

Key Parasha Information

Summary

At the start of this Parasha we learn that the entire world was violent and corrupt, except for Noach (Noah), who was righteous. Hashem (G-d) told Noach to build a wooden teyvah (ark) and cover it with tar. Hashem explained that a massive flood would come and wipe out all life from the Earth but the ark will float upon the water and everything inside it will be safe. Hashem told him to take his family onboard, which included himself, his wife, Na'ama and their three sons; Shem, Cham and Yafet. He was also told to take two (a male and a female) of each species of non-kosher animal and 7 pairs of the kosher species.

Rain poured for forty days and nights, and the waters remained covering the Earth for 150 more days before slowly starting to calm and then evaporate. The teyvah settled on Mt. Ararat, and Noach sent a raven out, and then a series of doves, to see if there was dry land. It took an entire year for the ground to dry up and when the land was ready, Hashem told Noach to leave the teyvah and have more children, to start to fill up the Earth once more.

Noach offered sacrifices to Hashem and Hashem promised to never again to destroy all of mankind in one go, through a flood. The sign of His promise was a rainbow. Hashem also commanded Noach that life is holy: murder is deemed a very bad crime and we are allowed to eat meat but not harm the animals when we get the meat. *

The descendants of Noach remained a united people, with one language and culture, for ten generations. Then they went against Hashem by building a great tower to take over from Him. Hashem changed all their languages so that they were unable to continue - they couldn't understand each other. This made them to abandon their building and they spread out across the Earth.

There were ten generations from Noach to Avram (Abram)/ Avraham (Abraham) and we are told that Avram travelled from Ur Casdim to Charan, on his way to Israel, known then as Cena'an (Canaan).

*there are some parts of the parasha that have been omitted as they are not suitable for a primary school curriculum.

Discovery

Did you know that it took Noach 120 years to build the teyvah, to give the people a chance to repent?

Did you know that on one trip, the dove found that land had started growing trees and bushes but was not ready yet. She picked an olive branch and brought it to Noach to show him that things are headed in the right direction?

Did you know that because the entire boat, including the door was sealed with tar, Hashem commanded the animals to ram the door down at the end, when it was time to leave.



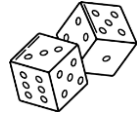
Parasha Thinking



- 1) Noach had a window at the top of the boat but he could only see upwards. Do you think he had time to watch the rain?
- 2) Imagine you were Noach. Would you be scared of feeding all the animals?
- 3) How does the word, ten, link to the Parasha?

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. Each time a team gets a question right, they earn a thumbs up for their team, which they have to hold until there's a winner announcement.

2) Words that Mean Words

Link: The people who made the tower couldn't speak to each other.

Can you act out the people building the tower? One asks for a hammer and the other one pours a bucket of water over him. Another one calls for nails to be brought up to where he is working and he is presented with a bowl of dog food. The children can make up more scenarios. They can't throw food or liquids – they have to keep the room safe.

3) I Saw Your Teeth

Standing in a circle, all the children hide their teeth by extending their lips. The Children's service leader gives them a topic, such as ANIMALS. All the children have to say the name of an animal but they may not show their teeth whilst doing so. If they smile or show their teeth a different way, they are out and everyone else says to them, (whilst still covering their own teeth), "I SAW YOUR TEETH, I SAW YOUR TEETH!"

Story

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

"Did you hear, did you hear???" squealed Peter. "For sports day, there's going to be an animal race at the end. Everyone who wants to participate needs to dress up in their favourite animal costume and then they can't run normally, they have to move like that animal does."

"No waaaaaay!" said Ezzie, completely shocked, yet excited to hear this great idea.

"I think I'm gonna be a fish!" exclaimed Meira. "I'll glide through the water, to first place! Easy!"

"How will you do that, there's no water! You can wriggle on the ground if you want!"

"No water?" cried Meira, "then how will I swim my animal race?"

"You won't," soothed Peter, "you'll have to choose an animal that can easily move on dry land. Like me, I am going to be ... a spider, a big, hairy one!"

"Ewwwwwww!" screamed everyone else.

"Yup!" continued Peter. "I will run on my fingers and toes, to look like I have 8 legs. I'm gonna practice – watch!"

The group of friends roared with laughter, as Peter pretended to be a spider and he even toppled backwards once, then forwards.

Ezzie wouldn't say his idea out loud but he told everyone that his animal was BOUND to win.

At sports day, just before the race began, all the animals (friends) looked at each other and said, "May the best beast win!"

Ezzie was 'happy as Larry' when he won and then he went back, to help everyone else.

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

2) What animal would you choose and why?

3) What do you think Ezzie's animal was?

