



# 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



## 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.   |
| <b>Total Time:</b> | <b>2 hours &amp; 40 min of programing!</b> |   |



# PARSHA NATION



GRADES K - 2

## *EIKEV REVIEW*

In Parshat Eikev (“Because”), Moshe continues his closing address to Bnei Yisrael, promising them that if they follow the mitzvot, they will succeed in the Land they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with Hashem’s promise to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov.

Moshe also rebukes them for their mistakes such as worshiping the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, and the sin of the spies. But he also speaks of Hashem’s forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Luchot that Hashem gave to Bnei Yisrael after they did teshuvah. Moshe also reminds them how Hashem is the one who supplies everything they need to survive, especially food.

Moshe described the land they are about to enter as “flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “seven fruits” (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates).

In this Parshah we also have the second paragraph of Shema, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot said in the first paragraph of Shema, and describes the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot and the opposite results if they don’t. It is also the source of the teaching of prayer.

**LEADER TIP:** The second paragraph of Shema talks about the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot. Have the kids say good things that other people have done and give out prizes to each of them.

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. What did living in the desert teach Bnei Yisrael?
2. Which berachah quotes “ve’achalta vasavata ooverachta”?
3. What does this pasuk mean?
4. What does HaShem warn could happen as a result of Bnei Yisrael being blessed with satisfaction and prosperity?
5. What is the key to Bnei Yisrael being worthy of prosperity?
6. How many were the Bnei Yisrael when they went down to Mitzrayim and how many were the Bnei Yisrael when they entered Eretz Yisrael?
7. Which paragraph of the shema is in this week’s parsha?
8. What does HaShem guarantee Bnei Yisrael will receive in the right season if they keep the mitzvot?
9. Where in the home are these words supposed to be written?
10. What does HaShem guarantee to destroy if Bnei Yisrael will adhere to the mitzvot?

## Answers

1. That they relied on HaShem and they will live if it is HaShem’s will
2. Birkat Hamazon
3. You will eat and be satisfied and bless HaShem
4. They could think that they alone are responsible for their prosperity and forget HaShem
5. The key is their keeping the mitzvot
6. a. Seventy  
b. As numerous as the stars
7. Vehaya Im Shemo’a
8. Rain
9. In the mezuzah (on the doorpost)
10. The nations around them that cause them trouble, even those nations that are stronger

**LEADER TIP:** As a special snack this week, have each of the *shiva minim*.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To teach the kids that we shouldn't let success go to our heads. When things are going our way, we shouldn't get haughty, but instead should feel humble and grateful to Hashem.

## **ACTIVITY: “Blindfolded Musical Chairs”**

Being that it's Shabbat, the song playing during musical chairs will instead need to be sung by the group leader. The game starts off with regular musical chairs where the chairs are lined up in two rows back to back, or in one row with chairs alternating facing both ways. Everyone must walk around the chairs while the music is on and then when the music stops must sit in a chair. There should be one less chair than the people playing. Whoever is left without a seat is out, and you keep taking out chairs and continuing to play until there is only one person left in and is declared the winner.

You could play this a few times and then it's time to take it up a notch. Everyone will be blindfolded and you will play the game just like the original. Needless to say this will be much more challenging as well as much funnier for the viewing audience. It would be a good idea for the older kids to play separate genders.

**DISCUSSION:** In this game, we think that our chairs are safe and sound in front of us to grab but in a split second they could not only leave us but go into another person. Sometimes we get so haughty and confident with the things we have that we don't appreciate it at all and take it for granted. Especially in the second version of the game, we quickly realize how much easier it is when we have our vision and how much more difficult it is when you can't see the chairs. We lose our confidence very quickly and are humbled very fast noticing that our skills are diminished right away. In this week's Parsha, we learn about not letting success get to our heads. We should always try to be humble and appreciate what we have. Sometimes those things last forever, and sometimes they disappear or change right before our eyes. If we learn to see everything for the good and know that anything we have or don't have is Hashem's master plan, we could add much more meaning and happiness to our lives and learn the value of everything that Hashem gives us.

**LEADER TIP:** Try out an experiment after this game and discussion. When giving out snack or prizes, give out a certain amount more than usual and then take away some of it and tell the kids that you gave them too much and see how they react based on the lesson they just learned.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** We shouldn't let success go to our heads. This week Parsha reminds us that when things are going our way, we shouldn't get haughty or snotty over it, but should feel humbly grateful to Hashem.

## TEAM WORK

Sherri was tucking the corners of her blanket into her camp bunk bed, when her friend, Gail, came bursting into the cabin.

"Guess what!" Gail said with her head held high.

"What?"

"Guess!" Gail insisted. "I'll give you a hint. An incredible, amazing thing just happened to me."

Sherri looked at her, "Um, you saw some Martians land from outer space on the soccer field?"

Gail frowned. "No something real. But since you're not being serious, I'll tell you. I, me, yours truly, was just appointed to be the assistant-red-team-captain for this year's color war!"

"That's terrific," Sherri said with a smile.

"It's more than terrific," Gail went on, "It's an *honor*. It shows that the staff feels that I'm an *excellent* camper, with *special* leadership qualities, don't you agree?" Sherri nodded, as Gail continued. "Don't think I didn't notice the funny look you gave me when I first told you the news. I can tell you're jealous of me - and you *should* be - not just *anyone* has what it takes to be assistant captain of an entire camp team..." she looked down her nose at Sherri "...does she?"

Sherri drew in her breath, like she was about to say something, then she stopped and just shook her head.

Later on, as the kids lined up on the dock for their row-boating period, Sherri came over to Gail.

"Are we sharing a boat as usual?" she asked.

"Gee," Gail said, "I'm not sure. After all, when color war starts any day now, I'm going to be a *very important person*, you know. But I guess - for now - I'll do you a favor and let you join me."

"Thanks," Sherri said simply and climbed into the boat.

After rowing around the lake, Gail bragging non-stop about her good fortune and the talents that she had which made her deserve it, they got back to the dock. "Well it was fun rowin' and chattin' with you," Gail said, "but I don't know how much free time I'm going to have soon to talk to you once I start my important..."

Suddenly an air-raid siren-like tone started wailing over the camp loudspeaker system. At first the kids got scared, but seconds later, when a voice came over the speaker announcing that all campers immediately take their color war 'battle-stations' in the main assembly hall, the kids burst into cheering laughter.

Everyone scrambled to the assembly hall to get her team assignments. Gail, in her position as red-team assistant captain stood up on the stage. Suddenly she noticed that Sherri was standing next to her.

"Hi Sherri," she said, "it's great that you came up on stage to congratulate me, but I'm not sure that they allow *regular* campers..."

Suddenly the counselor in charge walked over, holding an official looking clipboard. "Okay, red-team captain, here's your complete list of activities and team members."

Gail started to reach for the clipboard, but the counselor walked right past her and placed it in *Sherri's* hands.

"You? You mean, you're the red-team ... *Captain?*"

Sherri nodded as Gail's mouth dropped below her chin. "Actually, I'm the one who suggested you as my assistant after they appointed me."

"But ... why didn't you put me in my place when I was doing all my dumb bragging?"

"Well, you seemed to be enjoying it so much," Sherri grinned to her assistant, whose red face perfectly matched her red-team visor cap. "Look on the bright side - at least we'll be having plenty of time to talk with each other this week, after all!"

### **Discussion Questions:**

Q. How did Gail feel when she found out she would be assistant captain?

A. She felt very proud of herself and wanted to brag.

Q. How did she feel when she found out that Sherri was captain?

A. She felt silly that she had been so braggish, when her friend, who had even more to brag about, had been so humble about it.

**LEADER TIP:** Ask the kids how they feel when they succeed at something. Is it ok to be a little proud and confident?



# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau

(June 1, 1937-)



Born in the Polish town of Piotrków Trybunalski Rabbi Lau is the 38<sup>th</sup> generation in an unbroken family chain of Rabbis. His father, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lau, was the last Chief Rabbi of the town, before being killed in the Treblinka extermination camp.

Rabbi Lau is the father of three sons and five daughters. His eldest son, Moshe Chaim, took his place as Rabbi in Netanya in 1989; his son David became the Chief Rabbi of Modi'in, and later Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel; and his youngest, Tzvi Yehuda, is the Rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 2008, Rabbi Lau was appointed Chairman of Yad Vashem.

Rabbi Lau was a Rabbi in a number of shuls in Tel Aviv until 1971 when he was appointed rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 1988, after the death of his father-in-law, Rabbi Lau was appointed to serve as chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, a position he held until 1993. When Rabbi Lau met the Rebbe in 1992, the Rebbe told Rabbi Lau to finish his work in Tel Aviv, as he would soon be chosen to become the Chief Rabbi of Israel. In 1993, Lau was elected Chief Rabbi of Israel until 2003. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2005, Rabbi Lau was renamed Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Lau has often been characterized as the "consensus rabbi", and has close ties to both Haredi and Modern Orthodox Judaism, particularly in regard to his politics, which have been characterized as moderate Zionist. He is one of the few figures in the Haredi world who has managed to gain the trust and admiration of both the Sephardic and Ashkenazic population. In May 2005, Rabbi Lau was awarded the Israel Prize for his lifetime achievements and special contribution to society and the State of Israel. On April 14 2011, he was awarded the Legion of Honor (France's highest honor) in recognition of his efforts to promote interfaith dialogue.

**LEADER TIP:** Rabbi Lau has been an incredible leader to the Jewish people, especially in Israel. If you could ask him one question, what would it be?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## U'va L'tzion

This prayer tells us that a “redeemer” will come to Zion and to the people who do teshuvah from the sins they did intentionally. The Torah says that teshuvah is needed to bring the Jewish people’s redemption. The Gemara (Yoma 86b) makes the connection as well, saying, “Great is repentance, for it brings the redemption nearer.” That being said, it’s difficult to imagine that our generation’s teshuvah is enough to bring the world closer to redemption. The Midrash explains that when Moshe told bnei Yisrael that they would be redeemed from Mitzrayim during the month of Nissan, they responded, “How can we be redeemed? We do not have good deeds... Mitzrayim is full of our idols!” Moshe answered, “Because Hashem wants to redeem you, He does not look as much at your bad deeds. To whom does Hashem look? To the righteous ones among you.” The “righteous ones” in our day are the Jews who, despite all the confusion of this world, despite all the excess materialism that pulls people so strongly, despite all the desires and cravings that are easily acquired, reject the falsehood and turn to Hashem. Their teshuvah will be enough to bring the final redemption.

**LEADER TIP:** What the difference between sins you do on purpose willingly and sins not on purpose?



# PARSHA NATION

## GRADES 3-4



## *EIKEV REVIEW*

In Parshat Eikev (“Because”), Moshe continues his closing address to Bnei Yisrael, promising them that if they follow the mitzvot, they will succeed in the Land they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with Hashem’s promise to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov.

Moshe also rebukes them for their mistakes such as worshipping the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, and the sin of the spies. But he also speaks of Hashem’s forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Luchot that Hashem gave to Bnei Yisrael after they did teshuvah. Moshe also reminds them how Hashem is the one who supplies everything they need to survive, especially food.

Moshe described the land they are about to enter as “flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “seven fruits” (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates).

In this Parshah we also have the second paragraph of Shema, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot said in the first paragraph of Shema, and describes the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot and the opposite results if they don’t. It is also the source of the teaching of prayer.

**LEADER TIP:** The second paragraph of Shema talks about the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot. Have the kids say good things that other people have done and give out prizes to each of them.

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. What did living in the desert teach Bnei Yisrael?
2. What does the Torah specify to be the natural resources that can be found in Eretz Yisrael?
3. Which berachah quotes “ve’achalta vasavata ooverachta”?
4. What does this pasuk mean?
5. What does HaShem warn could happen as a result of Bnei Yisrael being blessed with satisfaction and prosperity?
6. What is the key to Bnei Yisrael being worthy of prosperity?
7. What major sin was brought up in Moshe’s speech?
8. Why didn’t HaShem destroy the nation after this sin?
9. What does Am Keshei Oref mean?
10. Which nation is known as a stubborn nation?
11. How many were the Bnei Yisrael when they went down to Mitzrayim and how many were the Bnei Yisrael when they entered Eretz Yisrael?
12. Which paragraph of the shema is in this week’s parsha?
13. What does HaShem guarantee Bnei Yisrael will receive in the right season if they keep the mitzvot?
14. Where in the home are these words supposed to be written?
15. What does HaShem guarantee to destroy if Bnei Yisrael will adhere to the mitzvot?

## Answers

1. That they relied on HaShem and they will live if it is HaShem’s will
2. The seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates)
3. Birkat Hamazon
4. You will eat and be satisfied and bless HaShem
5. They could think that they alone are responsible for their prosperity and forget HaShem
6. The key is their keeping the mitzvot
7. The sin of Egel Hazahav (golden calf)
8. Moshe davened on behalf of the Bnei Yisrael
9. A stubborn nation
10. Bnei Yisrael
11. a. Seventy  
b. As numerous as the stars
12. Vehaya Im Shemo’a
13. Rain
14. In the mezuzah (on the doorpost)
15. The nations around them that cause them trouble, even those nations that are stronger

**LEADER TIP:** As a special snack this week, have each of the *shiva minim*.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To teach the kids that we shouldn't let success go to our heads. When things are going our way, we shouldn't get haughty, but instead should feel humble and grateful to Hashem.

## **ACTIVITY: “Anomia”**

This will require you to have the actual game Anomia to play.

The directions are simple. Draw a card from the center pile and flip it over. Does the symbol on your card match one on another player's card? If so, you must quickly face-off with the other player by giving an example of the person, place, or thing on their card before they can do the same for yours. If you blurt out a correct answer first, you win their card and drawing continues. Sounds simple, right? Wrong!

Wild cards, which allow unlike symbols to match, increase the number of things you must pay attention to. Flowing face-offs occur when you hand over a lost card. What that means is that if you give away your card on top of your pile, there could be another match with your new shape, so you need to keep paying attention. Let's not forget your brain, your brain will betray you! All this adds up to a high-energy, hilarious play experience where everyone is involved at all times.

**DISCUSSION:** In this game, we think that our cards are safe and sound in front of us but in a split second they could not only leave us but go into another person's pile. Sometimes we get so haughty and confident with the things we have that we don't appreciate it at all and take it for granted. In this week's Parsha, we learn about not letting success get to our heads. We should always try to be humble and appreciate what we have. Sometimes those things last forever, and sometimes they disappear or change right before our eyes. If we learn to see everything for the good and know that anything we have or don't have is Hashem's master plan, we could add much more meaning and happiness to our lives and learn the value of everything that Hashem gives us.

**LEADER TIP:** Try out an experiment after this game and discussion. When giving out snack or prizes, give out a certain amount more than usual and then take away some of it and tell the kids that you gave them too much and see how they react based on the lesson they just learned.

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"But ... why didn't you put me in my place when I was doing all my dumb bragging?"

"Well, you seemed to be enjoying it so much," Sherri grinned to her assistant, whose red face perfectly matched her red-team visor cap. "Look on the bright side - at least we'll be having plenty of time to talk with each other this week, after all!"

### **Discussion Questions:**

Q. What life-lesson do you think Gail learned that day?

A. She had become very full of herself when she found out she'd been selected as assistant captain, but she saw how conceited she'd been acting, especially when she saw how Sherri had taken even a bigger honor humbly and in stride.

Q. Do you think it's okay to brag about our accomplishments or what we have?

A. We certainly should feel good about ourselves, especially about when things go our way, but bragging can make others feel bad, which is something we shouldn't want to do.

**LEADER TIP:** Ask the kids how they feel when they succeed at something. Is it ok to be a little proud and confident?

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau

(June 1, 1937-)



Born in the Polish town of Piotrków Trybunalski Rabbi Lau is the 38<sup>th</sup> generation in an unbroken family chain of Rabbis. His father, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lau, was the last Chief Rabbi of the town, before being killed in the Treblinka extermination camp.

As a seven-year-old, after traumatic separation from his mother, Chaya Lau, Rabbi Lau was imprisoned in a Nazi slave labor camp and then in Buchenwald extermination camp. He has attributed his unlikely survival to heroic efforts of his older brother Naphtali Lau-Lavie who hid him, at constant risk, and recruited other prisoners in this effort. Rabbi Lau was freed from the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1945. He became a poster child for miraculous survival, and the inhumanity of the Nazi regime, after U.S. Army chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schacter detected him hiding behind a heap of corpses when the camp was liberated.

Rabbi Lau immigrated to Mandate Palestine with his brother Naphtali in July 1945, where he was raised by an aunt and uncle, and studied in the famous yeshiva Kol Torah under Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach as well as in Ponevezh and Knesses Chizkiyahu. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1961 and served as Chief Rabbi in Netanya (1978–1988), and at that time developed his reputation as a popular speaker.

Rabbi Lau is the father of three sons and five daughters. His eldest son, Moshe Chaim, took his place as Rabbi in Netanya in 1989; his son David became the Chief Rabbi of Modi'in, and later Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel; and his youngest, Tzvi Yehuda, is the Rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 2008, Rabbi Lau was appointed Chairman of Yad Vashem.

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**LEADER TIP:** Rabbi Lau has been an incredible leader to the Jewish people, especially in Israel. If you could ask him one question, what would it be?



# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## U'va L'tzion

This prayer tells us that a “redeemer” will come to Zion and to the people who do teshuvah from the sins they did intentionally. The Torah says that teshuvah is needed to bring the Jewish people’s redemption. The Gemara (Yoma 86b) makes the connection as well, saying, “Great is repentance, for it brings the redemption nearer.” That being said, it’s difficult to imagine that our generation’s teshuvah is enough to bring the world closer to redemption. The Midrash explains that when Moshe told bnei Yisrael that they would be redeemed from Mitzrayim during the month of Nissan, they responded, “How can we be redeemed? We do not have good deeds... Mitzrayim is full of our idols!” Moshe answered, “Because Hashem wants to redeem you, He does not look as much at your bad deeds. To whom does Hashem look? To the righteous ones among you.” The “righteous ones” in our day are the Jews who, despite all the confusion of this world, despite all the excess materialism that pulls people so strongly, despite all the desires and cravings that are easily acquired, reject the falsehood and turn to Hashem. Their teshuvah will be enough to bring the final redemption.

Why do we say *Baruch Kevod Hashem Mimkomo*, Blessed is Hashem from His place” when the Gemara (Ta’anis 21b) teaches that, “It is not a person’s place that accords him honor, but rather it is the person who accords honor to his place”? By the giving of the Torah on Har Sinai, Hashem commanded, “Even the sheep and the cattle shall not graze next to ‘that mountain’” (Shemos 34:3). As long as the Shechinah rested upon ‘that mountain’, the Shechinah accorded honor to the mountain and no man or beast was allowed to trespass. Once the Shechinah departed from the mountain, the prohibition was lifted, showing that the mountain possessed no sanctity in the absence of the Shechinah. That is why we follow *Baruch Kevod Hashem Mimkomo*, Blessed is Hashem from His place” with the words *M’atar Beit Shchinteh*, from the place of the abode of His Presence.” The place does not give honor, rather the Shechinah provides honor to the place.

**LEADER TIP:** What the difference between sins you do on purpose willingly and sins not on purpose?



# PARSHA NATION



GRADES 5-6

## *EIKEV REVIEW*

In Parshat Eikev (“Because”), Moshe continues his closing address to Bnei Yisrael, promising them that if they follow the mitzvot, they will succeed in the Land they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with Hashem’s promise to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov.

Moshe also rebukes them for their mistakes such as worshipping the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, and the sin of the spies. But he also speaks of Hashem’s forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Luchot that Hashem gave to Bnei Yisrael after they did teshuvah. Moshe also reminds them how Hashem is the one who supplies everything they need to survive, especially food.

Moshe described the land they are about to enter as “flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “seven fruits” (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates).

In this Parshah we also have the second paragraph of Shema, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot said in the first paragraph of Shema, and describes the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot and the opposite results if they don’t. It is also the source of the teaching of prayer.

**LEADER TIP:** The second paragraph of Shema talks about the rewards of keeping Hashem’s mitzvot. Have the kids say good things that other people have done and give out prizes to each of them.

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to destroy?
2. What did living in the desert teach Bnei Yisrael?
3. What does the Torah specify to be the natural resources that can be found in Eretz Yisrael?
4. Which berachah quotes “ve’achalta vasavata ooverachta”?
5. What does this pasuk mean?
6. What does HaShem warn could happen as a result of Bnei Yisrael being blessed with satisfaction and prosperity?
7. What is the key to Bnei Yisrael being worthy of prosperity?
8. What major sin was brought up in Moshe’s speech?
9. Why didn’t HaShem destroy the nation after this sin?
10. What does Am Keshei Oref mean?
11. Which nation is known as a stubborn nation?
12. Why was a second set of Luchot needed?
13. Where were the Luchot kept?
14. In whose merit will HaShem help Bnei Yisrael inherit Eretz Yisrael?
15. How many were the Bnei Yisrael when they went down to Mitzrayim and how many were the Bnei Yisrael when they entered Eretz Yisrael?
16. Which paragraph of the shema is in this week’s parsha?
17. What does HaShem guarantee Bnei Yisrael will receive in the right season if they keep the mitzvot?
18. Where in the home are these words supposed to be written?
19. What does HaShem guarantee to destroy if Bnei Yisrael will adhere to the mitzvot?
20. To what does HaShem compare the way He rebukes the Bnei Yisrael?

## Answers

All of the idols which belonged to the Canaanim

2. That they relied on HaShem and they will live if it is HaShem’s will
3. The seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates)
4. Birkat Hamazon
5. You will eat and be satisfied and bless HaShem
6. They could think that they alone are responsible for their prosperity and forget HaShem
7. The key is their keeping the mitzvot

8. The sin of Egel Hazahav (golden calf)
9. Moshe davened on behalf of the Bnei Yisrael
10. A stubborn nation
11. Bnei Yisrael
12. When Moshe saw the Egel Hazahav he shattered the first set of Luchot
13. In the Aron Hakodesh which was kept in the Mishkan
14. The Avot
15. a. Seventy  
b. As numerous as the stars
16. Vehaya Im Shemo'a
17. Rain
18. In the mezuzah (on the doorpost)
19. The nations around them that cause them trouble, even those nations that are stronger
20. To a father who rebukes his child

**LEADER TIP:** As a special snack this week, have each of the *shiva minim*.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To teach the kids that we shouldn't let success go to our heads. When things are going our way, we shouldn't get haughty, but instead should feel humble and grateful to Hashem.

## **ACTIVITY: "Monopoly Deal"**

This will require you to have the actual game of Monopoly Deal in order to play.

### How to win

Be the FIRST player to collect 3 full property sets of different colors.

### What the game is about

Monopoly Deal is all about collecting properties and stealing from your opponents! Use Action cards to charge rent, swap cards, demand birthday money and lots more. Make sure you put lots of money into your personal bank - and remember other players will steal from you too!

### Setup

Remove the 4 Quick Start cards from the pack and hand them out for reference.

Shuffle the rest of the cards together and deal 5 to each player, face down.

Look at your cards, but keep them a secret!

Put the remaining cards face down in the center to create the draw pile.

Decide who goes first. Play continues clockwise.

### On your turn

TAKE 2 CARDS from the draw pile and add them to your hand. Later in the game if you have no cards left, pick up 5 instead.

PLAY UP TO 3 CARDS from your hand, onto the table in front of you. You don't have to play any cards if you don't want to. Play your 3 cards in any combination of the following: A, B, and/or C, in any order (see WHAT THE GAME LOOKS LIKE, below).

### END YOUR TURN

If you have more than 7 cards in your hand at the end of your turn (not including cards on the table) discard extras to the bottom of the draw pile so you only have 7. If you've run out of cards, take 5 at the start of your next turn.

A: Put Money/Bank cards into your own Bank

Players can charge each other for rent, birthdays etc. Build up a 'Bank' pile in front of you, using Money cards and/or Action cards.

If you charge rent off a monopoly with a house, you CANNOT make the house money at any point unless the opposing player charges rent and you have used all the money in your bank pile.

If you put an action card into your bank, it becomes redundant as an Action card for the rest of the game. If you use it to pay another player, it must go straight into their bank and cannot be used for its Action. However, if a player pays with a house/hotel, it can be placed on the opposing players' monopoly if they have one. Otherwise, the player has the option of placing it in their bank pile or waiting until they have a Monopoly to put it on.

AND/OR

B: Put down Properties into your own collection

**REMEMBER, 3 DIFFERENT-COLORED PROPERTY SETS WIN THE GAME!**

Wild cards may be switched around when wanted, even if they are in a set! It is up to the group of players to decide if they want to count each of these moves as half turn or not because 3 or 4 cards can be moved in one turn to give one player an incredible advantage. This can only be done on that player's turn.

AND/OR

C: Play Action cards into the center

**FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE ACTION CARDS!**

Action cards allow you to do things such as charge other players rent, steal their cards and demand money for your birthday!

If you pick up an Action card on your turn, you can play it right away as one of your three cards or use it on a later turn.

Action cards can also be put into your bank as money. The value is shown in the corner, in a red ring. (See THE CARDS IN MORE DETAIL for more info).

**IMPORTANT! How to pay other players**

Cards can NEVER go back to a player's hand.

NEVER pay with cards from your hand, only from the cards in front of you.

NEVER pay with property from full set.

You can pay with cards from your bank, properties, or a combination of both. You choose how to pay - not the player you're paying!

All cards on the table are subject to being stolen. Sly deals and forced deals cannot steal a card that is part of a full set, but they can steal any other card.

Change is NOT given! For example, if a player charges you 2M rent and you only have a 3M card in your bank, you don't get change. Too Bad!

If you pay with property cards, they must go into the other player's property collection.

If you have no cards in front of you, you don't pay at all!

### The Winner

TO WIN, BE THE FIRST PLAYER TO COLLECT 3 FULL PROPERTY SETS OF DIFFERENT COLORS ON THE END OF THE TURN.

**DISCUSSION:** In this game, we think that our cards are safe and sound in front of us but in a split second they could not only leave us but go into another person's pile. Sometimes we get so haughty and confident with the things we have that we don't appreciate it at all and take it for granted. In this week's Parsha, we learn about not letting success get to our heads. We should always try to be humble and appreciate what we have. Sometimes those things last forever, and sometimes they disappear or change right before our eyes. If we learn to see everything for the good and know that anything we have or don't have is Hashem's master plan, we could add much more meaning and happiness to our lives and learn the value of everything that Hashem gives us.

**LEADER TIP:** Try out an experiment after this game and discussion. When giving out snack or prizes, give out a certain amount more than usual and then take away some of it and tell the kids that you gave them too much and see how they react based on the lesson they just learned.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** We shouldn't let success go to our heads. This week Parsha reminds us that when things are going our way, we shouldn't get haughty or snotty over it, but should feel humbly grateful to Hashem.

## TEAM WORK

Sherri was tucking the corners of her blanket into her camp bunk bed, when her friend, Gail, came bursting into the cabin.

"Guess what!" Gail said with her head held high.

"What?"

"Guess!" Gail insisted. "I'll give you a hint. An incredible, amazing thing just happened to me."

Sherri looked at her, "Um, you saw some Martians land from outer space on the soccer field?"

Gail frowned. "No something real. But since you're not being serious, I'll tell you. I, me, yours truly, was just appointed to be the assistant-red-team-captain for this year's color war!"

"That's terrific," Sherri said with a smile.

"It's more than terrific," Gail went on, "It's an *honor*. It shows that the staff feels that I'm an *excellent* camper, with *special* leadership qualities, don't you agree?" Sherri nodded, as Gail continued. "Don't think I didn't notice the funny look you gave me when I first told you the news. I can tell you're jealous of me - and you *should* be - not just *anyone* has what it takes to be assistant captain of an entire camp team..." she looked down her nose at Sherri "...does she?"

Sherri drew in her breath, like she was about to say something, then she stopped and just shook her head.

Later on, as the kids lined up on the dock for their row-boating period, Sherri came over to Gail.

"Are we sharing a boat as usual?" she asked.

"Gee," Gail said, "I'm not sure. After all, when color war starts any day now, I'm going to be a *very important person*, you know. But I guess - for now - I'll do you a favor and let you join me."

"Thanks," Sherri said simply and climbed into the boat.

After rowing around the lake, Gail bragging non-stop about her good fortune and the talents that she had which made her deserve it, they got back to the dock. "Well it was fun rowin' and chattin' with you," Gail said, "but I don't know how much free time I'm going to have soon to talk to you once I start my important..."



Suddenly an air-raid siren-like tone started wailing over the camp loudspeaker system. At first the kids got scared, but seconds later, when a voice came over the speaker announcing that all campers immediately take their color war 'battle-stations' in the main assembly hall, the kids burst into cheering laughter.

Everyone scrambled to the assembly hall to get her team assignments. Gail, in her position as red-team assistant captain stood up on the stage. Suddenly she noticed that Sherri was standing next to her.

"Hi Sherri," she said, "it's great that you came up on stage to congratulate me, but I'm not sure that they allow *regular* campers..."

Suddenly the counselor in charge walked over, holding an official looking clipboard. "Okay, red-team captain, here's your complete list of activities and team members."

Gail started to reach for the clipboard, but the counselor walked right past her and placed it in *Sherri's* hands.

"You? You mean, you're the red-team ... *Captain*?"

Sherri nodded as Gail's mouth dropped below her chin. "Actually, I'm the one who suggested you as my assistant after they appointed me."

"But ... why didn't you put me in my place when I was doing all my dumb bragging?"

"Well, you seemed to be enjoying it so much," Sherri grinned to her assistant, whose red face perfectly matched her red-team visor cap. "Look on the bright side - at least we'll be having plenty of time to talk with each other this week, after all!"

### **Discussion Questions:**

Q. In your opinion, is haughtiness a sign of self-confidence?

A. It might come off that way, but generally, it's a sign of the opposite. A person who's confident inside doesn't feel the need to broadcast his or her talents or achievements.

Q. Is it ever appropriate to brag?

A. If our motivation is to spur others on to reach higher goals that are within their grasp and for their genuine good, then perhaps it's a positive thing. Other than that - no.

**LEADER TIP:** Ask the kids how they feel when they succeed at something. Is it ok to be a little proud and confident?

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau

(June 1, 1937-)



Born in the Polish town of Piotrków Trybunalski Rabbi Lau is the 38<sup>th</sup> generation in an unbroken family chain of Rabbis. His father, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lau, was the last Chief Rabbi of the town, before being killed in the Treblinka extermination camp.

As a seven-year-old, after traumatic separation from his mother, Chaya Lau, Rabbi Lau was imprisoned in a Nazi slave labor camp and then in Buchenwald extermination camp. He has attributed his unlikely survival to heroic efforts of his older brother Naphtali Lau-Lavie who hid him, at constant risk, and recruited other prisoners in this effort. Rabbi Lau was freed from the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1945. He became a poster child for miraculous survival, and the inhumanity of the Nazi regime, after U.S. Army chaplain Rabbi Herschel Schacter detected him hiding behind a heap of corpses when the camp was liberated.

Rabbi Lau immigrated to Mandate Palestine with his brother Naphtali in July 1945, where he was raised by an aunt and uncle, and studied in the famous yeshiva Kol Torah under Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach as well as in Ponevezh and Knesses Chizkiyahu. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1961 and served as Chief Rabbi in Netanya (1978–1988), and at that time developed his reputation as a popular speaker.

Rabbi Lau is the father of three sons and five daughters. His eldest son, Moshe Chaim, took his place as Rabbi in Netanya in 1989; his son David became the Chief Rabbi of Modi'in, and later Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel; and his youngest, Tzvi Yehuda, is the Rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 2008, Rabbi Lau was appointed Chairman of Yad Vashem.

Rabbi Lau was a Rabbi in a number of shuls in Tel Aviv until 1971 when he was appointed rabbi of North Tel Aviv. In 1988, after the death of his father-in-law, Rabbi Lau was appointed to serve as chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, a position he held until 1993. When Rabbi Lau met the Rebbe in 1992, the Rebbe told Rabbi Lau to finish his work in Tel Aviv, as he would soon be chosen to become the Chief Rabbi of Israel. In 1993, Lau was elected Chief Rabbi of Israel until 2003. On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2005, Rabbi Lau was renamed Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Lau has often been characterized as the "consensus rabbi", and has close ties to both Haredi and Modern Orthodox Judaism, particularly in regard to his politics, which have been characterized as moderate Zionist. He is one of the few figures in the Haredi world who has managed to gain the trust and admiration of both the Sephardic and Ashkenazic population. In May 2005, Rabbi Lau was awarded the Israel Prize for his lifetime achievements and special contribution to society and the State of Israel. On April 14 2011, he was awarded the Legion of Honor (France's highest honor) in recognition of his efforts to promote interfaith dialogue.

**LEADER TIP:** Rabbi Lau has been an incredible leader to the Jewish people, especially in Israel. If you could ask him one question, what would it be?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## U'va L'tzion

This prayer tells us that a “redeemer” will come to Zion and to the people who do teshuvah from the sins they did intentionally. The Torah says that teshuvah is needed to bring the Jewish people’s redemption. The Gemara (Yoma 86b) makes the connection as well, saying, “Great is repentance, for it brings the redemption nearer.” That being said, it’s difficult to imagine that our generation’s teshuvah is enough to bring the world closer to redemption. The Midrash explains that when Moshe told bnei Yisrael that they would be redeemed from Mitzrayim during the month of Nissan, they responded, “How can we be redeemed? We do not have good deeds... Mitzrayim is full of our idols!” Moshe answered, “Because Hashem wants to redeem you, He does not look as much at your bad deeds. To whom does Hashem look? To the righteous ones among you.” The “righteous ones” in our day are the Jews who, despite all the confusion of this world, despite all the excess materialism that pulls people so strongly, despite all the desires and cravings that are easily acquired, reject the falsehood and turn to Hashem. Their teshuvah will be enough to bring the final redemption.

Why do we say *Baruch Kevod Hashem Mimkomo*, Blessed is Hashem from His place” when the Gemara (Ta’anis 21b) teaches that, “It is not a person’s place that accords him honor, but rather it is the person who accords honor to his place”? By the giving of the Torah on Har Sinai, Hashem commanded, “Even the sheep and the cattle shall not graze next to ‘that mountain’” (Shemos 34:3). As long as the Shechinah rested upon ‘that mountain’, the Shechinah accorded honor to the mountain and no man or beast was allowed to trespass. Once the Shechinah departed from the mountain, the prohibition was lifted, showing that the mountain possessed no sanctity in the absence of the Shechinah. That is why we follow *Baruch Kevod Hashem Mimkomo*, Blessed is Hashem from His place” with the words *M’atar Beit Shchinteh*, from the place of the abode of His Presence.” The place does not give honor, rather the Shechinah provides honor to the place.

**LEADER TIP:** What the difference between sins you do on purpose willingly and sins not on purpose?



# PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

## This Week in Jewish History

1906

### Cuba's First Synagogue Founded by 11 American Jews

While no one knows exactly when Jews first arrived in Cuba, it is a popular opinion that three Jewish men arrived after the expulsion from Spain in 1492. Some believe that these Jews traveled to Cuba with Columbus on the Santa Maria.. All three were Marranos, or forced Jewish converts to Catholicism. There is little information about Jews in Cuba until the late 19th century, the beginning of the organized Cuban Jewish community.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Jews immigrated to Cuba from Brazil. They were persecuted under Portuguese control. New Jewish immigrants established trade in Cuba and, by the 18th century, Cuban Jewish trade reached Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Hamburg, Germany. Jews continued to be bothered during this time, and many of the original Jewish immigrants assimilated and acculturated into Cuban society.

In the late 1800's, Jews from the Dutch Antilles settled in Cuba. They supported Jose Martí, who liberated Cuba from Spanish colonial rule in 1898. Many Jewish traders pursuing business in the New World set up outposts on the island. In 1898, after the Spanish-American War, Jews established a permanent presence in Cuba. American Ashkenazi Jews born in Romania and

### Holocaust memorial at the Ashkenazic cemetery in Havana dedicated to the 6 million murdered Jews.



elsewhere in Eastern Europe immigrated to Cuba to work for U.S.-owned plantations and businesses. In 1906, 11 American Jews founded Cuba's first synagogue, the United Hebrew Congregation, a Reform synagogue that conducted services in English. This is considered the official beginning of the Cuban Jewish community. Cuban Jews were involved in all aspects of Cuban society and economy. Jews were instrumental in the sugar cane business; they brought the sugar cane from Madeira to Brazil and to the Antilles. Jews also were the first ones to use a protective cloth used when growing tobacco to protect the plants from sun and wind. These protective coverings are still used today to produce the highest quality tobaccos leaves in the world.

A large number of Jews immigrated to Cuba from 1910 until 1920, including Sephardic Jews from Turkey. Many of these Jews came from Eastern Europe and used Cuba as a stopover en route to the United States, which had a strict quota system at that time. Many decided to stay since there was little anti-Semitism in Cuba, as well as good weather. Many of the new immigrants from Europe prospered in Cuban's garment industry. By 1924, there were 24,000 Jews living in Cuba.

### **FIND...**

- Wheat
- Barley
- Grapes
- Figs
- Pomegranates
- Olives
- Dates
- Milk and Honey

### **STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- EIKEV**

**46th of the 54 sedras;**

**3rd of 11 in Devarim**

**231.83 lines in a Torah; rank: 14th**

**111 pesukim – ranks 26th (4th in Devarim)**

**Same number as Vayikra, but larger**

**1747 words – ranks 16th (3rd in Devarim)**

**6865 letters – rank: 14th (3rd in Devarim)**

**Eikev's pesukim are long – 3rd longest in the Torah in words and letters per pasuk. This accounts for rise in ranking in those categories.**

**MITZVOT**

**8 of 613 mitzvot, 6 pos. / 2 prohibitions**

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

# WHO WERE THE FIRST THREE PRIME MINISTERS OF ISRAEL?

Email your answers to [SAMMYS@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG](mailto: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!

- **Most lipstick contains fish scales.**
- **Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.**
- **Over 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow.**
- **A crocodile can't move its tongue and cannot chew. Its digestive juices are so strong that it can digest a steel nail.**

**For more info please feel free to contact us  
at [sammys@youngisrael.org](mailto:sammys@youngisrael.org)**

R V H S J Y D I Y P T S  
P M D G Y I S I E R X E  
T C N B E J K N N O C T  
S Y U J L C D I O A Q A  
W E Q X R J A O H B D N  
P B Y U A Z T S D U X A  
F O N D B U E C N K A R  
I S Y V E P S W A Z B G  
G O L I V E S T K C H E  
S G R A P E S O L T I M  
E E F L I V Y T I D O O  
I V F W H E A T M N Q P

### Parsha Points to Ponder..

This weekly Portion starts with the words: וְהָיָה עִקְבֹב תִּשְׁמַעְמֵן אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה, “And it shall be as a consequence if you shall harken to these Mitzvot.” (Deut. 7,12) The Hebrew word for “as a consequence” is עִקְבֹב. This word has another meaning in Hebrew. It means heel. Because the Torah uses this word Rashi presumes it is talking about those minor Mitzvot that one is apt to tread upon with his foot.

Besides meaning “minor Mitzvot” perhaps it also means performing a Mitzvah in a minor way. For example, instead of buying a nice set of Lulav and Etrog although he can afford it, one buys a cheap set to save money.

Another example would be if a poor individual asks you for a donation you give him a dollar when you know he could use more. That could also be considered trampling on the Mitzvah.

Rashi is trying to emphasize that all the Mitzvot have a value which we may not realize. Hence, it is important for us to do all the Mitzvot with our full heart. We never know what value they have or what effect they can have on others. Rashi implies the Torah refers to minor Mitzvot but it can also be referring to doing Mitzvot in a minor way.

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