



## Key Torah reading Information

### Summary

In this Torah reading we learn about the service that the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) carried out on Yom Kippur in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) In Yerushalayim (Jerusalem). During Yom Kippur lots were drawn over two goats which were equal in weight, size, age and appearance. One would be offered to Hashem (G-d) in the Holy Temple, and the other would be released into the desert, to symbolically carry the sins of the Jewish people away with it.

Yom Kippur was the only day of the year that the Kohen Gadol was allowed to enter the Kodesh HaKedoshim (Holy of Holies) which was the innermost chamber of the Beit HaMikdash. He wore white linen clothing and carried coals and ketoret (incense). He would place the ketoret on the coals and once the room was filled with its fantastic scent, he would exit.

We are told that on Yom Kippur, Hashem will forgive us and purify us, so we are clean from all our sins before Hashem.

### Discovery

Did you know that the Kodesh HaKedoshim was also known as the D'vir?

Did you know that there was a miracle placed upon the ketoret, which was that everybody liked the smell of it? This is a miracle because in life, everyone has different tastes and preferences yet everyone LOVED the ketoret.

Did you know that we can only be forgiven by Hashem for the way we have treated other people if we have apologised to them?



## Story of Yonah (Jonah)

Hashem appeared to Yonah and asked him to go to Nin'vah and ask the king to tell his people to do Teshuva (repentance). Yonah considered this and thought 'if they do teshuva, Hashem will be proud of them and they will have Him on their side. If they fight us in war, they will win! No, I can't let that happen! – I am going to run away!'

Yonah ran all the way to the shore and there was a boat waiting there. "How long until this boat sails, he asked?" "Whenever the tickets have all been purchased!" came a sailor's reply. With that, he took out his wallet and paid the price of every ticket himself. He was shown to his cabin and he fell asleep. Meanwhile a terrible storm erupted and the sailors all started praying to their gods. When it didn't work, they remembered Yonah and woke him up, telling him to pray to his G-d, too. He said, "It's no use! The only way this storm will end is if you chuck me off, into the sea!" The sailors refused initially but then realised it was their only option. They threw him overboard and he went straight into the mouth of a very large fish. GULP!

He remained there for three days until he did teshuva (repentance) and once he was on dry land, he went to speak to the king, who listened. On his way back, Yonah enjoyed the shade and fruit from a kikayon tree and drank from a little brook that ran beside it. Hashem removed these things and Yonah was sad. Hashem said, "You had those things for one day and you're sad. Imagine how much love I had for the nation in Nin'vah and how much I wanted them to have the chance to do teshuva."

## Yonah Thinking



- 1) Do you think Yonah was wise to run away?
- 2) When he was in the fish, he had no light, no space, no fresh air etc. What do you think was the worst thing for him there?
- 3) How does the word, think, link to the story?



## 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!)

THANK YOU!



### Games

#### 1) Quiz

Split the group into two and give them small parts of the Torah reading summary or the Story of Yonah (both in sheet 1) to act out. The best act gets a point for each round.

#### 2) Not Sorry, Not Sorry, Not Sorry, SORRY! (Duck, Duck, Goose variation)

Link: You need to apologise to people and to Hashem.

One person is "it" and walks around the outside of the circle. As they walk around, they tap the players' heads and say either 'not sorry' or 'sorry'. Once someone is tapped at the word sorry, they get up and try to chase the 'it' around the circle. The goal is to catch the 'it' before they are able to sit down in the newly empty spot.

#### 3) The Big Fish Won't Swallow...

Arrange chairs in a circle, facing the middle. Children's service leader stands outside the circle and calls out "The big fish won't swallow anyone who...", fill in the blank with a statement that will affect some of the group (see ideas below). Anyone who is affected must stand up and find another chair which is at least 2 chairs away from their own. If a large group of children stand up, the adult should quickly remove one of the chairs from the circle as soon as the kids stand up and begin moving. Any child who cannot find a chair moves outside the circle and helps the adult come up with ideas for the next "the big fish won't swallow".

Ideas- anyone who: has a little brother, likes spicy food, has been to France, has a dog, eats cornflakes for breakfast, likes football etc.

#### 4) Spiders and Flies

Health and Safety: Make sure there is enough clear space to play this game safely.

Link: Yom Kippur helps us to link with others because we say sorry and make amends

Choose one child to be the spider; the rest are flies. The spider has to try to catch the flies. Every fly that the spider catches becomes part of its web, holding hands with the spider and trying to catch the remaining flies (which can take some co-ordination and concentration!) Each fly that is caught holds on to the chain and helps catch more flies. The last player to be caught becomes the new spider.



### Story

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

At school, two days before Yom Kippur, Rikki and her friends were eating lunch. "I can't wait to hear the story of Yonah!" said Rikki, excitedly. Cleo cheered "Yes, Yonah and the Whale is the BEST story! It's my favourite!" she added.

Rikki looked at Cleo, waiting for her to correct herself. Cleo noticed Rikki's stare and asked what was going on? Rikki told Cleo quietly that it wasn't a whale, it was a big fish! Cleo looked back at her, confused, and shouted, "Don't be ridiculous, Rikki! Everyone knows it was a whale! That's the name of the actual story, Jonah and the Whale! I have at least five books of it at home! Why would you even say it was a big fish?"

Rikki didn't want to get into a fight, and certainly not in public. She knew she was right and didn't want Cleo to be any more embarrassed. Rikki told Cleo that they should change the subject – Rikki was willing to let it go, for the sake of peace.

That night when Cleo got home, she opened a Tanach (bible book) and looked at the story of Yonah, to prove Rikki wrong, and there, in front of her eyes she saw that it actually said Hashem prepared a *dag gadol* – a big fish to swallow Yonah. She could not believe it. She thought to herself, 'what have I done? I shouted at Rikki in front of everyone, making her feel stupid, when really, I was the one who was wrong – I should have checked this before I said anything. I need to apologise and I need to make sure I never behave like this again!' She called Rikki immediately and genuinely apologised. The next day at lunch, she tapped on the table and announced in front of everyone that she'd made a mistake and that Rikki was right. Yonah had indeed been swallowed by a big fish, instead of a whale. She said sorry to Rikki and she told her friends that she'd check things in future, before flying off the handle.

The friends all hugged and were happy that Cleo had done the right thing. A few moments later, they were talking about Kaparot and Cleo said, "Oh yes, you need to do kaparot twice" she paused and looked around. Everyone was looking at her, waiting for her to correct herself. She was about to dig her heels in and make her point but this time, she said, "Did I get that wrong? I best check and then we can talk about it more after that!"

1) What can we learn from this story and how does it connect to Yom Kippur (How many connections can you find)?

2) What do you think the other friends gained from both Rikki and Cleo's behaviours?

3) Do you think apologising is easy or hard?