

Parasha Thinking



- 1) Imagine that you were alive in those times, how would you feel, knowing that you had donated pure olive oil for the menorah?
- 2) In your opinion do you think that the Jewish people should always behave and not slouch etc or are they lucky to get the warning as they hear the Kohen Gadol walking around, so they can stand up etc?
- 3) How does the word, detail, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Hashem (G-d) told Moshe (Moses) to ask the Jewish people for pure olive oil for the “everlasting flame” of the menorah, which Aharon (Aaron) was going to light every evening.

The bigdei kehuna (priestly clothing) were going to be worn by the kohanim (priests) while serving in the Mishkan (traveling Temple). Every Kohen (priest) will wear: a kuttonet—a full-length linen tunic, michnasayim—long linen shorts, migba’at—a linen hat and an avnet—a very long sash which will be wound round and round like a belt.

The Kohen Gadol (high priest) will wear an additional four pieces of clothing: the efod—an apron of blue, purple and red wool, linen and gold thread, the choshen—a breastplate containing twelve precious gems etched with the names of the twelve tribes, the me’il—a blue woolen cloak, with golden bells and decorative pomegranates on its hem which jangled when he walked and finally, the tzitz—a golden plate worn on his forehead, with the words inscribed, “Holy to Hashem.”

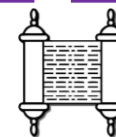
We are told Hashem’s instructions for Aharon and his four sons—Nadav, Avihu, Elazar and Itamar’s induction into the priesthood, and for the making of the golden altar, on which the ketoret (incense) will be burned. The scent of the ketoret was liked by everyone.

Discovery

Did you know that pure olive oil can only be made from the first drop that comes from pressing each olive?

Did you know that the reason why the Kohen Gadol’s cloak made a noise was to respect the Jewish people, so they would know he was coming and they’d always be at their best when he got near?

The ketoret was a scent that was adored by everyone? Did you know that the family that made the ketoret promised themselves to never wear perfume, so that no one could accuse them of using the ketoret recipe for their own benefit.





Gratitude 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!

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



Braydon sniffed, closed his eyes and took in the delicious scent of the chocolate chip cookies. “Mmmmm,” he said, with his eyes still closed “I could certainly get used to this!” His cousin Mark had given him the recipe that morning and he didn’t waste any time in buying the ingredients and getting to work. In fact, he’d bought enough stock to make cookies all month!

A few minutes later, when Braydon’s mum came in from work, she noticed the delightful scent straight away and asked Brayden what he’d made. He presented her with a cup of tea and a warm, fresh cookie. She thanked him, sat down on the couch and enjoyed her food and drink in peace, whilst Braydon cleaned up and went upstairs.

Ding-dong, went to doorbell. “Who is it?” called out Mum! “DELIVERY!” called out the person behind the front door. “Ah yes, muttered mum, I ordered a new bookshelf for Grandma’s birthday!” She opened the door and as the delivery driver was carrying in the box, he stopped in his tracks, looked at Braydon’s mum said, “Wow, your house smells amazing, like freshly baked chocolate chip cookies!” Mum smiled, “Yes, my son just made some, in fact,” she turned towards the stairs and called up, “BRAYDONNNN, ARE THERE ANY SPARE COOKIES? CAN I GIVE ONE TO ...” She glanced at his name tag “JERRY TO KEEP HIM GOING FOR THE REST OF HIS SHIFT?” Braydon bounced down the stairs to see who Jerry was, smiled and said, “sure! – enjoy it, sir.” Jerry was very grateful and thanked Braydon and his mum. He even made a joke that he wishes he could deliver to this house again so that the could get more cookies.

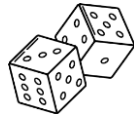
Braydon and his mum got out the drill and started putting the pieces together, to build the bookshelf, ready to give it to Grandma tomorrow at her party. At 10pm they stood back, admiring their work and were suddenly startled when the phone rang . Who would call at that late hour? It was Braydon’s aunt Sylvie – his mum’s sister. “Just checking you’ve ordered a cake for Mum’s party tomorrow?” Sylvie asked her sister. Braydon’s mum gasped and put her hand to her mouth, “Oh, oh no, NOOOO! I’m so sorry, I completely forgot, Sylvie! It’s gone 10 o’clock. Sylv what on EARTH are we going to do?”

Braydon whispered to his mum, “Maybe I can help out? Instead of a cake, I can make chocolate chip cookies galore – enough for everyone that will be at the party! What do you think” Braydon’s mum smiled, “What do I think?” She asked, “I think I have the smartest, most caring and talented child!” Braydon blushed. “Shall we get started?” he asked. “No, I think we should actually bake them tomorrow at Grandma’s house, so that when everyone walks in, they are greeted with the best scent ever!”

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

2) Have you ever smelled something that smelled absolutely amazing and other people really liked the scent, too?

3) In your opinion, should they have baked the cookies at home and brought them round to Grandma’s or was it ok to make the cookies at Grandma’s? Can you make a case for both sides?



Games

1) Mystery Word

When the children come in, tell them that there is a mystery word, which they will have to guess at the end. This word will only be mentioned once during this service. No guesses until the end. The word is your choice – it can be something that connects to this Parasha, like ‘apron’ or it can be something completely unconnected that you have to drop in, like Nemo.

2) Squeak it Out

Ask all the children quiz questions based on the Parasha summary. They can all call out their answers but they have to squeak their response.

3) Uniform List

Link: the kohanim (priests) had their own uniform

Split the group into two and see how many types of uniform they can come up with, e.g. school uniform, police etc.

4) Mr Freeze

Pick one person to be Mr Freeze. Everyone moves around the room. When Mr. Freeze freezes, everyone else must freeze too. Whoever freezes last, is out. Repeat until there is only one person left. They become the new Mr Freeze.