

Parasha: Re'eh

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 27th Av, 5784

Gregorian date: 30th – 31st Aug, 2024

London Shabbat times: 19:37 – 20:38

Special events: blessing new month – Elul

Upcoming events in the week: Rosh Chodesh (Mon night), Tuesday and Wednesday

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Parasha Thinking



- 1) Imagine you were giving money to the poor. How would you do it in a way that doesn't embarrass them?
- 2) Why do you think that Pesach, Shavuot and Succot are known as the Three Foot Festivals?
- 3) How does the word, farm, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Moshe (Moses) says to the Jewish people, "See, I place before you today a blessing and a curse." When they will keep all the mitzvot (Torah commandments), they will be blessed but they'll be cursed if they turn away from them.

Moshe told the people that when they actually enter the land of Israel, Hashem (G-d) wants them to build a Temple in "the place that Hashem will choose to dwell His name there." This is there place where the Jewish people should bring sacrifices and they may not do so in any other place in Israel.

The Jewish people are warned about false prophets and told the punishment for someone who pretends to be a prophet. If a city turns to idol worship, it must be destroyed.

Moshe repeated the identifying signs of kosher animals; the animals have fully split hooves and chew the cud, and fish have fins and scales. He also repeated the names of birds that are non-kosher.

One tenth of everything that will grow in their fields has to be eaten in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) but during some years, the food is given to the poor. Firstborn cows and sheep are to be sacrificed in the Temple and the Kohanim (priests) have permission to eat their meat.

We have a mitzvah of tzedaka (charity) to support the poor. All loans are to be wiped on the Shemitta (seventh) year and any bound servants should be set free after six years of labour.

Lastly we hear the laws of the Shalosh Regalim (three foot festivals, where people walked to the Temple in Yerushalayim); Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost) and Sukkot (Tabernacles) —when all the Jewish people should go to "see and be seen" before Hashem in the Holy Temple.

Discovery

Did you know that parts of the Jewish temple in Yerushalayim still remain today?

Did you know that they could sell the 10% of their produce for money and use that money to buy food to eat in Yerushalayim?

Did you know that kosher birds are not actually listed, only the non-kosher ones. The names of the kosher birds that we eat have been passed down from generation to generation?



Games

1) Quiz

Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Split the group into team A and team B. As you ask the questions, they purposely have to say the wrong answer.

2) Owl Ears

Link: The Jewish people were reminded which birds they may not eat.

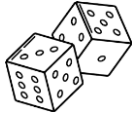
Children cup their hands (as if scooping up water) then put the "cups" behind their ears and listen. Cupped ears collect sounds. This is how owls hear. Listen to someone making a noise at the front of the group. Can the group hear a difference between using their "owl ears" and listening normally?

3) Join When You Know

Link: Everyone joins together in Yerushalayim, during the Shalosh Regalim.

Two players are chosen from the group. Those two select a word for the others to guess.

The two players talk to each other about the word (without mentioning it) loud enough so that everyone can hear. When a player thinks he knows the word, they enter into the conversation by making a statement that shows that they know what the word is. If they are wrong, they must leave the conversation. Play continues until everyone is in the conversation.



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



"Uncle Clive is going to collect you at 9am," so you be ready, said Mum.

"Do I have to go on a trip with him? I like him and he's funny and he gives me treats but I just know that this trip is going to be really boring!" moaned Jamie. "You don't know that!" countered Mum. "I do! It's shopping!!! No one likes shopping!" wailed Jamie. "I do!" said Mum. "I do!" said Ellie, his sister. "I do!" said Shirelle, his other sister. "Yeah, I also do!" said Adam, his brother. "Well you should all go instead of me then!" snapped Jamie.

At 9am on the dot, the doorbell rang and it was uncle Clive. Jamie waved goodbye to his family but wished that Uncle Clive had run out of petrol so he wouldn't have to go. Uncle Clive started the engine with no trouble and drove all the way to the supermarket, whilst telling jokes to Jamie. Jamie had to admit that the jokes were getting better and better.

When they parked, uncle Clive turned to Jamie and said, "We're here for a very special reason. We're not shopping for ourselves, we're actually going to buy some things for local needy families." Jamie looked at his uncle. "Like charity!" Jamie said, "but with food, not with money!" "Exactly," answered Uncle Clive, "but also household goods, such as shampoo, a mop or a broom and even laundry detergent."

"Toothpaste?" asked Jamie. "Great idea!" commented Clive. "Nappies, sun cream and Fairy Liquid?" Jamie enquired. "Yes, now you're really thinking about the things that they might need," said Clive, smiling at Jamie.

Jamie bumped into his friend from school at the supermarket and proudly announced that he was buying food and household items for the poor, with his uncle Clive. His friend was impressed but uncle Clive whispered to Jamie that he should be a little bit careful about the way he talks because if someone who is actually poor hears him, they may feel ashamed. Jamie totally understood and didn't want anyone to feel embarrassed.

They collected two trolleys full of items and paid at the till. When the cashier asked what they needed all that stuff for, Jamie didn't rush to mention that it was for charity. They packaged all the goods up nicely into three boxes and drove to the first house. They placed the box on the doorstep, rang the bell, hurried back to the car and drove off before they even saw who opened the door. They did the same at the next two addresses that uncle Clive had saved on his SatNav.

When Uncle Clive brought him home, Jamie turned to him and said, "I have learnt so much from going on this trip with you. I wish that you would take me again in the future." Uncle Clive smiled and nodded - "It would be my pleasure."

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

2) Have you ever raised money or collected an item for charity?

3) Do you think that when buying food for the poor, only budget items should be purchased or should some more expensive items and treats be included?