

Parasha: Ki Tavo

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 18<sup>th</sup> Elul, 5784

Gregorian date: 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2024

London Shabbat times: 18:49 – 19:48

Special events: n/a

Upcoming events in the week: n/a

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Parasha Thinking



- 1) Imagine you were a farmer in Biblical times. How would you remember which year you were up to in the seven year cycle?
- 2) Do you think it should be the Rabbi who has to stand next to the Torah when the curses are being read?
- 3) How does the word, blessing, link to the Parasha?

## Key Parasha Information

### Summary

Moshe (Moses) was speaking to the entire Jewish nation and he told that when they enter the land that Hashem (G-d) is giving you for eternity, you will work the land and bring the first fruits to the Beit HaMikdash (permanent temple), to show gratitude to Hashem.

The farmer had to keep track of a seven year cycle. During some years he had to give some crops to the poor, other years he gave a portion of crops to the Levi'im (temple workers) and other years, he was obligated to bring the crops to Jerusalem and eat them, himself. Of course, every seven years the land was allowed to rest.

Moshe also gave specific instructions on how to say the blessings and the curses on Mount Gerizim and Mount Eival. He then reminded the Jewish people that they are Hashem's chosen people, and that they, in turn, have chosen G-d. The 'chosen' people doesn't mean that they are better than other people, it means that they have a responsibility for keeping the mitzvot.

Moshe told the nation that when they cross the river Jordan, they need to cover two massive rocks with lime and write the Torah upon them.

Moshe listed all the blessings that Hashem will reward the people with, when they follow the laws of the Torah and then explained all the bad things that will come their way if they abandon the mitzvot.

Moshe told the Jewish people that they have now attained "a heart to know, eyes to see and ears to hear."

### Discovery

Did you know that until they didn't have to bring the first fruits to the Beit HaMikdash until they actually conquered the land?

Did you know that the levi'im did the spiritual work for the nation, including praying for the farmers to have a good crop and in turn, the farmers thanked them with a portion of the good crops?

Did you know that often the Rabbi is the one who is called up to say the Barechu blessing prior to the portion of the curses being read, so that no one from the community feels upset that they have to stand next to the Torah at that time?



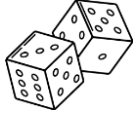


## Gratitude

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 two and then ask everyone to stand back to back with someone from the other team. Ask pair 1 a question. If they know the answer, they have to jump outwards (away from the other person). Ask the one who lands first. The team with the most points wins.

#### 2) Steal the Pomegranate

Resources: Bring a pomegranate to shul before Shabbat.

Link: A pomegranate was one of the seven species that the farmer had bring to the Beit HaMikdash

Divide your group into two and assign each player a number. Each team should have a one and a two, for example. Set a boundary line for each team and place the pomegranate in the middle. When you call out a number, that player from each team tries to capture the fruit first and get it back over to their boundary line. The first person to do this without being tagged by the other player, wins.

#### 3) Look into My Eyes

Link: Moshe told the Jewish people that they have now attained “a heart to know, eyes to see and ears to hear.”

All the children stand in a circle looking downwards and the children’s service leader calls out 3, 2, 1 and everyone looks up and stares at someone else. If two people are staring at each other, they are both eliminated from the game, until there is one winner or two people left.

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### Story

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



"How do we know that it will all be fresh, though?" Queried Jonny.

"This company is highly recommended," offered Saul. "They post a photo of their orders online every day - honestly, everything looks amazing. If someone gave that to me as a gift, I'd be so chuffed."

Gideon added excitedly. "You know, I'm just reading the fine print here on the website - they offer a money back guarantee if there is anything that's not completely up to standard. I think we should go with this company. They are a cut above the rest."

Sarit squealed. "Ooh I'm already imagining her receiving the most beautiful looking fruit basket delivery, opening the note and seeing it's from all of us and being so grateful, even though it's us that are the ones that should be truly grateful towards her. I just wish that it arrives at school and the office bring it to Mrs Kandler's class during our lesson."

Gideon finalised the order online and told his friends that he'd selected the delivery slot that was during their lesson. The whole group was thrilled and they all transferred their portion of the final amount back to him. The whole class had worked collaboratively, to word the thank you note, to show just how grateful they were to Mrs Kandler, for her exquisite teaching, her pastoral care, the personal attention she gave to marking all her students' work and the detailed information she provided on how they can improve their essays to get top grades. She would say it's just part of her job but they would all say, this is the best we've ever had and we are incredibly grateful. Now all they had to do, was wait till delivery day on Tuesday.

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

2) How do you think Mrs Kandler reacted when she received the fruit basket and the beautiful note?

3) Do you think that there is a different way they could have shown their gratitude?