

Parasha: Vaetchanan

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 13th Av, 5784

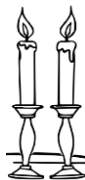
Gregorian date: 16th – 17th Aug, 2024

London Shabbat times: 20:07 – 21:11

Special events: 10 Commandments in Torah reading

Upcoming events in the week: Tu B'Av – Monday 19th Aug.

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com



Key Parasha Information

Summary

Moshe (Moses) had begged and pleaded with Hashem (G-d) to be allowed to enter the Land of Israel and he told the Jewish people that Hashem had refused. Hashem had instructed him to climb a mountain and look at the beautiful land – look to the West and to the North, to the South and to the East. Moshe was allowed to see the Promised Land but not enter it. Hashem asked him to give strength to Yehoshua (Joshua) who would take over from him as leader, and take the Jewish people in to Israel.

Moshe carried on repeating the Torah, both the events and the laws. He said that we're not allowed to add to a mitzvah or take away from it. Moshe focused on the time when the Jewish people were leaving Egypt and the time when the Jewish people received the Torah. He explained that these events had never occurred before that time and no one would have heard of anything similar beforehand. People have never survived from hearing Hashem's voice coming from fire, as they did at Har (Mt.) Sinai. He told the people that Hashem had shown them that He is the L-rd and there is nothing comparable to Him.

Moshe foresaw that in the future, the Jewish people will go away from Hashem. They will bow down to idols, and be thrown out of their land. They will live all over the Earth, amongst all the other nations; but in their new places, they will start to do mitzvot again and return to Hashem.



Parasha Thinking



- 1) Imagine you were Moshe, viewing the land of Israel from the top of the mountain – which emotions might you be feeling?
- 2) What do you think 'guard Shabbat' means?
- 3) How does the word, mitzvot, link to the Parasha?
- 4) How many tunes do you know for Shema Yisrael?

The Ten Commandments are repeated here, as well as the portions of the Shema, which tell us our most important ways to have faith and show our faith, and how keep the mitzvot.

Discovery

Did you know that when Moshe said don't add or take away from a mitzvah, it means that you are allowed to protect a mitzvah but you can't say that the extra protection is the actual mitzvah – you must know that it's extra.

Did you know that the first time we hear the Ten Commandments it says remember Shabbat and this time it says guard Shabbat?

Did you know that one of the mitzvot mentioned in the Shema is to have a mezuzah on the doorpost?

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) Quiz

Ask questions about the Parasha Summary on sheet 1. Split the group into team A and team B. One player from each team comes forward and has their back towards their opponent, standing 1.5m away from each other. If they know the answer, they jump round and say, "SPLAT" to the other child, and put out their palms towards them as they do. First person to 'SPLAT' the other gets to answer the question. Winner stays on for next round.

2) Simon Says

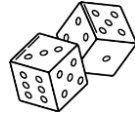
Link: The Jewish people were told to listen – Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is the Only One. In this game, the children have to listen to the instructions from Simon.

One child is 'Simon' and gives instructions. If they proceed their instruction with the words, "Simon says," then the others must follow. If, however they give a plain instruction, it must not be followed. If a child follows an instruction wrongly, they are out.

3) Circle of Silence

Resources needed: Scarf for blindfold

Children stand in circle with the distance of an arm's length between each person. A siddur must be passed from one person to the next as quietly as possible. One child wears a blindfold and stands in the middle. They listen out for the noise of the siddur being passed round and point to where the sound is coming from.



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



As grandma handed a little wooden box to Joanna, she held on to it for a couple of seconds before letting go. "Look after it, won't you? This jewellery box had been in my family for almost 300 years and now I am giving it to you – my oldest grandchild. The time is right."

"I will, grandma," promised Joanna, holding the box carefully. "I will protect it. I won't let you down. Thank you, grandma, I am so grateful that you trust me. This box is just so beautiful. How did they engrave the design so delicately? I can't stop noticing more and more detail – it's really exquisite."

Grandma looked at Joanna and waited. Joanna didn't know what grandma was waiting for and awkwardly stood there, thinking what it could be. 'Did I say thank you? Yes, I'm pretty certain I did. Did I promise to look after it? Yes, absolutely. Did I say how beautiful it is and how lucky I am that she trusts me? I did. So what is she waiting for me to do? Errrr...!' "WELL OPEN IT, then!" Chuckled Grandma, handing over the tiny key.

Joanna hadn't even thought to open the box. She worked out which way the key fitted and carefully opened it up. She gasped at what she saw inside. It was the most beautiful opal necklace – she'd heard of opals before but never seen anything so beautiful. She started to cry happy tears and asked, "Grandma, is this actually for me?"

Grandma hugged her and told her that as long as she looked after it, she was now the guardian of the necklace and its box. "I won't ever let you down. This is the most precious item I have ever had and I love the jewellery and its box." Joanna told her grandma through her tears of joy.

Later, when grandma left, Mum asked Joanna what she and Grandma had been talking about? "Let me show you," said Joanna, excitedly. She ran and brought a pillow from her room. She took off the cover, reached into the spongy part and pulled out a towel from the middle. She unwrapped the towel and then there was bubble wrap. Under the bubble wrap laid a soft, microfiber cloth was revealed and next, a plastic bag. Then she revealed a large tissue and finally, she showed mum the wooden box.

"I'm using all these layers to protect the box and what's inside it," said Joanna. "What's inside it?" asked Mum? "The most precious gemstone necklace I have ever seen in my life," She opened up the box to show her "and I'm going to do everything I possibly can, to guard it."

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

2) Have you ever guarded something?

3) Is there anything else that Joanna could do to keep the items safe?