't say the names or any detail that will let others know who they are).
- 3) What should they do to keep peace when Ezra goes to uni?