

Summary

Day 1:

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Festival: Rosh HaShannah Day 1

Festival Info

Hebrew date: 1st Tishrei, 5785

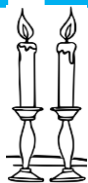
Gregorian date: 2nd - 3rd (Day 1) Oct, 2024

London Chag times: 18:22 – 19:21 (Day 1)

Special events: Shofar. White curtains and covers in shul. Tashlich.

Upcoming events in the week: Rosh Hashannah Day 2. Tzom Gedalya (Sunday).

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com



Hashem (G-d) remembered Sarah, and she became pregnant. She gave birth at the exact time that Hashem had promised. Sarah and Avraham (Abraham) now had a son and Avraham named him Yitzchak (Isaac), meaning “will laugh”. Avraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety. Yitzchak (Isaac) had a brit milah (circumcision) when he was eight days old. When Yitzchak was weaned, Avraham made a great feast.

Hagar (Avraham's second wife) and their son Yishmael (Ishmael) who was older than Yitzchak, were both banished from Avraham's home because Yishmael mocked Yitzchak. They wandered in the desert. Hashem heard the cry of Yishmael dying and saved his life by showing Hagar a well.

The Pelishti (Philistine) king Avimelech (Abimelech) made a treaty with Avraham in Be'er Sheva.

Discovery

Did you know that according to the commentaries, Hashem made Yitzchak look like Avraham, so that it was clear that Avraham was his father?

Did you know that a brit milah is also given nowadays at eight days old unless the baby is unwell, in which case, it's delayed until the baby is healthy?

Did you know that it was Sarah that took a stand against Yishmael's behaviour?

Parasha Thinking



1) How do you think Avraham and Sarah felt, when they had a child after so many years?

2) Why might Yishmael's mum, Hagar, not have stopped his bad behaviour towards Yitzchak?

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

Rosh HaShannah Information

Rosh HaShannah means “Head of the Year” and lasts for two days. It is the anniversary of the day when Hashem created Adam and Chava (Eve).

On Rosh HaShannah Hashem decides what blessings will come our way throughout the coming year.

A very important mitzvah is the blowing of the shofar (the ram's horn). We do this to Coronate Hashem as King and to do teshuva (repentance) We also remember the story of the Binding of Yitzchak in which a ram took his place as an offering to G-d. We hope that Avraham's good deed will put us in good stead. We listen to one hundred shofar blasts on Rosh HaShannah.

On Rosh Hashanah we have some customs; 1) We eat a piece of apple dipped in honey, symbolising a sweet new year 2) we eat foods that have special significance, such as, a pomegranate has lots of seeds and we want to fill our year with lots of mitzvot. 3) we wish each other a happy new year. 4) Tashlich, a special prayer said near the sea, a river, a pond, etc.), where we think about any wrong things we have done during the year and we symbolically throw away the desire to do them again.

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) The Ha Ha Game

Link: Yitzchak means “will laugh.”

Children sit in circle and everyone must close their eyes. Child one says, “Ha” really loudly. Child 2 says, “Ha, ha”. Child 3 says, “Ha, ha, ha.” Go round and round the circle and each time, add one ha. If anyone laughs, they are out.

2) I did my Rosh HaShannah shopping and I Bought

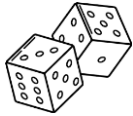
The first person in the circle says, “I did my Rosh HaShannah shopping and I bought (they choose a Rosh HaShannah item e.g. a round Challah).” The next person repeats I did my Shabbat shopping and I bought a round Challah and (they choose something else, e.g. a jar of honey).” Person three says, I did my Shabbat shopping and I bought a round Challah, a jar of honey and a shofar etc.

3) Number 8 in the Middle

Link: Yitzchak had a brit milah at 8 days old

Children sit in a circle and are all given a number. The person who is number 8 must stand in the middle and their chair is removed. The children’s service leader asks everyone to switch places, so they’re now all mixed up.

The child in the middle calls out two numbers, e.g. 1 and 5 and the two children with those numbers must switch seats. If, however, the child in the middle gets to one of those seats first, they take on the number of the person who was supposed to sit there and that child is now in the middle.



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

It was two days before Rosh HaShannah and the phone rang at Mollie’s house. She already knew it would be her elderly neighbour, Mrs Harris, because she had phoned at that exact time for the last two days. Mollie’s mum answered and in a very friendly tone, spoke to her. “Hello Mrs Harris, how are you today?” she paused for Mrs Harris to answer. “What are you having for your supper tonight? Are you all set?” Mollie wondered what Mrs Harris was answering. “How can I help?” asked Mollie’s mum? “Oh, oh let me think. Umm, no. No! Ummmm. I actually can’t think of anyone. Oh no, I’m so sorry. Let me think about it for a bit and I’ll ring you back.” Mollie shouldn’t really have been listening but she couldn’t help it, she was so curious – what on Earth was Mrs Harris asking her mum?

Once Mollie’s mum had put down the phone, Mollie stuck her head round the door and asked what she’d wanted? Mollie’s mum told her that Mrs Harris said she’s too elderly now and can’t walk to shul but she knows how important it is to hear the shofar and wants to know if we know anyone who could blow it for her at home on Rosh HaShannah? Both Mollie and her mum couldn’t think of anyone at all. They didn’t know the person who blows shofar in their shul – it was a guest who came and stayed with the Rabbi. They really wanted to help Mrs Harris but they were completely lost.

Later that evening, Mollie’s mum called back. “I’m so sorry. Mollie and I have been thinking and thinking and we couldn’t come up with anyone at all. I’m going to post a message on the shul’s email group – maybe someone will be able to help or suggest someone. I’ll let you know. Ok, goodnight Mrs Harris.”

The next night when the phone rang, Mollie asked if she could answer? Mum agreed and Mollie had a lovely chat with her elderly neighbour. Mollie even sang a Rosh HaShannah song for Mrs Harris over the phone, which brought her so much happiness. She told Mollie that she had tears of joy in her eyes. When Mollie passed the phone to her Mum, she was imagining the compliments that Mrs Harris was giving her. She also heard Mum say that no one on the Shul group had responded – sadly, there was no one who could come and blow the shofar. Understandably Mrs Harris was gutted and so were Mollie and her Mum.

At Shul the next day, the first day of Rosh HaShannah, Mollie and her mum stood up in shul to hear the brachot (blessings) for the Shofar and they were silent when they heard the blasts. After shul finished they tried to speak to the guest who had blown the shofar but he’d headed off already – they’d missed him.

On their way home, they hummed some of the tunes together and were actually sad that they had been unable to help Mrs Harris. They saw someone in the distance walking the opposite way to them but they didn’t recognise him. When they were almost going to pass each other, the gentleman stopped and asked them if they’d heard the shofar or if they needed him to blow the shofar for them, right there on the pavement? They both looked at each other and smiled. “Do you have a few minutes spare? Our neighbour so wants to hear the shofar but she’s elderly and we haven’t been able to find anyone who can help her fulfil this mitzvah. Do you think you could come down this road to her front garden, to blow the shofar for her?”

- 1) What would be the ideal ending to this story?
- 2) If you were an expert shofar blower, would you be the type to go to hospitals etc to blow the shofar for people who can’t get to shul?
- 3) Mollie and her mum really did put in a lot of effort in order to arrange for a ba’al tokeya (shofar blower) before Rosh HaShannah began but were unsuccessful. Can you think of any other ways they could have tried to find someone?

