

Parasha: Eikev

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 20th Av, 5784

Gregorian date: 23rd – 24th Aug, 2024

London Shabbat times: 19:52 – 20:55

Special events: n/a

Upcoming events in the week: n/a

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Parasha Thinking



1) Imagine you were Moshe, mentioning the mistakes that the Jewish people had made. How would you speak in a sensitive yet effective way?

2) Which of the seven kinds of food would you have wanted to try first?

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

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Moshe (Moses) was still talking to the entire nation in the lead-up to his passing. He promised them that if they keep the mitzvot (commandments), they will live safely, comfortably and happily in the Land of Israel, which they are soon to enter. He reminds them that they will conquer the land that Hashem promised to their ancestors.

Moshe told them off once more for the sin of worshiping the Egel HaZahav (Golden Calf), the revolt of Korach and his 250 followers, the evil report of the spies and other things that they had done that were not very good. As a comfort and remedy, he also mentioned Hashem's (G-d's) forgiveness of their sins, and reminded them of the second set of luchot (Tablets of Stone) that Hashem gave them once they repented and turned their behaviour around.

Moshe reminded them that Hashem had given them food in the desert called mahn (manna), which could taste of whatever they wanted, and that Hashem was the One who kept them nourished.

Moshe told the people that the land of Israel is "flowing with milk and honey." It has the shivat haminim (seven kinds of food) growing strongly in its land; wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates. Israel is the place that they can focus on Hashem and the mitzvot. He informs them that they must destroy any idols that they find in Israel, that belonged to previous people living there. He told them to remember that all their strengths and successes are with Hashem's help, so to never show off that they managed alone.

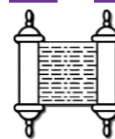
We now hear the second paragraph of the Shema, which talks about the fundamental mitzvot of the Torah.

Discovery

Did you know that Moshe told the people that even the mitzvot that people think are not important should be given attention.

Did you know that they were told that the land of Israel would be even better than the land of Egypt?

Did you know that the Jewish people are promised that by keeping the mitzvot, they will have rain at the right time in the land of Israel. One commentator suggests that this is on Shabbat, specifically Friday night when everyone is home so wont get drenched?





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. Split the group into team A and team B. Ask the first team to come up with a question for the other team and vice versa. Anyone from the opposing team can answer.

2) Captain's Coming

Link: The Jewish people were encouraged to follow the rules of the instructions of the Mitzvot and in this game, the children must follow the instructions.

Resources: print out the verbal cues before Shabbat

One member of the group is the Captain and calls out the commands in any order. All the others have to follow the instructions; Bow – Run to the front of the room. Stern – Run to the back of the room. Port - Run to the left of the room. Starboard - Run to the right of the room. Captain's coming! - Stand completely still and salute. Hit the deck - Lie down on your stomach (if the floor is clean). Climb the rigging - Pretend to climb rigging. Person overboard – Hug the person next to you. Scrub the deck - Kneel down and pretend to scrub the floor. Cannonballs - Crouch on floor with hands over head. Dig for treasure – Mime digging a hole. Seagulls - Flap your arms like a bird.

3) Lemon and Spoon Race

Link: The mahn in the desert could taste of whatever the Jewish people wanted.

Resources needed: 2 spoons and 2 lemons

Place a lemon on a spoon and a second lemon on another spoon. Children race toward the finish line carrying a spoon.

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



“Auntie is the best cook.” squealed Mum.

“We’re in for a treat.” added Dad. “When your Mother and I got married, Auntie made a sheva berachot meal and I seriously couldn’t eat for a whole day afterwards.”

“That’s right!” added Mum. “The flavours, the textures, everything ... it’s just sensational.”

Dad closed his eyes, leaned back on the sofa and smiled. “A fortnight of gourmet dishes, I can’t wait!”

Ruby was so excited. She had never met her mum’s auntie but she’d heard about her for as long as she could remember and was excited to meet her.

Ruby and her parents were all packed up and ready for their two week holiday in India. That’s where her grandma was born. Her grandma moved to England in her twenties but all her siblings remained in India. This was going to be Ruby’s first time there, seeing where her Grandma grew up; where she lived, what she ate, where she went to school etc. The family travelled to the airport and checked that the airline had remembered their kosher meal for the plane.

Ruby had done a little bit of research and knew what she wanted to see when she got there. She also wanted to buy something really special for Auntie, to say thank you for having them. She knew that Auntie was an amazing cook but she also knew how kind and caring she was. She was sad that she’d never met her but really looking forward to spending time with her.

Whilst they were waiting at the airport, a message came over the tanoi saying that unfortunately, their flight would be delayed, due to necessary engine repairs. Although they were pleased that the engine issues had been discovered before the flight took off, they were naturally disappointed that they would have to wait even longer to see Mum’s Auntie and they called her to let her know that they would be late. “Don’t be too late,” joked Auntie “It’s ok - I will have a feast ready for you whatever time you get here!”

Four hours later they were set to leave and were buckled up on the plane. It was pretty late and after the kosher meal, Ruby quickly fell asleep. She dreamt of hugging Auntie and the food that was awaiting them. When she awoke, she kept thinking of the Jewish people many years ago, about to enter Israel and discover the land that was flowing with milk and honey ... and the seven special foods, and how similar it was to her, about to enter a new country and taste new foods. She couldn’t wait!

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

2) Have you ever gone somewhere and tried the national dish or special food from that place?

3) In which ways is Ruby’s story similar and in which ways is it different, to the Jewish people entering the land?