

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Va'era

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 25th Tevet, 5785

Gregorian date: 24th – 25th January, 2025

London Shabbat times: 16:20 – 17:28

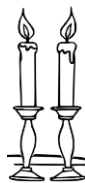
Special events: blessing the new moth of Sh'vat.

Upcoming events in the week: Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat on Thursday.

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com

Parasha Thinking

- 1) How do you think Paro felt when Aharon's stick ate up all the magician's sticks?
- 2) In your opinion, why do you think Paro went from begging Hashem to stop the plague and promising to let them go, to changing his mind each time?
- 3) Of the seven plagues mentioned in this week's parasha, which do you think affected the Egyptian children the most?



Key Parasha Information

Summary

Following on from the conversation that Moshe (Moses) and Hashem (G-d) were having at the end of last week's parasha, Hashem said, "I will take them out (from Egypt), I will save them (from their terrible life of slavery), I will redeem them and I will take them to be a nation!" Next he will bring them to Israel, the land He promised to Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac) and Ya'akov (Jacob), which will be theirs forever.

Moshe and Aharon (Aaron) continued to visit Paro (Pharaoh), and repeatedly told him that Hashem commands him to "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me in the wilderness." Paro said no, each time. To display Hashem's power, Aharon's stick turned into a snake and swallowed the magic sticks of Paro's magicians. Paro was warned that if he didn't let the Jewish people go, a great plague of blood would afflict all the water in Egypt. Paro refused to listen and again and again, plagues were sent from Hashem. Each time, Paro begged Moshe and Aharon to ask Hashem to stop the plague and he promised to let the Jewish people go but as soon as it was clear, his heart hardened and he changed his mind.

What were the plagues? Firstly, the waters in Egypt turned into blood; next, the land and every surface was covered with croaking frogs; thirdly, all humans and animals caught lice. After that, wild animals roamed the towns and cities terrifying the Egyptians; next all the cattle and domestic animals died from a plague; the Egyptians were covered with boils and the last plague in this parasha was ginormous hail stones, filled with fire, crashed down over fields and homes in Egypt. Despite this, Paro would not change his mind and refused to let the Jewish people go.

Discovery

Did you know that at first, Paro didn't think Aharon's trick of turning his stick into a snake was anything special and he boasted that his magicians could do that too. Then Aharon's snake turned back into a stick and ate up all the other sticks (that had also been turned back)?

Did you know that only seven of the ten plagues are mentioned in this week's Parasha?

Did you know that during the plague of blood, the fish couldn't survive and when they started rotting they made the land of Egypt smell terrible?

Did you know that usually fire and water (the fire inside the massive icy hail stones) don't work together but Hashem made a miracle that the ice didn't extinguish the fire and the fire didn't melt the ice?



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) Jump – parasha quiz

Divide participants into two groups. Two children (one from each team) compete against each other at the same time. The two children stand in the middle of the room and one wall is true and one wall is false. Children's Service leader makes statements based on the Parasha information on the previous page. If the statement is true, the children have to jump to the 'true' wall and if not, they must jump to the 'false' wall. Whoever gets there first, wins a point for their team.

2) What plague am I?

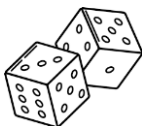
Each child has a chance to act out one of the plagues and the others have to guess which plague it is.

Variations: They can work individually or in small groups. (Please make sure that everyone who wants to be paired up is included). Alternatively they can give verbal clues, if they don't want to act.

3) Sleeping Lions

Link: The fourth plague was wild animals roaming the streets. A lion is a wild animal.

One child is the "hunter" and all the others safely lie down on the floor in sleeping positions. Once the game starts, they can't move. The "hunter" walks amongst the lions and tries to get them to move by making them laugh, telling them jokes, and so on. The "hunter" can NEVER touch the lions. Once a lion moves, their name is called and they need to get up and join the hunters. The last child remaining, wins!



Story

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

"Yes, of course you can borrow my rain jacket!" said Ted. "Thanks, Ted! You're a great neighbour." replied Dougie, "I'm gonna need this for my school residential trip!" "It's no problem at all, come get it Sunday morning so you have it when you leave on Monday!" offered Ted.

On Sunday morning at 8:30, Dougie knocked on his neighbor's door and Ted answered "Wow, why are you knocking on our door so early on a Sunday morning?" Dougie reminded Ted that he'd said he would lend him his rain jacket, and that he should collect it this morning. Ted looked at him and said, "I've just seen the weather report and there's a small chance that it could rain this week so, no, you can't borrow it, in case I need it!"

Confused, Dougie went back home empty-handed and his Dad said, they'd have to either borrow one from someone else, or go to the shops to buy him a new one. Whilst they were deciding, there was a knock on the door. It was Ted and his Mum. Ted said, "I have been thinking about it and as much as I don't want to get drenched from the rain, I also don't want **you** to get drenched from the rain on your trip. I actually need it this morning but will drop it round after lunch." Dougie thanked Ted warmly, as did his Dad.

Dougie waited after lunch but Ted didn't appear. Their car was in the drive way, so they were almost definitely home. At 3pm, Ted's dad texted Dougie's dad saying, 'Really sorry about this, Ted has changed his mind again and is refusing to lend Dougie his coat. He's worried it'll get ruined on the trip.' With no time to lose, Dougie and his family raced to the shops, to buy him his own rain jacket.

- 1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to the Parasha?
- 2) Have you ever been expecting something and then the person changed their mind?
- 3) In your opinion, once Ted agreed to lend the jacket, should he have stuck to this?

