BS"D
September 13, 2014 /Elul 5774 Volume 1, Issue 17 Parshat Ki Tavo
PARSHA NATION
Published by the National Council of Young Israel

Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides. I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

We inspire and mold future leaders. The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do. Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton led by our Youth Services Coordinator, Sammy, will give youth leader's hands on experience and practical solutions to effectively guide your youth department.

Informal education is key. What the summer shows us as educators is that informal education can deliver better results and help increase our youth's connection to Hashem. More and more shuls are revamping their youth program to give their children a better connection to shul and to Hashem. The NCYI is here to help you reconnect with your youth departments and bring more participation.

Thank you for being a light to future generations. You are doing incredible work that should not be taken lightly. You should be proud to call yourself a Young Israel Youth Leader as you have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in so many young people's lives. Keep up the amazing work.

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

Shana Tova.

Ari Matityahu
Assistant Director

Sammy Schaechter
Youth Services Coordinator

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Program Guide Breakdown

Theme- Each year our curriculum will focus on a theme. By centering the entire year around one overarching theme, our youth group participants will understand different characteristics and concepts that will help them achieve this lofty goal. This year's theme is Manhigut (leadership). Our goal is for our children to view themselves as leaders and to inspire them to play a leadership role every day.

Parsha Review- Each week group leaders will have the opportunity to roundup the parsha in two or three paragraphs. By giving over the parsha in a short and simple way, group participants will be able to grasp the parsha as a whole and to get them to think globally and conceptually.

Parsha Questions- No Shabbat morning group is complete without a list of parsha questions. These questions allow group participants the opportunity to win fun prizes while increasing their Torah knowledge. Questions vary from basic understanding of story line to challenging source-based material. The answers are provided as well.

Tefillah Treasure- Many youth directors have asked for help when it comes to teaching tefillah to children. This is a problem that not only shuls are dealing with. Schools, camps, and youth organizations are having trouble developing creative ideas to help children understand tefillah. Over the course of the year, this section will highlight one aspect of davening by providing both the Hebrew and English text, and one explanatory idea. The older the age group, the more we delve into the idea. This section is designed to help group participants follow the flow of tefillah while understanding what they are saying.

Group Activity- Now the fun begins! We start off with a GOAL. Each game has a purpose. The youth leaders should familiarize themselves with the goal before implementing the game.

Discussion Portion- After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning groups.

Story- Each week we will include a story that addresses a modern day concern with lesson taken from that week's parsha.

Jewish Leader of the Week- In keeping with our theme of Manhigut, every week a different Jewish Leader from modern Jewish history will be highlighted. This will allow group participants to expand their knowledge of history and to learn how they can be a Jewish leader in today's society.

Teen Minyan Packet- This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

Leader Tip- Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.

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Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Review	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout

5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
Total Time:	**2 hours & 40 min of programing!**	



RE'EH REVIEW

Moshe says to all of Bnei Yisrael that blessings will come when they keep Hashem's commandments and curses if they abandon them. These blessings and curses will be announced on Har Gerizim and Har Eval when they enter Israel.

A *mikdash* should be made in "the place that Hashem will choose to make dwell His name there," where Bnei Yisrael should bring their *korbanot* to Him; it is not allowed to make offerings to Hashem in any other place. It is allowed to slaughter animals elsewhere, not as a *korban* but only to eat their meat.

A false prophet, or someone who encourages others to worship idols, should be put to death and an idolatrous city must be destroyed. In order for an animal to be kosher it must have split hooves and chew their cud. For a fish to be kosher it must have fins and scales. In order for birds to be kosher they must not be predators.

A tenth of all produce must be eaten in Jerusalem, or else exchanged for money with which food is bought and eaten there. In some years this *ma'aser* is given to the poor instead. Firstborn cattle and sheep are to be given as a *korban* in the Beit Hamikdash, and their meat eaten by the kohanim. The mitzvah of *tzedakah* requires a Jew to help someone in need a gift or a loan. On the *shemitah* year (once every seventh year), all loans are to be forgiven. All slaves are to be set free after six years of service.

Our Parshah end with the laws of the *shalosh regalim*—Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot—when everyone should go to "see and be seen" before Hashem in the Beit Hamikdash.

LEADER TIP: This week's Parsha has some major fan-favoorite topics! Kosher, *shalosh regalim*, and tzedakah! Don't forget to talk about them all!

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PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. When will Bnei Yisrael be worthy of a brachah (blessing)?
2. Under what circumstances would HaShem send a kellalah (curse)?
3. On which mountain were the brachot stated
4. On which mountain were the kelalot stated?
5. What are the conditions for an animal to be kosher?
6. Why is a camel not kosher?
7. Which animal has split hooves and does not chew its cud?
8. What are the conditions for a fish to be kosher?
9. How do we know if a bird is kosher?
10. Where do the Bnei Yisrael go on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot?

Answers

1. When they follow HaShem's commandments
2. If Bnei Yisrael do not follow HaShem's teachings
3. Har Gerizim
4. Har Eival
5. It must chew its cud and have split hooves
6. It chews its cud but does not have split hooves
7. Pig
8. It must have fins and scales
9. The Torah lists all of the non-kosher species of birds. All other birds are kosher. (However, since we do not know the exact of identity of all the non-kosher species, we eat only those birds that we know are kosher)
10. The Bet Hamikdash

LEADER TIP: Instead of raising their hands to answer questions, have each kid choose a kosher animal and make their sound as the "buzzer" when they know an answer.

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PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about what makes animals kosher

ACTIVITY: "Kosher or Not Kosher"

One side of the room is "kosher," while the other side is "non-kosher." Stand in the middle and call out names of animals, and the kids have to run to the appropriate side. Once they get the hang of it, see what happens when you say giraffe or people. You can also say different characteristics of kosher animals (ex: chews cud, scales, etc.)

Once they know all there is to know about kosher and non-kosher animals, have them take it to the kitchen! Create a fake fridge and barbecue grill and fill it with pictures of all different kinds of animals and other random foods. Have an "iron chef" competition where the kids have to put together the best meal possible. They can take and use anything they want but they must make sure it's all kosher!

DISCUSSION: In order for animals to be kosher they must chew their cud and have split hooves. For fish to be kosher they must have scales and fins. For birds to be kosher they must not be predators. The idea of "kosher" is one of the biggest ones especially for little kids, but when you explain "how animals are kosher" it is a lot more complicated for kids to understand than just "look for the O-U". It'll take some explaining about "what cud is" and why these things make animals kosher. Talk to the kids about the idea of not always knowing what's best for us, but Hashem does. Just like when we're little and want tons of cookies but our parents say no, we don't understand it. But when we get older things become a little clearer. Make them feel special that as a Jewish people we get to eat only the best food in the world that Hashem handpicked just for us.

LEADER TIP: For snacks this week, bring a bunch of snacks with different *hechsher* symbols and show them to the kids.

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PARSHA STORY

Before you read: Sometimes we get a chance to help out a friend. Whether it's to lend him something we have or just to "lend him a hand," it's a wonderful thing to do. But at times a "little voice" inside of us tries to convince us not to. And when that happens we feel selfish. This week's Parsha teaches us how Hashem wants us to look after each other. It tells us that when we get the chance to help our friends, we should always open our heart and our hand.

"THE END OF THE RAINBOW"

It was a warm but rainy afternoon. Shevy was on her way home from the Metro Mall and had missed her 3:00 bus. She didn't know what to do.

She knew her mom was counting on her to babysit and since the next bus wouldn't be coming for an hour, she would now get home too late. Her only choice was to take one of the many taxis that were sloshing their way down the busy street, but she didn't have enough money for a cab.

She stood at the bus stop dodging the flow of people passing by with their open umbrellas, and started to despair. Then suddenly she recognized Yael, a girl from her class, walking by. "Hey Yael!" Shevy called out, to get her attention above the traffic noises. The girl turned around. Shevy waved. "Over here, it's me, Shevy," she said.

Yael gave a slight smile. It seemed as if she was in a rush. "Oh, hi Shevy," she said. "What brings you to this part of town?"

"I had to go shopping for my sister's bat-mitzvah gift," she said. "But I missed my bus and I'm going to be late. I'm glad to see a friendly face in the crowd. Could you please do me a favor and lend me money to take a cab home and I'll pay you back next week?"

Yael bit her lip and seemed hesitant. Shevy continued to look at her hopefully.

"Well, um, I'm not sure if I can..." Yael mumbled.

"Oh," said Shevy, obviously disappointed.

Yael started to walk away, thinking to herself, "I do have enough money with me to lend to this girl. But how do I know I won't need it. Also, who's to say she'll remember to pay me back, or even want to..."

Then Yael looked back at the crest-fallen face of the other girl, who was now looking at her watch nervously, rain soaking her hair. She kept walking but started having second thoughts. "How can I not help my friend?" she thought. "Shevy obviously needs this loan and I'm able to help her. It would be cruel for me not to."

Then and there she turned on her heels and headed back to the bus stop, hoping Shevy would still be there. When she got there she didn't see her. "Oh no," she thought. "I missed my chance. I hope she's alright."

But then she noticed a girl sitting huddled on the last bench. It was Shevy! Yael ran over to her and sat down next to her. Shevy hadn't noticed her among the crowd of people.

Yael tapped Shevy on the shoulder. The startled Shevy looked up. "Oh, Yael, why have you come back?" she asked with surprise.

Yael smiled. She opened her purse and pulled out cab fare plus enough extra for her friend to get a warm drink. "Here," she said, handing the money to the grateful girl. "I just came back to finish some business," she said softly. "Have a safe trip and stay dry."

Discussion Questions:

Q.How did Shevy feel when she missed her bus and suddenly saw her friend Yael?

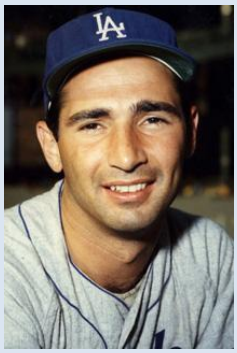
Q. If someone asks us for a favor and we're able to do it, should we?
A. Yes. It's a wonderful thing to be able to help another person.

Q. What if we don't feel like it? Should we still do it?
A. Even though it is hard, yes we should still help. In fact, it's even better since it took more effort.

LEADER TIP: What is the hardest *chessed* or good deed you've ever done?

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JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK



Sandy Koufax

(December 30, 1935-)

Sandy Koufax is a former Major League Baseball left-handed pitcher. He pitched 12 seasons for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers, from 1955 to 1966. Koufax, at age 36 in 1972, became the youngest player ever elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
He was an All-Star for six seasons and was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1963. He won three Cy Young Awards in 1963, 1965, and 1966, by unanimous votes, making him the first three-time Cy Young winner in baseball history and the only one to win three times when one overall award was given for all of major league baseball instead of one award for each league. Koufax also won the NL Triple Crown for pitchers those same three years by leading the NL in wins, strikeouts, and earned run average.

Koufax was the first major league pitcher to pitch four no-hitters and the eighth pitcher to pitch a perfect game in baseball history. Despite his comparatively short career, Koufax's 2,396 career strikeouts ranked 7th in history as of his retirement. Koufax is one of only four pitchers elected to the Hall of Fame who had more strikeouts than innings pitched.

Koufax is remembered as one of the greatest Jewish athletes in American sports. His decision not to pitch Game 1 of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur earned national attention as an example of putting personal and religious beliefs before professional ones.

On September 25, 1966, Koufax and Ken Holtzman - the two greatest Jewish pitchers in history - faced off against each other for the one and only time in their careers. The game came the day after both had attended shul on Yom Kippur. Holtzman was finishing his first full season in the major leagues and Koufax was in his final season. The rookie Holtzman twirled a no-hitter for eight innings and beat the veteran Koufax 2–1. It was the last regular-season loss of Koufax's career. He retired at the end of the season, being plagued by arthritis in his pitching hand, but still won his third Cy Young Award for being baseball's best pitcher.

LEADER TIP: Could you imagine making a decision that the entire world will see? We all know how important Yom Kippur is, but would you still be able to potentially give up everything in order to do what's right?

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Aleinu

Alenu is always said at the end of every davening- Shacharit, Mincha, and Maariv. It starts off by saying that it is our responsibility to praise Hashem and recognize that He made us a special nation and given us tons of blessings unlike any other nation. One of the most important lessons of Aleinu is to recognize that Hashem is the real reason and cause of everything that happens to us in our lives and in the world. Sometimes things seem perfect, and other times they seem like a complete disaster, but no matter what we thank and praise Hashem for doing everything for the best. We know that whatever happens in the world is because that is how Hashem wants it. Even if we may not see the perfection in every day, we have faith and believe that Hashem is doing everything for a reason. Right now, we are not able to see the "whole picture", and even if we think we may see a lot, it's not even close to everything. After Mashiach comes we will finally be able to see the "whole picture" and truly realize that everything that happens comes from Hashem and a place of pure goodness that brings the entire world to the state of perfection.

LEADER TIP: Almost everyone knows Aleinu, even from the youngest of ages. Why is it so important to finish davening so strong and loud?

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PARSHA NATION

GRADES 3-4

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A false prophet, or someone who encourages others to worship idols, should be put to death and an idolatrous city must be destroyed. In order for an animal to be kosher it must have split hooves and chew their cud. For a fish to be kosher it must have fins and scales. In order for birds to be kosher they must not be predators.

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PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. When will Bnei Yisrael be worthy of a brachah (blessing)?
2. Under what circumstances would HaShem send a kellalah (curse)?
3. On which mountain were the brachot stated
4. On which mountain were the kelalot stated?
5. Why is one not allowed to hurt or degrade oneself?
6. Which part of the animal is one not allowed to eat because it represents the life that was once in the animal?
7. How do we know the laws of shechitah?
8. What are the conditions for an animal to be kosher?
9. Why is a camel not kosher?
10. Which animal has split hooves and does not chew its cud?
11. What are the conditions for a fish to be kosher?
12. How do we know if a bird is kosher?
13. What identifies a person as a navi sheker (false prophet)?
14. What is the punishment of a navi sheker?
15. Where do the Bnei Yisrael go on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot?

Answers

1. When they follow HaShem's commandments
2. If Bnei Yisrael do not follow HaShem's teachings
3. Har Gerizim
4. Har Eival
5. We are children of HaShem
6. The blood
7. Torah SheBa'al Peh
8. It must chew its cud and have split hooves
9. It chews its cud but does not have split hooves
10. Pig
11. It must have fins and scales
12. The Torah lists all of the non-kosher species of birds. All other birds are kosher. (However, since we do not know the exact of identity of all the non-kosher species, we eat only those birds that we know are kosher)
13. He would say to worship other gods
14. Death
15. The Bet Hamikdash

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PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids the central role Yerushalayim plays in the Jewish world, and how this is seen through Aliyah L'Regel, and in Shemoneh Esrei.

ACTIVITY: Trigger Game #1: Everyone sits in a circle. In the middle of the circle someone sits on a chair with his eyes closed. Next to him is a box full of tickets. All the kids have to try and sneak up and take a ticket from the box. (They can only take one ticket per trip). If the guy in the middle hears noise, he yells "freeze" and points to where he thinks the person is. Everyone freezes and anyone in his line of pointing is caught and now they are in the middle. The point is to get to the center as many times as you can and collect as many tickets as you can without getting caught. The person who does is the winner.

In the game, the center represents Yerushalayim and how everyone is trying to get there.

But why do we want to go?

Trigger Game #2: The game plays kind of like laser tag. Two kids are "it" and have to tag the other kids. Each kid however has a ticket. Once he is tagged, he has to give in his ticket to the person who's "it". Then, he must return to the "base" and get another ticket from the counselor so that he can continue to play. The kids have up until three chances to stay in the game. The kid left over at the end wins.

Explain to the kids that the "home base" is the Beit Hamikdash and throughout the year we return to the Beit Hamikdash to get replenished spiritually, to 'recharge our batteries'. This is seen specifically through Aliyah l'regel which we do three times a year, on Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. But hey- there's no aliyah la'regel now. So what do we do to keep Yerushalayim on our minds?

Trigger game #3: Have the kids sit down in a circle. The counselor starts telling a story and speaks for twenty-five seconds, including the word Yerushalayim or Beit Hamikdash in his story. He then picks one of the kids to continue the story, who also gets 25 seconds to speak (timed by another counselor)

and he must use the word Yerushalayim/Beit Hamikdash in the story too. Try to make the story as crazy as possible. The counselor stops the kid when his time is up and has him pick another kid to continue.

Afterwards, ask the kids if their repeating of the word Yerushalayim made them think of Yerushalayim at all. Then compare what you just did with them to what they say in davening. Ask the kids when Yerushalayim is mentioned in davening? The fact that we say "V'Liyerushalayim Ircha" and "Et tzemach david" each day, 3 times a day, reminds us of the importance of Yerushalayim and how we should always be thinking of it and how it really is the center and focus of what Jews think about. Is praying the only thing there is to do? Can we do other things too (activism, visit, live there)?

DISCUSSION: Yerushalayim is the center and focus of our lives as Jews, therefore we should be thinking about it all the time. It is the place of the Beit Hamikdash, and where we can be closest to G-D, therefore traveling there helps us "recharge" our spiritual batteries. Even without the Beit Hamikdash, it remains our focus- we still need to keep it on our mind.

LEADER TIP: Yerushalayim is the center of our world and our lives, but sometimes as much as we speak and think about it, it still isn't in our hearts as much as it should. How important is it for us to be constantly be thinking about Yerushalayim? What are ways we can always stay connected?

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She stood at the bus stop dodging the flow of people passing by with their open umbrellas, and started to despair. Then suddenly she recognized Yael, a girl from her class, walking by. "Hey Yael!" Shevy called out, to get her attention above the traffic noises. The girl turned around. Shevy waved. "Over here, it's me, Shevy," she said.

Yael gave a slight smile. It seemed as if she was in a rush. "Oh, hi Shevy," she said. "What brings you to this part of town?"

"I had to go shopping for my sister's bat-mitzvah gift," she said. "But I missed my bus and I'm going to be late. I'm glad to see a friendly face in the crowd. Could you please do me a favor and lend me money to take a cab home and I'll pay you back next week?"

Yael bit her lip and seemed hesitant. Shevy continued to look at her hopefully.

"Well, um, I'm not sure if I can..." Yael mumbled.

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Yael started to walk away, thinking to herself, "I do have enough money with me to lend to this girl. But how do I know I won't need it. Also, who's to say she'll remember to pay me back, or even want to..."

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Yael tapped Shevy on the shoulder. The startled Shevy looked up. "Oh, Yael, why have you come back?" she asked with surprise.

Yael smiled. She opened her purse and pulled out cab fare plus enough extra for her friend to get a warm drink. "Here," she said, handing the money to the grateful girl. "I just came back to finish some business," she said softly. "Have a safe trip and stay dry."

Discussion Questions:

Q. Yael had second thoughts and turned around to help her friend, even though at first she decided not to. What was her struggle and what made her change her mind?

A. Alot of times a person has to struggle with two sides of himself or herself. There is the side that wants to give to others and the side that wants to be selfish. Yael was strong in the end and listened to her inner voice to do good even though at first she felt otherwise.

Q. There is an old English saying "neither borrower nor lender be" is this a proper code of behavior?
A. No. The Torah teaches a person to open his hand and be ready to lend to someone in need. Nobody likes to have to ask help of another, and indeed when we can avoid it, it's best not to borrow. But to refuse to lend when one can is selfish. The Torah teaches us to "open our hand (to another in need) and lend him what he needs." This is the Jewish way.

Q. What are some ways that you could put this to practice in your own life?
A. When appropriate you could lend out some of your things. If you have something you know others could benefit from, you could even publicize that you have it to lend out. Besides this, you could give of your time to help out the poor or elderly. Even a warm smile to the people you meet can give them a real boost.

LEADER TIP: What is the hardest *chessed* or good deed you've ever done?

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LEADER TIP: Could you imagine making a decision that the entire world will see? We all know how important Yom Kippur is, but would you still be able to potentially give up everything in order to do what's right?

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Aleinu

Alenu is always said at the end of every davening- Shacharit, Mincha, and Maariv. It starts off by saying that it is our responsibility to praise Hashem and recognize that He made us a special nation and given us tons of blessings unlike any other nation. One of the most important lessons of Aleinu is to recognize that Hashem is the real reason and cause of everything that happens to us in our lives and in the world. Sometimes things seem perfect, and other times they seem like a complete disaster, but no matter what we thank and praise Hashem for doing everything for the best. We know that whatever happens in the world is because that is how Hashem wants it. Even if we may not see the perfection in every day, we have faith and believe that Hashem is doing everything for a reason. Right now, we are not able to see the "whole picture", and even if we think we may see a lot, it's not even close to everything. After Mashiach comes we will finally be able to see the "whole picture" and truly realize that everything that happens comes from Hashem and a place of pure goodness that brings the entire world to the state of perfection.

We end Aleinu by saying "*bayom ha'hu yihiyeh Hashem echad u'shmo echad",* on that day Hashem will be One and His Name will be One. When Mashiach finally comes, there will be no bad news and everything will be clear and everyone will only experience good.

LEADER TIP: Almost everyone knows Aleinu, even from the youngest of ages. Why is it so important to finish davening so strong and loud?

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RE'EH REVIEW

Moshe says to all of Bnei Yisrael that blessings will come when they keep Hashem's commandments and curses if they abandon them. These blessings and curses will be announced on Har Gerizim and Har Eval when they enter Israel.

A *mikdash* should be made in "the place that Hashem will choose to make dwell His name there," where Bnei Yisrael should bring their *korbanot* to Him; it is not allowed to make offerings to Hashem in any other place. It is allowed to slaughter animals elsewhere, not as a *korban* but only to eat their meat.

A false prophet, or someone who encourages others to worship idols, should be put to death and an idolatrous city must be destroyed. In order for an animal to be kosher it must have split hooves and chew their cud. For a fish to be kosher it must have fins and scales. In order for birds to be kosher they must not be predators.

A tenth of all produce must be eaten in Jerusalem, or else exchanged for money with which food is bought and eaten there. In some years this *ma'aser* is given to the poor instead. Firstborn cattle and sheep are to be given as a *korban* in the Beit Hamikdash, and their meat eaten by the kohanim. The mitzvah of *tzedakah* requires a Jew to help someone in need a gift or a loan. On the *shemitah* year (once every seventh year), all loans are to be forgiven. All slaves are to be set free after six years of service.

Our Parshah end with the laws of the *shalosh regalim*—Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot—when everyone should go to "see and be seen" before Hashem in the Beit Hamikdash.

LEADER TIP: This week's Parsha has some major fan-favoorite topics! Kosher, *shalosh regalim*, and tzedakah! Don't forget to talk about them all!

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PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. When will Bnei Yisrael be worthy of a brachah (blessing)?

2. Under what circumstances would HaShem send a kellalah (curse)?
3. On which mountain were the brachot stated 4.On which mountain were the kelalot stated?
5. What is Bnei Yisrael commanded to destroy upon crossing the Yarden?
6. Why are the Jewish people allowed to see the extermination of the Canaanites?
7. Why is one not allowed to hurt or degrade oneself?
8. Which part of the animal is one not allowed to eat because it represents the life that was once in the animal?
9. How do we know the laws of shechitah?
10. What are the conditions for an animal to be kosher?
11. Why is a camel not kosher?
12. Which animal has split hooves and does not chew its cud?
13. What are the conditions for a fish to be kosher?
14. How do we know if a bird is kosher?
15. What identifies a person as a navi sheker (false prophet)?
16. What is the punishment of a navi sheker?
17. If a person is a missionary (someone who tries to steer you away from HaShem), what is his punishment?
18. Where do the Bnei Yisrael go on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot?
19. What is maser sheni?
20. What is maser ani?

Answers

1. When they follow HaShem's commandments
2. If Bnei Yisrael do not follow HaShem's teachings
3. Har Gerizim
4. Har Eival
5. All Avodah Zarah and their places of worship
6. To learn not to follow in their depraved ways
7. We are children of HaShem
8. The blood
9. Torah SheBa'al Peh
10. It must chew its cud and have split hooves
11. It chews its cud but does not have split hooves
12. Pig
13. It must have fins and scales

14. The Torah lists all of the non-kosher species of birds. All other birds are kosher. (However, since we do not know the exact of identity of all the non-kosher species, we eat only those birds that we know are kosher)
15. He would say to worship other gods
16. Death
17. Sekilah (stoning)
18. The Bet Hamikdash
19. A tenth of the produce that one brings to Yerushalayim to eat
20. A tenth of the produce that one gives to the poor (given at the end of the third and sixth years of the shemittah cycle)

LEADER TIP: Instead of raising their hands to answer questions, have each kid choose a kosher animal and make their sound as the "buzzer" when they know an answer.

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PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids the central role Yerushalayim plays in the Jewish world, and how this is seen through Aliyah L'Regel, and in Shemoneh Esrei.

ACTIVITY: Trigger Game #1: Everyone sits in a circle. In the middle of the circle someone sits on a chair with his eyes closed. Next to him is a box full of tickets. All the kids have to try and sneak up and take a ticket from the box. (They can only take one ticket per trip). If the guy in the middle hears noise, he yells "freeze" and points to where he thinks the person is. Everyone freezes and anyone in his line of pointing is caught and now they are in the middle. The point is to get to the center as many times as you can and collect as many tickets as you can without getting caught. The person who does is the winner.

In the game, the center represents Yerushalayim and how everyone is trying to get there.

But why do we want to go?

Trigger Game #2: The game plays kind of like laser tag. Two kids are "it" and have to tag the other kids. Each kid however has a ticket. Once he is tagged, he has to give in his ticket to the person who's "it". Then, he must return to the "base" and get another ticket from the counselor so that he can continue to play. The kids have up until three chances to stay in the game. The kid left over at the end wins.

Explain to the kids that the "home base" is the Beit Hamikdash and throughout the year we return to the Beit Hamikdash to get replenished spiritually, to 'recharge our batteries'. This is seen specifically through Aliyah l'regel which we do three times a year, on Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. But hey- there's no aliyah la'regel now. So what do we do to keep Yerushalayim on our minds?

Trigger game #3: Have the kids sit down in a circle. The counselor starts telling a story and speaks for twenty-five seconds, including the word Yerushalayim or Beit Hamikdash in his story. He then picks one of the kids to continue the story, who also gets 25 seconds to speak (timed by another counselor) and he must use the word Yerushalayim/Beit Hamikdash in the story too. Try to make the story as crazy as possible. The counselor stops the kid when his time is up and has him pick another kid to continue.

Afterwards, ask the kids if their repeating of the word Yerushalayim made them think of Yerushalayim at all. Then compare what you just did with them to what they say in davening. Ask the kids when Yerushalayim is mentioned in davening? The fact that we say "V'Liyerushalayim

Ircha" and "Et tzemach david" each day, 3 times a day, reminds us of the importance of Yerushalayim and how we should always be thinking of it and how it really is the center and focus of what Jews think about. Is praying the only thing there is to do? Can we do other things too (activism, visit, live there)?

DISCUSSION: Yerushalayim is the center and focus of our lives as Jews, therefore we should be thinking about it all the time. It is the place of the Beit Hamikdash, and where we can be closest to G-D, therefore traveling there helps us "recharge" our spiritual batteries. Even without the Beit Hamikdash, it remains our focus- we still need to keep it on our mind.

LEADER TIP: Yerushalayim is the center of our world and our lives, but sometimes as much as we speak and think about it, it still isn't in our hearts as much as it should. How important is it for us to be constantly be thinking about Yerushalayim? What are ways we can always stay connected?

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PARSHA STORY

Before you read:

Sometimes we get a chance to help out a friend. Whether it's to lend him something we have or just to "lend him a hand," it's a wonderful thing to do. But at times a "little voice" inside of us tries to convince us not to. And when that happens we feel selfish. This week's Parsha teaches us how Hashem

wants us to look after each other. It tells us that when we get the chance to help our friends, we should always open our heart and our hand.

"THE END OF THE RAINBOW"

It was a warm but rainy afternoon. Shevy was on her way home from the Metro Mall and had missed her 3:00 bus. She didn't know what to do.

She knew her mom was counting on her to babysit and since the next bus wouldn't be coming for an hour, she would now get home too late. Her only choice was to take one of the many taxis that were sloshing their way down the busy street, but she didn't have enough money for a cab.

She stood at the bus stop dodging the flow of people passing by with their open umbrellas, and started to despair. Then suddenly she recognized Yael, a girl from her class, walking by. "Hey Yael!" Shevy called out, to get her attention above the traffic noises. The girl turned around. Shevy waved. "Over here, it's me, Shevy," she said.

Yael gave a slight smile. It seemed as if she was in a rush. "Oh, hi Shevy," she said. "What brings you to this part of town?"

"I had to go shopping for my sister's bat-mitzvah gift," she said. "But I missed my bus and I'm going to be late. I'm glad to see a friendly face in the crowd. Could you please do me a favor and lend me money to take a cab home and I'll pay you back next week?"

Yael bit her lip and seemed hesitant. Shevy continued to look at her hopefully.

"Well, um, I'm not sure if I can..." Yael mumbled.

"Oh," said Shevy, obviously disappointed.

Yael started to walk away, thinking to herself, "I do have enough money with me to lend to this girl. But how do I know I won't need it. Also, who's to say she'll remember to pay me back, or even want to..."

Then Yael looked back at the crest-fallen face of the other girl, who was now looking at her watch nervously, rain soaking her hair. She kept walking but started having second thoughts. "How can I not help my friend?" she thought. "Shevy obviously needs this loan and I'm able to help her. It would be cruel for me not to."

Then and there she turned on her heels and headed back to the bus stop, hoping Shevy would still be there. When she got there she didn't see her. "Oh no," she thought. "I missed my chance. I hope she's alright."

But then she noticed a girl sitting huddled on the last bench. It was Shevy! Yael ran over to her and sat down next to her. Shevy hadn't noticed her among the crowd of people.

Yael tapped Shevy on the shoulder. The startled Shevy looked up. "Oh, Yael, why have you come back?" she asked with surprise.

Yael smiled. She opened her purse and pulled out cab fare plus enough extra for her friend to get a warm drink. "Here," she said, handing the money to the grateful girl. "I just came back to finish some business," she said softly. "Have a safe trip and stay dry."

Discussion Questions:

Q. Are we being hypocritical if we don't really feel like helping or lending to someone else and do it in spite of this feeling? Perhaps it's better to wait until we really feel it and can do it with a full heart?
A. Of course we aim to be able to give with a full heart. However quite often a person's actions have to precede his or her feelings and not the other way around. It's normal to feel a resistance. To try to make ourselves into more giving people is never hypocritical; it can even be called noble.

Q. Zoologists tell us that the "law of the jungle" is that only the strong survive. Do you feel that this is a proper philosophy of how one should live one's life? Why or why not?
A. There is a natural drive to live one's life this way. But our mission as human beings, and as Jews, is to elevate ourselves to a higher level. When we give of ourselves to help someone "weaker" than we are, we become less animal-like and more spiritual. This is one of the major lessons of life.

LEADER TIP: What is the hardest *chessed* or good deed you've ever done?

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LEADER TIP: Almost everyone knows Aleinu, even from the youngest of ages. Why is it so important to finish davening so strong and loud?

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BS"D
September 13, 2014 /Elul 5774 Volume 1, Issue 17 Parshat Ki Tavo
PARSHA NATION
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Published by the National Council of Young Israel



This Week in Jewish History

August 7, 1998

IDF Rescue Team Dispatched to US Embassy in Kenya

Early in the morning on August 7, 1998, two almost simultaneous terrorist attacks hit the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. There were 257 (including 12 Americans) killed and over 5,000 wounded. Almost immediately, Israel offered the U.S. its expertise in disaster rescue and cleanup and within six hours of the bombings, an Israeli rescue mission was approved.

Early on August 8, Israel sent about 170 members of the IDF's Home Front Command Rescue Unit to Kenya accompanied by a group of civilian and military doctors, eight search and rescue dogs, and truckloads of high-tech rescue equipment. The IDF team was the first to arrive on the scene from abroad. According to the New York Times and CNN, Israel's presence was felt immediately and completely changed and stimulated the entire mission. The Israeli team was able to recover 95 bodies and save three people trapped alive in the ruins.

On August 12, the Kenyan army raised four flagpoles at the site of the blast to honor the four countries that helped in therescue mission - Kenya, United States, France and Israel. People were praising the Israeli relief efforts all over the world. Gatili Nganga, recovering after surgery that successfully reattached a cut off limb, credited the IDF team with his safe recovery, saying: "If it wasn't for the Israeli soldiers, I'm sure that today I would be dead." A Kenyan Red Cross worker told the Israelis: "You came like angels from the sky." An unidentified onlooker interviewed by CNN said "the Israelis were very perfect." Upon the unit's imminent departure, Kenya's President, Daniel Arap-Moi, took time to meet with the team members to convey his personal thanks, as well as his country's deeply-held feelings of appreciation. President Clinton said Israel's immediate and sincere response to the crisis was both " impressive and heartwarming."

FIND...

- Har Eval
- Gerizim
- Maaser
- Tzedakah
- Kosher
- Pesach
- Shavuot
- Sukkot

Stat Line of the Week- re'eh

47th of the 54 sedras; 4th of 11 in Devarim
126 pesukim – ranks 13th (first in Devarim)
Same number of pesukim as Lech Lecha, but Lech Lecha ranks 23 in size, compared with 4th for Re'eh. Interesting, no?
1932 words – ranks 7th (first in Devarim)
7442 letters – ranks 7th (first in Devarim)
MITZVOT
55 of the 613; 17 positive, 38 prohibitions
Only Ki Teitzei & Emor have more

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN THE KENESSET?

Email your answers to **SAMMYS@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG** along with your **NAME** and **AGE** for a chance to win **AWESOME PRIZES!** Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

THIS JUST IN!

- The wick of a trick candle has small amounts of magnesium in them. When you light the candle, you are also lighting the magnesium. When someone tries to blow out the flame, the magnesium inside the wick continues to burn and, in just a split second (or two or three), relights the wick.
- Ostriches can run faster than horses, and the males can roar like lions.
- Seals used for their fur get extremely sick when taken aboard ships.
- Sloths take two weeks to digest their food.
- Guinea pigs and rabbits can't sweat.

For more info please feel free to contact us at sammys@youngisrael.org

R	Y	O	A	P	V	C	Y	S	K	Q
Z	I	T	O	K	K	U	S	H	R	H
G	R	T	O	O	K	L	Z	A	E	A
K	B	N	K	Q	C	T	I	V	S	K
H	C	A	S	E	P	I	A	U	A	A
C	H	Z	X	Z	I	K	E	O	A	D
J	G	D	P	S	K	G	A	T	M	E
U	X	Q	K	Z	K	V	A	K	U	Z
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Parsha Points to Ponder...

We all know that giving Tzedaka is an important Mitzvah. Will there ever be a time when this Mitzvah will no longer be needed? According to the Torah this will never be. We are told in this week's Torah reading: כִּי לֹא יֶחְדַּל אֶבְיוֹן מִקֶּרֶב הָאָרֶץ, "For destitute people will never cease to exist within the land... ." (Deut. 15,11) Communism and socialism promised to create equality among people and that would have eliminated poverty. They failed miserably. That substantiates what the Torah asserts, that poverty will never be erased from the face of the earth. The earth is not the same allover. There are mountains and valleys, fertile land and poor land. There are good looking people and bad looking people, intelligent people and obtuse people. Likewise, there always will be wealthy people and poverty-stricken people. Hence we are commanded to give charity. The poor are generally not responsible for their condition. Circumstances have created their situation in most cases. That is why it is important for everyone to help them in their plight. Furthermore, we must remember that the wheel of fortune turns. The rich can become poor and the poor can become rich. We never know what our situation will be in the future.



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