

Summary

Shavuot falls 50 days after Pesach (Passover). Hashem (G-d) had saved the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt and Moshe (Moses) led them through the desert. On the 1st Sivan, the people set up camp at the base of Har (Mt) Sinai. The Jewish people were united like one person with one heart. The next morning Moshe climbed Har Sinai. He spoke to Hashem who said the Jewish people would become special by doing the mitzvot (Commandments) and that he would love and care for them, forever. The people had such strong feelings that they all said, naaseh venishma, (we will do and we will listen) to all of the Torah.

Finally, on the 6th Sivan, there was thunder, lightning, smoke and clouds at Har Sinai, and the sound of the Shofar could be heard getting louder and louder. Moshe had built a fence around Har Sinai to stop people going up so all the people stood around the mountain. Every Jewish person that existed at that time and the soul of every Jewish person that would ever exist, was there. They then heard Hashem's voice saying the first two of the 10 Commandments: "I am the L-rd your G-d" and "you shall have no gods besides for Me." The voice was strong at the people were not used to it so they asked Moshe to speak on behalf of Hashem. Through Moshe, G-d told us the rest of the 10 commandments.

The 10 Commandments are;

- I am the L-rd your G-d, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
- You shall have no other gods besides Me.
- You shall not take the name of the L-rd your G-d in vain.
- Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.
- Honor your father and mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not love someone else's husband or wife.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not lie.
- You shall not be jealous.

Discovery

Did you know that we eat dairy food on Shavuot because on the original Shavuot, the Jewish people had not yet received the laws on kosher meat?

Did you know that the Torah was given to us 3,336 years ago?

Did you know that Aharon went half way up the mountain?

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Festival: Shavuot Day 1

Festival Info

Hebrew date: 6th Sivan, 5784

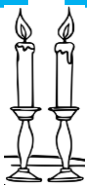
Gregorian date: 11th – 12th June, 2024

London Chag times: 21:03 – 22:23

Special events: Tikkun Leil / Daytime learning. Special Dairy Kiddush. Flowers in Shul. Reading of the giving of the Torah and 10 Commandments. Reading of the story of Ruth.

Upcoming events in the week: Shavuot Day 2

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com



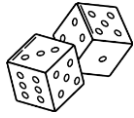
Parasha Thinking



- 1) What do you think the Jewish people did to get themselves ready for hearing the 10 Commandments?
- 2) Why do you think we should not steal?
- 3) How does the word, green, link to the Parasha?

Games

1) Electric Fence



Link: Moshe built a fence around Har Sinai.

Children's service leader will create an "electric fence" that teams must cross over without touching. To create the fence, tie a rope or shoe string to two chairs or other objects. The rope should be elevated to around knee height.

2) I did my Shabbat Shopping and I Bought

Link: Commandment 4 number keep Shabbat holy.

The first person in the circle says, "I did my Shabbat shopping and I bought (they choose a Shabbat item e.g. a Challah)." The next person repeats I did my Shabbat shopping and I bought a Challah and (they choose something else, e.g. candles)." Person three says, I did my Shabbat shopping and I bought Challah, candles and the Jewish Chronicle etc.

3) How many?

Link: The soul of every Jewish person that will ever exist was at Har Sinal.

One child chooses a number between 1 and 100 and says I'm thinking of an amount of bottles of grape juice and the rest of the team has to guess how many. Next person says, "an amount of challah rolls!" etc.

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



"I really don't think he is, actually!" piped up Miriam.

"Course he is! Everyone knows he's a hero!" Alfie protested, "he steals from the rich to feed the poor. He's not just a hero, he's a superhero in my mind, making sure that all those needy people got fed."

Miriam spoke again, "but that's exactly it, he STOLE. Since when is stealing ok? Is theft something that we promote? It's the 10 Commandments – do not steal. Should everybody just forget their morals and just focus on doing something that seems good in the end? I'm sorry, he's stealing and stealing is just not right."

Alfie was stumped. He actually agreed with Miriam's point butttt this was Robin Hood they were talking about. Of course he's the hero.

"Ah well!" Chimed in Paul who had been listening all along, "can't change the story now so let's move on, shall we?"

But Alfie wanted to keep the conversation going. "What do you think Robin Hood could have done better, though? It's all very well saying that he shouldn't steal but those people had no money and he kept them alive through what he did as they were able to buy food and blankets. Is there a moral route?"

"I think there is!" Answered Miriam, with a smile. "Hear me out. What if Robin Hood put a few things in place. Firstly, he could set up some charity organisations to teach the rich the importance of helping others. This could be for them to give some money but also clothes donations or second hand furniture."

Everyone nodded.

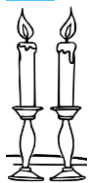
Miriam continued. "Also, he could teach the poor a trade, making sure they can earn some of their own money. In that way, they wouldn't be solely relying on him for handouts. Also, he could teach them to fish, or to hunt and that way they can catch their own food. It's hard work but it means that they and their family get to eat."

She'd managed to convince everyone but she knew she had been right all along.

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

2) Have you ever seen something happening that just didn't feel completely right?

3) Why do you think that Alfie was so convinced that he was a hero at the start but then changed his mind?



Parasha Thinking



- 1) Why do you think the minimum age was 30 and the maximum age was 50, for carrying the parts of the Mishkan?
- 2) If the nazir couldn't drink wine or have anything made from grapes, how do you think they would make Kiddush on Shabbat?
- 3) How does the word, camp, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information



Summary

The families of Gershon, Kehat and Merari were counted and this was carried out in an unusual way. Each person from age thirty until age fifty brought along a half shekel coin and the coins were taken in and counted. However many coins there were, that was the number of people. These people would carry the parts of the mishkan (traveling temple) as the Jewish people moved through the desert, to the land of Israel, so Moshe needed to know exactly how many helpers there were.

Anyone who had tsara'at (a skin condition brought on by speaking about someone behind their back) was not allowed to stay in the Jewish camp. They had to live outside it until they were ready to return.

Hashem (G-d) told Moshe (Moses) the laws for a Nazir - someone who promises not to have wine and lets their hair grow. They are not allowed to go near a dead body.

Aharon (Aaron) was taught how to bless the Jewish people and this would be passed on to his children and their children and be passed on to all his future generations etc.

The leaders of the tribes brought sacrifices to the Mishkan because the mizbeach (altar) was ready to use.

Discovery

Did you know that Aharon and his sons would be the ones who would give the family of Gershon instructions on where, when and how to carry the items.

Did you know that the Nazir wasn't allowed to eat anything made from grapes or any part of a fresh grape.

Did you know that all the leaders of the tribes brought the same sacrifice and out of respect, Hashem included each one in the Torah and described each one individually, rather than saying 'they all brought the following'?