

Children's Service Guide – Parashat Vayechi

**Firstly, a big thank you for leading the Children's Service in your shul!
Tribe, greatly appreciate your commitment to this important role.**

Each Children's Service is run slightly differently and will have its own unique features. Each Children's Service will also run for different lengths of time. This document is a template (with approximate timings) to help you to timetable the Tefillot, games and various activities, to make the best use of the time you have allotted for your Children's Service. All page numbers refer to the Green, Tribe, Shevet Asher Siddur.

Key to using this template

Prayers/activities suggested for Junior services = **Green**

Prayers/activities suggested for Infant services = **Purple**

Prayers/activities suggested for both Infant and Junior services = **Red**

All songs can be found [here](#) on the Tribe website

Order of service - song denotes a recording which can be found using the link above

Handy printing tool:

Pages 2-5 - Infant service

Pages 6-7 Infant and Junior services (expansion of infant service)

Pages 8-12 Junior service

ORDER OF SERVICE – INFANT ONLY

3 Minutes - Start with introduction to *Modeh Ani*- (Thanking God for waking us up in the morning)

1 Minute - *Torah, Torah* – song

2 Minutes – *Ma Tov* (Page 3, lines 1 – 5) **Juniors & Infants**- song

7 Minutes – Infant Children’s services - Little Red Rabbi story (at the end of the document)

3 Minutes – ‘I have a Mezuzah’ - song

4 Minutes – ‘I’ve Got that Shabbat Feeling...’ - song

I’ve Got That Shabbat Feeling

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling deep in my heart
That’s where it starts
Deep in my heart

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling deep in my heart
Deep in my heart to stay

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling down in my toes
That’s where it goes
Down in my toes

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling down in my toes
Down in my toes to stay

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling up in my head
That’s where I said
Up in my head

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling up in my head
Up in my head to stay

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling right in my tummy
Is it that funny?
Right in my tummy

I’ve got that Shabbat feeling right in my tummy
Right in my Tummy to stay

I Have a Mezuzah

I have a Mezuzah, I have a Mezuzah
On my door, on my door
And now I will tell you, and now I will tell you
What it's for, what it's for
To kiss the Mezuzah, to kiss the Mezuzah
Is our aim, is our aim,
For on it is written, for on it is written
Hashem's name, Hashem's name

The Little Red Rabbi – story

One sunny Shabbat morning, the Little Red Rabbi got ready to leave for Shul (Synagogue), said goodbye and Shabbat Shalom to his family and shut the front door, kissing the Mezuzah. The sun was shining, the birds were happily singing in the trees and there was a slight breeze. This made the Little Red Rabbi feel amazing and he walked to Shul with a spring in his step!

When he got to Shul (Synagogue), he wished people Shabbat Shalom and sat down in his special seat right next to the Aron Hakodesh (The Holy Ark).

The Tefilla (Prayer service) started and the Shul (Synagogue) started to fill up with lots of people. Many of the people came up to the Little Red Rabbi and shook his hand, wishing him a Shabbat Shalom.

The Shabbat morning Tefilla (Prayer service) continued, the Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) was taken out of the Ark and the Parasha (Weekly Torah portion) was read. After a while, the Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) was put back into the Aron Hakodesh (The Holy Ark) and the service continued. There was even a big Kiddush after Adon Olam had been sung!

Now the Little Red Rabbi was usually the last one to leave the Shul (Synagogue). As he got ready to go, he stopped and looked around. He was shocked! There were Siddurim and Chumashim (Prayer books and 5 Books of Moses) left on the chairs, there were sweet wrappers all over the floor, the Tallitot (Prayer Shawls) were left draping over seats and all the windows had been left wide open.

Dear, dear, thought the Little Red Rabbi, it is time we made some very important rules for people to follow. So, after Shabbat, the Little Red Rabbi called his friend Michael. 'Hi Michael', said the Little Red Rabbi. 'would you be able to help me write some rules for the Shul (Synagogue) tomorrow, which we can display for everyone to see?' 'I'm so sorry' said Michael, 'I have got a guitar lesson booked and I won't be able to come to help you'. 'No problem' said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll just have to do it myself'.

So, the Little Red Rabbi called his friend Michaela. 'Hi Michaela', said the Little Red Rabbi. 'would you be able to help me write some rules for the Shul (Synagogue) tomorrow, which we can display for everyone to see?' 'I'm so sorry' said Michaela, 'I have got my mum and dad coming over and I won't be able to come to help you'. 'No problem' said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll just have to do it myself'.

So, the Little Red Rabbi called his friend Morris. 'Hi Morris', said the Little Red Rabbi. 'would you be able to help me write some rules for the Shul (Synagogue) tomorrow, which we can display for everyone to see?' 'I'm so sorry' said Morris, 'I promised my children that we'd go to the cinema and I won't be able to come to help you'. 'No problem' said the Little Red Rabbi, 'I'll just have to do it myself'.

So the Little Red Rabbi went to the shops to buy some card, some thick marker pens and some Blue-Tack. He sat down at his dining room table and wrote 4 big rules in his neatest handwriting.

The rules were;

1. Please put any Siddurim (Prayer books) or Chumashim (5 Books of Moses) back on the shelves after the Tefilla (Prayer) service.
2. Please do not drop any litter on the floor and please use the dust bins provided.
3. If you use a Tallit (Prayer Shawl), please fold it up and place it back in the cupboard you took it from.
4. Please help to close all the windows when the Tefilla (Prayer) service has finished.

The next day, the Little Red Rabbi took the rules to the Shul (Synagogue) and using the Blue-Tack, he stuck them on the wall in the entrance hall for all to see.

The next Shabbat Michael, Michaela and Morris came to Shul (Synagogue) and saw how very neatly the rules had been written. 'Wow' said Michael, 'you have the most amazing handwriting Little Red Rabbi'. 'Wow' said Michaela, 'you chose such lovely card to write the rules on.'

'Wow' said Morris, 'you have stuck the rules on the wall so straight, that everybody will be able to see them clearly.' The Little Red Rabbi turned to his three friends and said a big 'THANK YOU!'

From that day on, no litter was ever left in the Shul (Synagogue), no Siddurim and Chumashim (Prayer books and 5 Books of Moses) were ever left on the seats, no Tallitot (Prayer Shawls) were ever left draped over the chairs and no windows were ever left open.

The rule had worked!

ORDER OF SERVICE – INFANT & JUNIOR SERVICES

(expansion of infant service)

- 2 Minutes - Sing *Modeh Ani* – Page 1- song
- 1 Minute – *Bracha for Tzitzit* for boys (Page 2, lines 1, 2, 3)
- 1 Minute – *Bracha* for girls (Page 9, line 12)
- 2 Minutes – *Ma Tovv* (Page 3, lines 1 – 5) **Juniors & Infants-** song
- 3 Minutes – First paragraph of the *Shema* – Page 131- song
- 1 Minute – **Oseh Shalom* – P147 - song
- 1 Minute – *Shema* Page 149 (line 11) - song
- 1 Minute - *Hagbahat* and *Gelilat HaTorah* (lifting and wrapping/dressing the Torah) Page 151 (lines 6, 7) - song
- 3 Minutes - *Adon Olam* – Page 178 (lines 11 – 20) - song
- 5 Minutes – **Infant and Junior Children’s service** – Parasha Summary

Parasha Summary - Vayechi

This week’s Parasha (Weekly Torah Portion) is Vayechi which means ‘And he lived...’ referring to Yaakov (Jacob) living in the land of Egypt for 17 years.

Yaakov (Jacob) had reached the age of 147 and the end of his days were approaching. Yoseph (Joseph) visited his father Yaakov (Jacob) with his 2 children Ephraim and Menashe and as he brought them closer, his father Yaakov (Jacob) hugged and kissed them, after which he gave blessings to both of Yoseph’s (Joseph’s) 2 sons.

Yaakov (Jacob) now called each of his sons to his bedside and blessed them. These blessings are referred to as the ‘Birchot Yaakov’, ‘The Blessings of Jacob’.

Yaakov (Jacob) then commanded all his sons to bury him in the Cave of Machpela, after which he passed away.

Yoseph (Joseph) cried over his father and all the Egyptians mourned the death of Yaakov (Jacob) for 70 days, after which they went to the Land of Canaan, to bury Yaakov (Jacob) in the Cave of Machpela as he had asked.

Upon their return to Egypt, the brothers were afraid that since their father Yaakov (Jacob) had died, Yoseph (Joseph) would now take revenge over what they had done to him years earlier. The brothers asked for Yoseph's (Joseph's) forgiveness. He calmed them and told them that he would support them and their children.

Yoseph (Joseph) then made the Children of Israel promise that they would take his remains with them when they left the Land of Egypt to go to the Promised Land.

Yoseph (Joseph) died at the age of 110 years and was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

ORDER OF SERVICE – JUNIOR ONLY

2 Minutes - Sing *Modeh Ani* – Page 1- song

1 Minute – *Bracha for Tzitzit* for boys (Page 2, lines 1, 2, 3)

1 Minute – *Bracha* for girls (Page 9, line 12)

2 Minutes – *Ma Tovv* (Page 3, lines 1 – 5) **Juniors & Infants-** song

5 Minutes – *Yigdal* – This is a good song to alternate with 2 groups of children, singing alternate lines. - song

2 Minutes – *Birkat HaTorah* – Torah bracha – Page 8 - song

7 Minutes – **Discussion points** (at the end of the document)

4 Minutes – *Baruch Sheamar* – Page 118 - song

3 Minutes – *Yishtabach* – Page 124, lines 12 – 18 - song

3 Minutes – First paragraph of the *Shema* – Page 131- song

3 Minutes – Third paragraph of the *Shema* – Page 133- song

8 Minutes – *Amidah* – Pages 136, 137 (lines 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9), 138 (lines 2, 3), 139 (12, 13), 140 *(5, 6, 7, 8), 141 (lines 8, 9, 10), 147* (lines 8, 9)

**Veshamru* – P140 - song

5 Minutes – *Ein Kamocha* – Page 149 (lines 1 – 13), 150 (lines 1 – 5) - song

1 Minute - *Birkat HaTorah* (Torah bracha), page 150 (lines 6 - 10), page 151 (1, 2) - song

2 Minutes - *Prayer for the Royal Family* – Page 153 (see updated version at the end of the document)

2 Minutes – *Prayer for the State of Israel and its Defence Forces* – Page 154

6 Minutes – *Anim Zemirot* – Pages 175, 176, 177) - song

5 minutes - **Junior Children's service** – Discussion Points

Parashat Vayechi explained in a bit more detail

- At the age of 147 Yaakov (Jacob) knew that he was going to die and so called his son Yoseph (Joseph), asking him to promise that he would take him to the Land of Canaan, the resting place of his ancestors, to be buried. Yaakov (Jacob) told his son Yoseph (Joseph) that he did not want to be buried in Egypt.
- Sometime later, Yoseph (Joseph) was informed that his father was ill and Yoseph (Joseph) visited him with his 2 sons Ephraim and Menashe. Yaakov (Jacob) told Yoseph (Joseph) that Ephraim and Menashe would be counted among Yaakov's (Jacob's) own sons, each being the head of a Tribe.
- As the 2 sons were brought closer to Yaakov (Jacob) he hugged and kissed them. Yaakov (Jacob) stretched out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim's (the younger one) head and his left hand, he placed on Menashe's (the older one) head. Yoseph (Joseph) saw that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim's head and thought this was wrong. Yoseph (Joseph) lifted his father's hand and explained that Menashe was in fact the oldest and therefore his right hand should be on him. However, Yaakov (Jacob) refused to change the position of his hands, predicting that although Menashe would indeed become great, the Tribe of Ephraim would be even greater.
- Calling his sons to his bedside, he gave each of them specific blessings, each blessing full of prophecy about the future of that particular Tribe and each Tribe's special attributes and characteristics.
- Yaakov (Jacob) then commanded each of his sons, that once he had died, they should bury him in the Cave of Machpela which his grandfather Avraham (Abraham) had purchased. Yaakov (Jacob) finished commanding his sons, gathered his feet in to the bed and returned to his people.
- Yoseph (Joseph) fell on his father's face and cried and kissed him. He commanded the Egyptians to embalm Yaakov (Jacob) and they mourned Yaakov's (Jacob's) death for a period of 70 days. Yoseph (Joseph) then received Pharaoh's permission and he, his brothers and their households, together with the elders of Egypt were able to go to Canaan to bury Yaakov (Jacob) in the Cave of Machpela.
- On their return to Egypt, Yoseph's (Joseph's) brothers, now afraid that Yoseph (Joseph) would seek vengeance against them, sought his pardon for their past misdeeds. However, Yoseph (Joseph) reassured them that he had no vengeance in mind.

- Yoseph (Joseph) died at the age of 110 and before he died he made his brothers promise (and then pass that promise on to future children) that when they would eventually be taken out of Egypt with Moshe (Moses) as the leader, they would take his coffin with them to the Land of Canaan.

Children's Service: Years 3- 6

The 2 sons of Yoseph (Joseph) trusted and respected each other. Their grandfather Yaakov (Jacob) placed his right hand on the head of Ephraim, the younger brother, although it was the custom to place the right hand on the head of the older brother Menashe. However, despite Yaakov's (Jacob's) right hand being placed on Ephraim's head, this did not cause any animosity whatsoever between the 2 brothers, Menashe and Ephraim.

Activity –

Talk to the Mirror – This activity will highlight the differences that make children special and the common features that make them similar.

You will need a mirror for this activity. Ask the children to sit in a circle and then go around the circle, asking the children to place the mirror in front of their face. They should describe what they see, sharing this with everyone in the circle. Encourage children to talk about their facial features, clothes, colours and characteristics. Then pass the mirror around the circle a second time, asking the children to share the differences between him/herself and someone else. The third time around the circle, each child should then share what s/he likes about the other person.

At the end of the activity, it is important to discuss with the children, why each person's differences make them special.



Prayer for the Royal Family

i We pray that God will look after and help the rulers of our country and that they will be sympathetic to the Jewish people, The שליח צבור takes the ספר תורה and we stand.

הַנּוֹתֵן תְּשׁוּעָה לַמְּלָכִים וּמִמְשָׁלָה לְנֹסִיכִים, מַלְכוּתוֹ 1

מַלְכוּת כָּל־עוֹלָמִים. הוּא יְבָרֵךְ 2

Our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,

our Gracious Queen Consort Camilla,

the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family.

מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים בְּרַחֲמָיו, יַחֲיֶיהוּ, וַיִּשְׁמְרֵהוּ, וּמִכָּל־צָרָה 3

וַיַּגִּן וַיַּצִּילֵהוּ. וַיְבָרֵךְ וַיִּשְׁמַר אֶת צְבָא הַמֶּלֶךְ. וַיִּתֵּן בְּלִבּוֹ וּבְלִב 4

כָּל־יֹעֲצָיו, רוּחַ חֲכָמָה וּבִינָה, לְהַחֲזִיק שְׁלוֹם הַמַּלְכוּת, 5

וְשָׁלוֹת עַמּוֹ, וְלַעֲשׂוֹת חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת עִם־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּיָמָיו, 6

וּבְיָמֵינוּ, יִפְרֹשׂ אֲבִינוּ שְׁבַשְׁמַיִם סֶכֶת שְׁלוֹם עַל־כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי 7

תֵּבֵל, וּבָא לְצִיּוֹן גּוֹאֵל. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן. 8

▷ He who gives salvation to kings and dominion to princes, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom – may He bless:

Our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,

our Gracious Queen Consort Camilla,

the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family.

May the supreme King of kings in His mercy preserve the King in life, guard him and deliver him from all trouble and sorrow. May He bless and protect his Majesty's Armed Forces. May He put a spirit of wisdom and understanding into his heart and into the hearts of all his counsellors, that they may uphold the peace of the realm, advance the welfare of the nation, and deal kindly and justly with all the House of Israel. In his days and in ours may our Heavenly Father spread the tabernacle of peace over all the dwellers on earth; and may the redeemer come to Zion; and let us say Amen

For more information and feedback, please contact publications@theus.org.uk