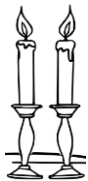


## Parasha Thinking

- 1) Imagine that you were one of the worthy people who was asked to carry part of the mishkan whilst the Jewish people were traveling. What steps would you take to protect the item?
- 2) In your opinion, how do you think the Kohen Gadol would have felt, had he seen the cherubim facing away from each other?
- 3) How does the word, instructions, link to the Parasha?



## Key Parasha Information

### Summary

The Jewish people were asked to donate materials for the Mishkan (travelling Temple); gold, silver, copper, blue wool, purple wool, red wool, flax, goat hair, animal skins, wood, olive oil, spices and precious gems. Hashem (G-d) said to Moshe (Moses), “They shall make for Me a Sanctuary, and I shall live amongst them.”

Whilst Moshe was up Har (Mt) Sinai, he was given specific instructions from Hashem about how the Mishkan should be built. It had to be able to be dismantled easily, as the Jewish people were traveling through the desert. When they camped, the Mishkan was built and when they moved, they carefully packed it up and worthy people were chosen to carry the parts.

The two luchot (tablets of stone) upon which were engraved the Ten Commandments, were kept inside the golden Aron HaKodesh (ark) inside the Mishkan's Kodesh HaKodashim (inner chamber). The entrance of the Kodesh HaKodashim was covered by a beautiful woven curtain. On the lid of the Aron HaKodesh stood two winged cherubim (cherubs) hammered out of pure gold. In the Chatzer (outer chamber) stood the menorah, and the shulchan (table) upon which the “showbread” was placed.

The Mishkan's walls were fitted together from forty eight wooden boards that were covered with gold and held up by a pair of silver sockets. The roof had three layers; tapestries of multicolored wool and linen, goat hair and ram and tachash skins. Covering the entire entrance side of the Mishkan was an embroidered screen that had posts to support it.

### Discovery

Did you know that the Aron HaKodesh could not be touched so there were holes on either side, to insert poles, which could be lifted when they traveled?

Did you know that when the Jewish people were at peace with one another, the cherubim faced each other and when the Jewish people were fighting, they faced away from each other?

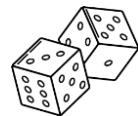
Did you know that the Jewish people were never allowed to build the Mishkan on Shabbat?



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) Win a chair



All the children to stand up and are divided into two groups. Ask them all quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. If they get the parasha question right, they get a chair for their team. Whichever team wins the most chairs will have the highest pile and they win. (Put the chair piles to the side for the next game)

## 2) If you're wearing blue ...

Link: the Jewish people were asked to donate blue wool, purple wool and red wool to the Mishkan.

Children's service leader asks all children to line up at one wall. For every question that is true to each child, they can take a step forward, e.g. if you're wearing blue, if you have a wobbly tooth, if you're the youngest in your family, if you like spicy food, if you don't have an electric toothbrush, if you like school, if you want to run the children's service when you're older, if you have your birthday during February, if you like broccoli etc. Play a maximum of three rounds. Set guidance on how large the step can be.

## 3) Telephone Game

Link: Hashem told Moshe the instructions for building the Mishkan and Moshe passed them onto the Jewish people.

One person thinks of a word or phrase and whispers it into the next player's ear only once, with no repeats allowed. The listener tries to correctly repeat that same word or phrase into the next player's ear. The last person in the line or at the end of the circle repeats the phrase or word aloud. Then, the player who started announces the correct word or phrase.

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



♪“Happy biiiiiiiiiiiiirthday to Katie, happy biiiiiiiiirthdaaaaaaaay tooooo youuuuuuuuu!” ♪ sang Katy's family. Some might say it was a little un-tuneful but Katie didn't mind – she loved it when everyone came round; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins (and even aunt Becky's dog, Rex).

Grandma smiled at Katie warmly and brought her in for a hug. Grandma said, “Now that you are ten, I want to give you something very special. I was given this by my grandmother when I turned 10 and she was given this by her grandmother when she turned 10. You might have guessed it, this goes back to your great, great, great, great, great grandmother who was first given it on her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and it has been in our family all this time, being passed down from grandmother to the eldest granddaughter on their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am entrusting you with this and my wish is that you will follow in the family tradition of passing it on, in the future.”

Katie gasped, thinking ‘what an honour. I am so lucky. Can I actually be trusted to keep this item safe from damage? Do I even deserve something so precious?’ She had no time to keep doubting herself because her grandma handed her a box that was beautifully covered with giftwrap.

Katie removed the wrapping paper, to discover a cardboard box. She opened the box carefully, to find some corrugated cardboard sheets, which is an eco-friendly alternative to bubble-wrap. She slowly unwrapped it and saw a white gift box, with a lid that was slightly larger and when she lifted it off, what did she see? A velvet jewellery box, with very old looking hinges. She slowly and delicately opened the velvet box so as not to break it and inside, there was a small, navy suede pouch, with a little string at the top. She eased the pouch open and pulled out the most beautiful gold necklace, with a flower design. She had often admired it round Grandma's neck and now it would be hers. She felt so lucky and when she put the necklace on, she knew that she had a very special connection, with all the people in the past, who had also treasured that very same necklace.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever wrapped something really well to protect it?
- 3) In your opinion, should Katie's grandma have given her the necklace in front of the whole family or in private? Can you make a case for both sides?