

Parasha Thinking



- 1) Why do you think the people wanted to be more important than they already were?
- 2) Korach was jealous – what should he have done instead?
- 3) How does the word, grow, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Korach (Korah) was jealous that there were six people who were more important than him, even though he got to lead the beautiful singing in the mishkan, amongst other honours. He was certain that Moshe (Moses) had chosen his own brother, Aharon, (Aaron) to be the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) but in fact, it was Hashem (G-d)'s choice.

Korach gathered a group of 250 men to start a rebellion against Moshe. He convinces people to join by making them think it was for their benefit, too. The 250 people offered up ketoret (incense) to try to prove they were the true ones, worth of becoming kohanim (priests). A massive rumbling was heard and the Earth opened up and swallowed the entire group and their possessions.

Aharon restored peace in the camp and stopped a plague from occurring by offering true ketoret. As Aharon was actually worthy of offering ketoret, this was accepted. Over night, Aharon's stick miraculously grew blossoms and almonds, to prove that it was absolutely Hashem's choice, that he is the Kohen Gadol.

Hashem told the Jewish people that a percentage of the crops, wine and oil, as well as all firstborn sheep and cattle, and other gifts must be given to the kohanim.

Discovery

Did you know that even the shoelaces and tents of the rebels were swallowed by the Earth when it split?.

Did you know that Korach's children did Teshuva (repentance) and were saved before the land closed up again?

Did you know that the portion that is given to the Kohen is called the Terumah?



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!)

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 jump forwards if they know the answer.

2) Close

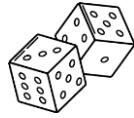
Link: The Earth closed on the rebellious group.

Children pair up and stand opposite each other. Child A opens their arms and hands like a shark. Child B puts their hand in between the open arms of Child A. At any point, Child A can snap their hands closed and Child B has to move their hand away before they get 'snapped'.

3) I Went to the Party and I Brought

Link: the Jewish people gave the kohanim gifts

The first player says, "I went to a party and I brought ... (for example) balloons" and the next player repeats what the first player says, adding another item. Each player repeats the previous list and adds to it.



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

"Don't forget to leave some money for the director!" whispered Nate's dad.

"Why would I do that?" asked Nate – he gets paid well!"

Nate's Dad looked at him and said, "Let me break it down for you! You wrote the play but he made it come to life, with props, lighting directions, acting suggestions, sound effects, instructions for cast, stage positioning etc. – the list goes on. Yes, for sure you get credit but he must get huge credit, too!"

"Ah, of course!" replied Nate. He reached into his wallet, took out two crisp £20 notes and handed them to Paul, saying, "Thanks, Mate – none of this would be possible without you!"

Paul looked at Nate and was confused. "You don't have to pay me any extra – this is my job!" I get paid by the theatre company.

"I know," replied Nathan, "but you were the one that brought it all together, from my writing to the big success it was tonight, you've made it happen and I can't thank you enough, so I know it's not much, but I'm giving you a portion of what I earned! You really, really deserve it, thank you!"

Paul was really touched. No one had ever thought of his role in that way before and he was happy that someone had recognized what he did. He still felt bad, though – how can he take Nate's money?

"Nate," said Paul, "why don't we use this money for something special? Why don't we go out to a kosher restaurant for supper to celebrate the success of the play?"

"Ok!" replied Nate, with a smile. "I like it!"

As they sat at the table, they discussed the play and all its successes that night and noted a few tweaks for next time because there's always room for improvement.

The conversation turned to the Parasha. The kohanim did the spiritual work for the people, asking Hashem for good crops. As a Thank You, the people would give a portion of the crops to the kohanim. "In a weird way, it's a bit like us," said Nate. "You and I – we're a great professional team. We work well together and we help each other out, just like the kohanim and the Jewish people!"

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

2) Have you ever helped someone and they helped you back?

3) Do you think it was right or wrong for Nate to give a little extra money to Paul, in true recognition of his hard work?

