

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Lech Lecha

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 8th Cheshvan, 5785

Gregorian date: 8th – 9th Nov, 2024

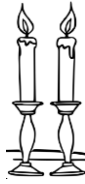
London Shabbat times: 16:07 – 17:10

Special events: n/a

Upcoming events in the week: n/a

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com

Parasha Thinking



1) Do you think that it was ok for Avram and Sarai to say that they were brother and sister, so that Avram wouldn't be killed?

2) Imagine you were Sarai. How would you feel when your maid started being rude and disrespectful to you?

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

Summary

Hashem (G-d) commanded Avram (Abram) to, "Go for yourself, from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you." This land was Cena'an (Canaan) now known as Israel. Hashem says that Avram will be the start of a great nation. Avram and his wife, Sarai, together with their nephew Lot (Lot was Avram's brother's son), travel to the land of Cena'an and when they arrived, Avram built an altar and spread the message of a one G-d because in those times, people used to believe that there were different gods for different things, such as one god for the sun, one god for food, etc.

The land of Israel was hit by a famine so without grumbling, Avram headed to Egypt with his family, for food. Unfortunately Sarai was noticed for her beauty and was taken to Paro's (Pharaoh) palace to become his wife. When asked who he was, Avram escaped death because he said that he and Sarai were brother and sister. If Paro knew he was Sarai's husband, he would be killed. Hashem brought a plague to the land of Egypt which stopped Paro from marrying Sarai and convinced him to return her to Avram. He realised that Avram was Sarai's real husband and in order to stop the plague continuing, he offered great compensation to Avram, with cattle, gold and silver.

When they returned to Cena'an, Avram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds quarreled. Avram suggested that they separate from each other, to maintain peace. Lot chose the land of S'dom (Sodom) that was well irrigated and therefore, great for his cattle but the people there were very nasty. Lot was certain that he would not be influenced by them. Lot was taken captive when the armies of Chedorlaomer and his three allies conquered the cities in the Sedom valley. Avram came to rescue Lot, defeated the kings, and was blessed by Malki Tzedek (Malki-Zedek) the king of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), known then as Salem.

Hashem made a covenant with Avram, where the exile and persecution of the Jewish people was explained, and the Holy Land, Israel, was promised to the Jewish people as their everlasting heritage.

At this point Avram and Sarai didn't have any children so Sarai told Avram to marry her maid, Hagar. Hagar became pregnant and became rude and disrespectful towards Sarai, and then fled when Sarai treated her harshly in return. An angel told her to go back, and that her son will father a great nation. Yishmael (Ishmael) was born when Avram was 86.

Hashem commanded Avram to have a Brit Milah (circumcision) at the age of 99 and He changed Avram's name to Avraham (Abraham) (meaning father of many nations), and Sarai's to Sarah (meaning princess). He promised that they will have a son who will be the continuation of the great nation of the Jewish people.

Discovery

Did you know that Avram had 10 tests in his life and the first was when he was asked to leave his land and follow Hashem's instructions?

Did you know that Lot's shepherds didn't muzzle the animals and Avram's did, until they had permission to graze from the land's owner?

Did you know that Avram mentioned the Brit Milah to his friends and one friend, Mamre, fully supported him and was rewarded?

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 Time

Divide group into two teams and ask them quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. To qualify for answering a question, they need to moo or quack. Team with most points wins.

2) Name Game

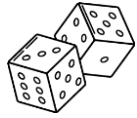
Link: Avram and Sarai got new names.

Children sit in a circle and person 1 has the letter A. They have to say; 1) a name beginning with that letter, 2) a place in the world (country, town or city) and 3) an item that you can buy. E.g. Anna, Amsterdam, Apples. Person 2 does the same with B. Bertie, Buenos Aires, Bicycles. Etc.

3) Get off My Land

Link: Avram's shepherds wouldn't allow their sheep to eat freely from the land until they had permission from the owner.

In a large, clear, safe space, the children spread out from each other and sit on a small chair or the floor. Person A (their chair is removed) chases person B (their chair is also removed) around the room. When person B is out of breath, they can run up to someone else and say, "Get off my land!". Person C stands up and starts running and person B takes their seat. If person A catches person C, they switch directions and C is the chaser.



Story

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

"Welcome to Hotel Milan," smiled the receptionist, as the Goldberg family came in, lugging their suitcases. "How can I help?" "We've been waiting at the airport for 2 hours, for the courtesy cab to bring us here! We couldn't wait anymore and got our own cab! Please can we check in? The kids are exhausted and are getting cranky." explained Dad. "I can only apologise," responded the receptionist, "please tell me your name and let me find your booking." "It's Goldberg – two adults and two children. And we ordered a fridge for the room, so we can keep some fresh milk in there for the toddler," answered Dad.

The Receptionist was taking an awfully long time and she kept frowning and tutting. She then stood up and said, "excuse me for a moment," and went into the back room to make a call. 'A call? After midnight? Who on EARTH would she need to call at this hour?' thought Dad, and he turned back to see that the rest of the family were almost asleep on the sofas in the hotel lobby.

Eventually the receptionist came out and took a deep breath. "I'm ever so sorry, Mr Goldberg. We don't seem to have your booking. I just called the hotel manager who accessed our booking system remotely and your name just isn't there. I am sorry but it seems like you haven't booked with us at all."

Mr Goldberg started to panic. He got out his phone and frantically started trying to find the booking confirmation. He only had 3% battery left and when you're stressed and in a rush, things tend to take longer but he found the booking and the string of emails between him and the hotel staff where they had been discussing the little fridge. The receptionist typed the booking number into the system and found the error straight away. Instead of Goldberg, someone had entered them as Coldberd – just two incorrect letters. "Ah, I have your room ready for you and yes, I can see that we have placed a refrigerator in there. I can only apologise for our mistake."

In the morning, when the Goldbergs (not the Coldberds) passed Reception, on their way out to the park with the kids. The manager was there and he called them over. "Are you the Goldbergs?" He asked, and a very tired Mr Goldberg nodded. The manager continued. "I understand that we made a very big mistake and I can't apologise enough. I'd like to compensate you. I am upgrading you to our presidential suite for the rest of your stay. All taxis you take on this trip will be covered by us. We'd also like to give you vouchers to go and see a show in the theatre and one more thing, we are going to make sure that your next visit here is absolutely free – flights and all." Mr and Mrs Goldberg looked at each other and blinked. They couldn't quite believe the news they'd just heard. It kinda made up for the mishaps – big time.

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

2) Why do you think that the hotel felt they needed to compensate the Goldbergs and why do you think Paro needed to compensate Avram?

3) Have you ever been given compensation? How did it make you feel?

