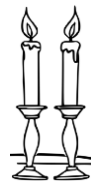


## Parasha Thinking

- 1) Imagine you were one of the Jewish people living at that time and you knew that your beloved leader, Moshe would die that day. How would you feel?
- 2) Why do you think that the King of Israel would only read the Torah to the people every seven years?
- 3) How does the word, land, link to the Parasha?



Key Parasha Information – this week we read a double parasha

### Summary

In the Torah reading for Nitzavim, we learn about the unity of the Jewish people. “You stand today, all of you, before the L-rd your G-d: your heads (leaders), your tribes, your elders, your officers, and every Jewish man; your young ones, your wives, the convert in your gate; from your wood-hewer to your water-drawer.”

Moshe (Moses) warned the Jewish people that the beautiful land of Israel will be empty if they abandon Hashem's (G-d's) laws, but then he has a prophesy that in the end, “You will return to the L-rd your G-d . . . If your outcasts shall be at the ends of the heavens, from there will the L-rd your G-d gather you . . . and bring you into the Land which your fathers have possessed.”

Moshe explains that the mitzvot are not unreachable or unmanageable – they are there in your heart and very much do-able.

We are told that we have free choice. We need to make good decisions. We should always choose life.

In the Torah reading for Vayeilech we learn about Moshe's last day of life. “I am one hundred and twenty years old today.” He transferred the leadership to Yehoshua, and finished writing down the Torah that Hashem told him, in a scroll. He gave the scroll to the Levi'im (Levites) who would keep it safe in the Aron HaBrit (Ark of the Covenant).

A very important mitzvah called Hakhel (“gather”) is taught to the Jewish people: during the Sukkot (festival of Tabernacles) the people all gather together, every seven years. Men, women and even children participate and the king of Israel will read sections of the Torah to them at the Beit HaMikdash (permanent Temple) in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem).

There is a sad prediction that the Jewish people will turn away from Hashem, causing Him to hide His face from them. We are also promised that the words of the Torah “shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their children and children's children.”

### Discovery

Did you know that when someone is celebrating their birthday, we often wish them ‘ad me-ah v'es-rim' (until 120), blessing them that they should live as long as Moshe?

Did you know that even now we have 100% free choice, Hashem, in His wisdom knows which choice we will make?

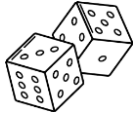
Did you know that even toddlers went to the Hakhel service, when the King of Israel read parts of the Torah to the Jewish people? This was because even if they didn't understand all the words, they would still gain spiritually from the buzz and the excitement of the special event and this would have a positive effect on them.





Games

1) Quiz



Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Split the group into two and then ask each team to sit in their own circle. When you ask questions, someone can only answer it once they have run round the other team's circle. NB no one is allowed to purposely trip someone up.

2) Would You Rather...

Link: In this game you're provided with two choices. In this parasha, we are told that we have free choice.

Child 1 presents two choices to the group, e.g. would you rather have maths for the whole day or English for the whole day? Each person in the circle says their answer. Child 2 then presents two choices, starting with, "Would you rather?" e.g. would you rather eat spaghetti Bolognese for supper for a whole month or pizza and the game continues in this way until everyone who wants to, has had a turn.

3) Keep the Diamond Safe – Memory Game

Link: Moshe gave the original Torah scroll to the Levi'im, to keep safe.

Player 1 starts off by saying, I was asked to keep the diamond safe so I ... (they have to announce what they did to protect it) ... wrapped it in velvet. The next person has to say, "I was asked to keep the diamond safe so I ... they have to include the previous child's answer and add their own e.g. wrapped it in velvet and placed it in a jewellery box. Each child has to recall the answers that came before them and add one more.

Story

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

"Me want go Kobi Bar Miva pahti" Screamed Ruby, meaning that she ALSO wanted to go to Kobi's Bar Mitzvah party. She'd seen her big brother Josh get ready into his suit and comb some gel through his hair and he was so excited, he kept chanting, "Bestie's Bar Mitzvah, Bestie's Bar Mitzvah – let's gooooo!" Mum and Dad were also invited and they both looked glamorous, in their formal attire. Ruby saw mum's sparkly jewellery and ran to her dressing up box, to put on her rings and a tiara. "Me sparkling when me go Kobi Bar Miva pahti."

Mum looked over at Ruby pitifully. Ruby wasn't invited to Kobi's Bar Mitzvah party and in any case, the babysitter had been booked and she'd be asleep real soon – it was almost her bedtime. The doorbell rang and it was Shelley, the babysitter. "Hi Ruby," she said in a kind voice, waving at Ruby. Ruby normally loved Shelley but this time she waddled away, saying, "Me no need Shelley, me sit car now, go Kobi pahti." She toddled over to the porch, picked up her car seat and handed it to dad.

It was getting late and they still hadn't left. Josh's phone started to ring and he looked at the screen – it was Kobi. "It's Kobi – he's going to ask where I am? What should I say?" he panicked. Dad advised him to say we're just settling Ruby with the babysitter and then we'll be along. "Good idea" agreed Josh and he picked up the call. "Joshio, where ARE you, man?" asked Kobi "Why are you so late?" "Um, Um," Josh started, "We're just trying to settle Ruby with the babysitter but she is insisting that she comes along to your party. She thinks you're her best friend, too."

Kobi spluttered, "Why did you guys book a babysitter? Of course she's coming – she's my besties legendary little sister. It just wouldn't be the same without her there. I didn't put her name on the invitation because it's just a given that if the three of you are coming, she'll come along too. Get her changed into whatever outfit she wants to wear and come on down." "Are you sure? Are you sure?" Josh checked again and again. "100 percent – one second, what's that, Mum? Oh good idea, I'll tell him – Joshio my man, Mum says that the babysitter should come, too in case Ruby falls asleep. NOW GET HERE ASAP!"

Josh told the family what had happened and they couldn't quite believe it. Shelley said that she'd never have expected to be invited to a simcha (celebration) that night. Mum told Ruby that she was going to change into her pretty outfit because Kobi said she could come to his party. Ruby squealed with delight and waddled over to her wardrobe – she already know what she wanted to wear.

Ruby danced and danced all night and didn't even fall asleep throughout the whole party. She listed to the Rabbi's Dvar Torah and she ate the food. The next day she slept in late but when she woke up, the party was all she could talk about. As she got older, she continued talking about Kobi's Bar Mitzvah party and she couldn't wait until the time came that she would be invited to her next Bar Mitzvah party.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Why do people say a Dvar Torah (words of Torah) at Bar and Bat Mitzvah parties?
- 3) Do you think that it was a positive experience for Ruby?