

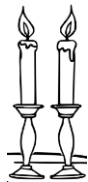
Hebrew date: 23rd Tishrei, 5785

Gregorian date: 24th – 25th October, 2024

London Chag times: 18:37 – 17:32 – leading into Shabbat

Special events: Simchat Torah

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Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Moshe decided which role each Tribe would have?
- 2) Do you think that Shabbat is more Holy than festivals or that festivals are more Holy than Shabbat?
- 3) How does the word, new, link to Simchat Torah?

Torah Reading for Simchat Torah



Summary

On Simchat Torah we finish reading the final portion of the Torah and begin straight away with the first Parasha. In V'zot HaBerachah (the final Torah portion), Moshe (Moses) blessed the twelve tribes of Israel before he passed (died). He used similar words to Ya'akov (Jacob) when he blessed his sons, the leaders of the tribes before he passed five generations earlier. Moshe gives power to each shevet (tribe) and gives them each a role amongst the Jewish nation.

Moshe then climbed Har (Mt) Nevo (Nebo) once more. He had been there before, when he was given permission to view the land of Israel. Moshe the servant of Hashem (G-d) died in Moav (Moab) and no human knows his burial place, even today. The final words of the Torah are There was never a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom Hashem knew face to face, and the incredible things that Moshe did was witnessed by the Children of Israel.

We then start Bereshit (Genesis) which describes Hashem's creation of the world in six days. He stopped on the seventh and rested – that's why we have Shabbat. He made Shabbat holy and blessed it as a day of rest.

Discovery

Did you know that some people claim to know where Moshe is buried but we are not supposed to actually go and find the site?

Did you know that one tribe was split into two? The Tribe of Yosef (Joseph) was divided into Menashe (Manasseh) and Efrayim (Ephraim). These two were the sons of Yosef and deemed worthy of leading their half of the tribe.

Did you know that the words of Kiddush for Friday night tell us that Hashem stopped work and rested on the seventh day, making it Holy.

Did you know that Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret are on the same days in Israel but in the diaspora, we split them into two separate days?

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) Quizaroonny



Divide the group into two and ask questions on the summary on page 1. In order to answer a question, anyone from the team can shout out, "QUIZAROONY!" The first person to shout it and get it right, wins a point.

2) Guess the Number

Link: on day Seven, Hashem stopped and rested, making that day – the Shabbat, Holy.

One person chooses a number between 1 and 100 and the rest of the group have to guess what the number is. The person who chose the number responds "higher" or "lower" to help guide the team to the correct answer. The person that guesses correctly picks the next number.

3) What do you like about Shabbat?

Link: The Seventh Day, Shabbat, is holy

Children sit in a circle and sing or chant, "What do you like about Shabbat? What do you y'like about Shabbat?"

Child 1: "I like ... (fill in their own answer e.g. the candles). That's what I like about Shabbat!"

Everyone "What do you like about Shabbat? What do y'like about Shabbat?"

Child 2: "I like ... (fill in their own answer e.g. the challah then the previous child's answer) and I like the candles. That's what I like about Shabbat!"

Each subsequent participant adds their own answer then from memory, repeats the previous answers.

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



"I'm a bit nervous!" admitted Rina, "I'm thinking of chickening out! I don't know if I can do this!"

"Nooooo, Rina, I need you!" gasped her sister Tamar.

Rina sat down. "I think you can manage without me, I really do. I just don't think I can do this."

Tamar put her arm round Rina. "Please come. The meal will be delicious. The people will be nice and I will not leave you alone for one second. We'll walk in together, we'll sit together, we'll eat together and we'll leave together. I won't let you down! I really want to spend a Shabbat dinner with this family and I need you there for support."

"But I haven't been to a Shabbat dinner for years. We learnt the songs and the prayers in Primary School and that's 13 years ago. I'm going to feel so foolish, not joining in," reasoned Rina.

There and then Tamar started singing, "Shalom Aleichem Malachei HaSharet, Malachei Elyon, Mi Melech Malchei HaMelachim, HaKadosh Baruch Hu!" whilst smiling at Rina.

The memories came flooding back and Rina remembered it perfectly. She smiled and joined in. At the end, she turned to her sister and said, "thanks for that, sis – you've made me feel more comfortable! You know, that was one of my favourite tunes? What other Shabbat songs do you know?"

Tamar started saying the candles beracha, followed by Eshet Chayil, the children's blessing, Kiddush and HaMotzi. Rina remembered every single bit, word for word and was now so excited to join in at the Shabbat meal.

When they got there, the front door was a little open and they came inside and wished everyone there, Shabbat shalom. The family welcomed them and made them feel really comfortable. As soon as the songs began, Rina and Tamar smiled at each other and joined in joyously.

Tamar was right. The meal was delicious. The family was extra friendly and kind, the other guests were great and she stuck to her word – she didn't leave Rina's side. As they walked home that night Rina turned to Tamar and said, "Thank you! That was the most special Shabbat I ever had. When can we do this again?"

1) How does this story connect to the Torah reading for Simchatr Torah?

2) Rina asked Tamar when they can do this again? When **can** Tamar and Rina celebrate Shabbat again? Will Shabbat be exactly the same every time?

3) Have you ever helped anyone to do a mitzvah connected to Shabbat?