

## Key Parasha Information

### Summary

On the final day of his life, Moshe (Moses) sung a song to the Jewish people which was seventy lines long. Moshe called Heaven and Earth as witnesses and reminded the people to learn from previous generations and ask them to tell them about their past. In that generation the elderly would have been able to tell the young about Hashem (G-d) made them a nation and promised them the beautiful land of Israel. He warned them not to be greedy, even if they have plenty of food as this makes people forget about Hashem and leads to calamities, where Hashem is 'hiding His face'. However, in the end, Hashem will make sure that the people who are loyal to Him and His mitzvot are recognised and are known as true and correct. They will be reconnected with Hashem and brought back to the beautiful land of Israel.

At the end of the Parasha, Hashem told Moshe to climb Har (Mt) Nevo (Nebo) where he will be able to see the whole of Israel before he passes (dies) there.

### Discovery

Did you know that Moshe didn't call a human as a witness because they will eventually die? Instead he called Heaven and Earth, which are everlasting.

Did you know that in his song, Moshe referred to Hashem as a rock several times, which is also the way Hashem is referred to in Ma'oz Tzur, which we sing at Chanukah time?

Did you know that Moshe had to climb a different mountain first, to get to Har Nevo?



## Parasha Thinking



- 1) If you asked the older people in your family about their childhood and the following years, what do you think you would learn?
- 2) Do you think that even though Moshe was never allowed to enter the land, he would have been grateful for the opportunity to see it?
- 3) How does the word, land, link to the Parasha?

## Shabbat Shuva

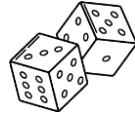
The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has a name - Shabbat Shuva. Shuva means return. Between Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur, we work hard on ourselves to improve the way we keep the mitzvot and we make sure to apologise to people who we have wronged. We also apologise to Hashem, for anything we have done wrong. This brings us closer to Hashem and enables us to 'return' to Him.

We read a special Haftara, where the Jewish nation were called by Hoshea (Hosea) to repent and were assured that those who repent and return to Hashem will be healed and restored by Him.

We are blessed to have a specific time each year to self-reflect on where we are holding both spiritually and socially, and to put right any wrongs that we are responsible for.

### Games

#### 1) Quiz



Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Split the group into two and then ask everyone to put their hand up in the air. If they know the answer, they put their hand down. First person to put their hand down, is asked to answer aloud. One point is awarded per correct answer.

#### 2) Wise or not wise...

Link: You need to gain wisdom from your previous generations.

Children's service leader announces scenarios below and children have to decide whether or not it's wise and if not, what would be better.

##### a) Matt copied Fran's homework

b) Nicole saw a £10 note on the floor under the pegs where all the schoolbags were placed, and instead of finding the owner and returning it, she put it in her pocket and spent it on lip gloss.

c) Laurence saw Pauline struggling to carry her shopping and so he asked her if he could help her carry it.

d) Mandy didn't want Leanne to be popular so she started a rumour about her.

#### 3) I Spy

Link: Moshe was allowed to look at the whole of the Land of Israel, from Mt. Nevo.

Child 1 says: I spy with my little eye, something beginning with ... (and they choose a letter). The other children have to guess what it is. The game carries on.

### Story

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

"I was secretly smart!" smiled elderly Mrs Turner, who was Maxine's great grandma. "Why was it a secret? If you're clever, why can't others know!" Asked Maxine, and she leaned in closer, to find out more. "It was different back then," sighed Mrs Turner, "boys went to school and girls were expected to learn how to run the home. So when my brothers went to school every morning, I would sweep, cook and launder the clothes with my mother! It's just how it was. But I was ever so jealous."

"Jealous of the boys going to school?" queried Maxine, who told herself that she herself would NEVER have grumbled about not going to school. In fact, she thought that would actually be great and wished she could skip school permanently. "Well, you might think that not going to school is a holiday but think about it like this! If you don't go to school, you don't learn how to read. If you don't know how to read, you don't pick up information from books and you don't know what you're buying at the supermarket. You can't book a train ticket because you don't know what stations to ask for and you certainly can't get a very good job or even sign a contract because you have no idea what it says. Oh how my brothers used to grumble about walking a mile to school every day but I never ever saw it like they did – in my view, school was the door to their future."

"I suppose so!" agreed Maxine, starting to think of it in terms of education and opportunities. "So why did you say you were **secretly** smart?" "Ah yes," smiled her great grandmother. "Let me explain. The boys used to put up such fights about doing their homework and Mother and Father used to get quite annoyed with them. During the time they spent avoiding their homework every day, I'd sneak a look in their books and taught myself first to read, then maths and science, history and even Torah studies. I used a page of old newspaper to write down my answers and work things out and boy did I make sure to rip it to shreds afterwards, so that no one would find out." "You didn't!" laughed Maxine. "I did too! For years and years, I never told anyone I could read, do arithmetic, had knowledge of the world and could even read Hebrew. When I met your grandfather, he wanted to read me a poem, but I told him that I would read it to him! His eyes grew wide and with a shocked tone, he asked me how I knew how to read and I told him I was self-taught! Your grandfather was so impressed and that same day, we became engaged. Maxine, listen to me and learn from me! Take your education seriously – you are so fortunate to be at school and learn from the most wonderful teachers. You are learning new things every day and school is the door to your very bright future."

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

2) What do you think Maxine learnt from her great grandmother?

3) Can we also learn from people who are younger than us?

