



GRADES K-2

Parsha Overview

This week's parsha takes place on the last day of Moses's life. He was 120 years old. He began his farewell speech to the Jewish people which continues through the end of the Torah. Moses, again, reminded the Jewish people that there will be consequences for their actions if they don't listen to God and follow his Torah. They will be exiled from the Land of Israel and will be spread out all over the world. However, he assured them that when they do teshuva, when they repent, God will gather them from the four corners of the world and bring them back to the land of Israel. There, God will once again bless them and they will have plenty of food to eat. They will have lots of money, and there will be everlasting peace. Moses also reminded the people that God always gives a person free-choice to do good or bad. We are never forced to do good and God will not stop us from doing bad things if that is what we choose. Therefore, it is important for us to make sure that we always choose to do the right thing.

Parsha Questions

1. Who is talking to the Jewish people in this week's Parsha? [Moses]
2. How old was he? [120]
3. What will happen to the Jewish people if they don't listen to God? [They will be sent out of the Land of Israel and will be spread out all over the world]
4. What do the Jews have to do if they want to be saved from exile? [teshuvah, repent]
5. What will God do in response? [He will gather the Jews from all over the world and bring them to the Land of Israel]
6. What did Moses remind the people regarding their choices? [They are free to choose to do good or bad]

Focus of the Month: Teshuva

Note to Leaders: This will be our final week focusing on Teshuvah. Use this opportunity to discuss with the children that it is almost Rosh Hashana. On this day it will be decided whether we will have a good year or a bad year. Use the following mashal, parable, to illustrate the point that if we think about what happens on Rosh Hashanah, we will take it very seriously. We should use every opportunity we have to prepare as best as we can, by doing teshuvah and doing mitzvot.

There was a man who earned his livelihood by smuggling illegal goods across the border from one country to another. One day the smuggler was approached by a businessman who asked him to help smuggle his wares. The smuggler agreed and they set a price and picked a date to do the smuggling. When the day arrived, the businessman was very nervous that they would get caught. On the other hand, the wagon driver, who makes the bulk of his livelihood through smuggling, remained calm. He was quite used to it. However, when almost at the border, even he began to get nervous. Although he had done this many times before, the sight of the border guards approaching sent a chill down his spine. The only ones, who had no fear at all, as they approached the border, was the horses. They had no idea what was going on and what would happen if the illegal goods were discovered.

The same is true with Rosh Hashanah. There are some people who start to get nervous and prepare at the beginning of Elul, others when Rosh Hashanah itself comes, and there are others who don't realize what is going on so they don't get nervous at all.

Games

Shofar Race

Use this game as a fun way to help children remember which shofar sound is which.

What to Do:

Have all the children line up on one side of the room. Mark a finish line on the other end of the room. Instruct the children that they can only move with steps that correspond to the sound that is called out: *Tekiah*, one big

step, *Shevarim*, three regular steps, *Teruah*, nine baby steps. If a child takes the wrong steps they have to start from the beginning again. Mix things up by saying two sounds together, i.e. *Shevarim-Teruah*. The first child to the finish line wins.

Apple Taste Test

What you will need:

3 different types of apples cut up into bite-size pieces- enough for each child to have one piece of each

Blindfold

What to do:

Let each child have a turn to be blindfolded. Let them take taste of each type of apple. See who can guess which apple is which.

Story

The Pardon

A king went hunting in the forest. Chasing after a deer, he went deep into the woods, and when he looked around, he found himself lost and alone. He began to look for a way out of the woods, and for the road, which would lead him back to his city and palace. In his search he met some country folk, but nobody recognized him, or wanted to have anything to do with him. When he began to speak to them, they did not even understand what he was saying, nor did they care.

Wandering about in the woods for a long time, the king heard a fine melody that someone was playing on a flute. Following the sound, the king came across a man and engaged him in conversation. The man recognized the king at once, and spoke to him with humility and respect.

The king saw that here was a man after his heart, and liked him at once. When he told the man that he was hoping to meet someone who would be able to lead him out of the woods and back to

his palace and throne, the man was happy to do it and the king felt grateful to him. He invited him to his palace and gave him a place of honor among his royal counselors and advisers. Then he ordered costly garments for his friend, befitting his rank.

Sometime later, the king's friend disobeyed the king. The king became very angry, and ordered him to appear before the royal court for trial. When the day of trial came, the king's friend took off his robes, and put on the simple clothes he wore on the day when he first met the king. He also took his flute with him, and appeared before the royal court very humble and repentant. Before passing judgment the king asked him if he had any request to make. "Permit me, Your Majesty, to play a melody on my flute," the defendant asked, and his request was granted. He played the beautiful melody that he had played on that day when he had met the king for the first time. The king remembered it well. At once that happy meeting came to his mind, when the stranger had made the king so happy, and led him out of the forest back to his palace. The king thereupon pardoned his friend and took him back into his grace and favor.

This story will help us understand a little better the meaning of the blowing of the shofar. For what happened to us is very similar to the story. When God was about to give the Torah, he turned to various peoples, but none of the nations wanted to accept it. In the end God turned to our people, and we accepted Him and the Torah with the beautiful words of "naaseh v'nishma"--we will Do and Obey-a promise to fulfill God's commands without question. We took upon ourselves the Divine rule, and proclaimed God as the King of the whole world. This pleased God very much. When Rosh Hashanah comes, all of our actions come before God and are weighed on the scale. We may be worried what the outcome will be, if we are judged according to our merits. We want God to be merciful towards us and to forgive us no matter what our record may have been in the past. Therefore, we appear before God in the way we appeared before Him on that great day at Sinai. On that day the sound of the shofar was heard, and we sang the beautiful melody of

"naase v'nishma,- we will do and we will listen." This causes God to remember that day and He turns towards us with mercy and forgiveness, causing our love for God and His love for us to be as strong as ever. This will help assure that we will be inscribed for a New Year of good health and happiness.

Halacha of the week

Everyone is obligated to hear the shofar on Rosh Hashana. There are three types of sounds that are blown:

Tekiah- one long, straight blast: _____

Shevarim- three medium blasts: _____

Teruah- nine short blasts: _____

One should make sure to hear all the sounds that the chazan blows and should not talk from the time he hears the blessing on the shofar until the last sounds are blown at the end of davening.

Riddle of the Week

Which famous person from the Torah was born on Rosh Hashanah?

Send your answer to youth@youngisrael.org for a chance to win a great prize.



Parsha Overview

This week's parsha takes place on the last day of Moses's life. He began his farewell speech to the Jewish people which continues through the end of the Torah. Moses, again, reminded the Jewish people that there will be consequences for their actions if they don't listen to God and follow his Torah. They will be exiled from the Land of Israel and will be spread out all over the world. Moses informs the people that there will be many things that happen while they are in exile that they will not understand. Sometimes God works in mysterious ways and does things that only He understands. Although we may not know why, we must always remember that God does have a reason for everything He does. However, he assured them that one day the exile will be over and they will be saved. When they realize that the reason they were sent into exile in the first place was because they sinned, they will cry out to God and ask him for forgiveness. They will tell God how much they love him. Then, God will accept their *teshuva*, repent, and He will gather them from the four corners of the world and bring them back to the land of Israel. There, God will once again bless them and they will have plenty of food to eat. They will have lots of money, and there will be everlasting peace.

Moses also reminded the people that God always gives a person free-choice to do good or bad. We are never forced to do good and God will not stop us from doing bad things, if that is what we choose. Therefore it is important for us to make sure that we always choose to do the right thing.

Parsha Questions

1. Who is talking to the Jewish people in this week's Parsha? [Moses]
2. How old was he? [120]

3. What will happen to the Jewish people if they don't listen to God? [They will be sent out of the Land of Israel and spread out all over the world]
4. What does Moses tell the people about some of the things that will happen to them in exile? [They might not understand why they are happening but God has a reason for them]
5. What do the Jews have to do if they want to be saved from exile? [teshuvah, repent]
6. What will God do in response? [He will gather the Jews from all over the world and bring them to the Land of Israel]
7. What will the people have when they come back to the Land of Israel? [Money and food]
8. What did Moses remind the people regarding their choices? [They are free to choose to do good or bad]

Focus of the Month: Teshuva

Note to leaders: This will be our final week focusing on Teshuvah. Use this opportunity to discuss with the children that it is almost Rosh Hashana. On this day it will be decided whether we will have a good year or a bad year. Use the following *mashal*, parable, to illustrate the point that if we think about what happens on Rosh Hashanah, we will take it very seriously. We will use every opportunity we have to prepare as best as we could by doing *teshuvah* and doing *mitzvot*.

There was a man who earned his livelihood by smuggling illegal goods across the border from one country to another. One day the smuggler was approached by a businessman who asked him to help smuggle his wares. The smuggler agreed and they set a price and picked a date to do the smuggling. When the day arrived, the businessman was very nervous that they would get caught. On the other hand, the wagon driver, who makes the bulk of his livelihood through smuggling, remained calm. He was quite used to it. However, when almost at the border, even he began to get nervous. Although he had done this many times before, the sight of the

border guards approaching sent a chill down his spine. The only ones, who had no fear at all, as they approached the border, were the horses. They had no idea what was going on and what would happen if the illegal goods were discovered. The same is true with Rosh Hashanah. Those who really think about what will be decided on Rosh Hashanah begin to get nervous and prepare at the beginning of Elul. Others are used to Rosh Hashanah because it comes every year, and only think about it when Rosh Hashanah itself comes. There are some people who don't realize what is going on so they don't get nervous at all.

Games

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The king saw that here was a man after his heart, and liked him at once. When he told the man that he was hoping to meet someone who would be able to lead him out of the woods and back to his palace and throne, the man was happy to do it and the king felt grateful to him. He invited him to his palace and gave him a place of honor among his royal counselors and advisers. Then he ordered costly garments for his friend, befitting his rank.

Sometime later, the king's friend disobeyed the king. The king became very angry, and ordered him to appear before the royal court for trial. When the day of trial came, the king's friend took off his robes, and put on the simple clothes he wore on the day when he first met the king. He also took his flute with him, and appeared before the royal court very humble and repentant. Before passing judgment the king asked him if he had any request

to make. "Permit me, Your Majesty, to play a melody on my flute," the defendant asked, and his request was granted. He played the beautiful melody that he had played on that day when he had met the king for the first time. The king remembered it well. At once that happy meeting came to his mind, when the stranger had made the king so happy, and led him out of the forest back to his palace. The king thereupon pardoned his friend and took him back into his grace and favor.

This story will help us understand a little better the meaning of the blowing of the shofar.

For what happened to us is very similar to the story. When God was about to give the Torah, he turned to various peoples, but none of the nations wanted to accept it. In the end God turned to our people, and we accepted Him and the Torah with the beautiful words of "naaseh v'nishma"--we will Do and Obey-a promise to fulfill God's commands without question. We took upon ourselves the Divine rule, and proclaimed God as the King of the whole world. This pleased God very much. When Rosh Hashanah comes, all of our actions come before God and are weighed on the scale. We may be worried what the outcome will be, if we are judged according to our merits. We want God to be merciful towards us and to forgive us no matter what our record may have been in the past.

Therefore, we appear before God in the way we appeared before Him on that great day at Sinai. On that day the sound of the shofar was heard, and we sang the beautiful melody of "naase v'nishma,- we will do and we will listen." This causes God to remember that day and He turns towards us with mercy and forgiveness, causing our love for God and His love for us to be as strong as ever. This will help assure that we will be inscribed for a New Year of good health and happiness.

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Moses informs the people that there will be many things that happen while they are in exile that they will not understand. Sometimes God works in mysterious ways and does things that only He understands. Although we may not know why, we must always remember that God does have a reason for everything He does. However, He assured them that one day they will be saved. When they realize that the reason they were sent into exile was because they sinned, they will cry out to God and ask Him for forgiveness. They will tell God how much they love Him. Then, God will accept their *teshuva*, repent, and He will gather them from the four corners of the world and bring them back to the land of Israel. There, God will once again bless them and they will have wealth and prosperity. Their fields and their livestock will flourish, and they will have health and peace.

Moshe taught the people that although at first glance, *teshuva*, repentance, might seem like something that is very difficult, it is certainly within our reach. When we put our minds to it, and we really want it, we will certainly be able to achieve our goal. God will even help us along the way.

Moses also reminded the people that God always gives a person the ability to choose to do good or bad. We are never forced to do good and God will not stop us from doing bad things if that is what we choose.

Therefore, it is important for us to make sure that we always choose to do the right thing.

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6. What does Moses tell the Jewish people about repentance? [It is always within their reach]
7. What will God do in response? [He will gather the Jews from all over the world and bring them to the Land of Israel]
8. What will the people have when they come back to the Land of Israel? [Wealth and prosperity]
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The same is true with Rosh Hashanah. Those who really think about what will be decided on Rosh Hashanah begin to get nervous and prepare at the beginning of Elul. Others, are used to Rosh Hashanah because it comes every year. Despite all the bad deeds they did last year, they are still made it through another year. But even they start to get nervous when Rosh Hashanah itself comes. However, there are some people who don't think at all and are completely oblivious to what is going on around them. Only these people will not get nervous at all.

Games

Apple Taste Test

What you will need:

3 different types of apples cut up into bite-size pieces- enough for each child to have two piece of each

Blindfold

What to do:

Round 1: Let each child have a turn to be blindfolded. Let them take taste of each type of apple. See who can guess which apple is which.

Round 2: Repeat round one, but this time make the child hold his/her nose as well. Compare the results to round one.

Buzz Fizz

Separate the children into groups of 5-10 (depending on the size of your group). They have to count from 1 to 50 as a group. However, the catch is that they must say "Buzz!" when they say multiples of 5, and "Fizz" at multiples of 7. If they mess up, they must start over. As the groups finish, have them stand up and cheer.

For your reference (don't use this while playing the game):

Buzz Numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50

Fizz Numbers 7, 14, 17, 21, 27, 28, 35, 37, 42, 47, 49

Story

The Pardon

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Sometime later, the king's friend disobeyed the king. The king became very angry, and ordered him to appear before the royal court for trial. When the day of trial came, the king's friend took off his robes, and put on the simple clothes he wore on the day when he first met the king. He also took his flute with him, and appeared before the royal court very humble and repentant. Before passing judgment the king asked him if he had any request to make. "Permit me, Your Majesty, to play a melody on my flute," the defendant asked, and his request was granted. He played the beautiful melody that he had played on that day when he had met the king for the first time. The king remembered it well. At once that happy meeting came to his mind, when the stranger had made the king so happy, and led him out of the forest back to his palace. The king thereupon pardoned his friend and took him back into his grace and favor.

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Halacha of the week

Everyone is obligated to hear the shofar on Rosh Hashana. The Torah says to blow two types of sounds: straight sounds and broken sounds. However, the Rabbis did not know what the Torah meant when it said to

blow a broken sound. One opinion is that it means three medium sized blasts, commonly referred to as a *shevarim*. Another opinion is that it means nine short blasts, commonly referred to as a *teruah*. A third opinion is that it is both sounds, commonly referred to as a *shevarim-teruah*. Therefore the custom is to blow all three types of broken sounds. The order of the blowing is as follows:

Tekiah Shevarim Tekiah

Tekiah Shevarim Tekiah

Tekiah Shevarim Tekiah

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One should make sure to hear all the sounds that the *chazan* blows and should not talk from the time he hears the blessing on the shofar until the last sounds are blown at the end of davening.

Riddle of the Week

Which days of the week does Rosh Hashanah never fall out on?

Send your answer to youth@youngisrael.org for a chance to win a great prize.



Note to Leaders:

This program is made to enhance your teen minyan. Let your teens take turns give the Drasha and Dvar Halacha. Try to get them the texts as early as possible so then can practice it before they say it on Shabbat. You can also invite parents to watch their child live in action.

Drasha

Teshuva. It is the word of the hour, and there is no better time for the Torah to talk about it than the week before Rosh Hashanah. It means repentance. It means not only taking heart but even changing heart! And this week the Torah tells us that the requirements are not as difficult as one would perceive. "It is not in heaven or across the sea. Rather it is very near to you - in your mouth and in your heart - to perform" (Deuteronomy 30:12-15).

The Ibn Ezra comments on the three aspects of commitment that the Torah alludes to -- the mouth, the heart and the performance. In practical terms, there are commandments of the heart, there are those that entail speech, and there are those that require action.

But on a simple level, the Torah seems to discuss a process that involves commitment before action. It takes the heart and the mouth to make the commitment before the action is performed. Thus the Torah tells us, "it is very near to you - in your mouth and in your heart - to perform." The sequence of events, however, seems reversed. The Torah puts the mouth before the heart. Shouldn't the Torah have written, "It is very near to you - in your heart and in your mouth- to perform"? Doesn't one have to have wholehearted feeling before making verbal pledges? Why would the Torah tell us that it is close to your mouth and your heart?

In the years before the establishment of the State of Israel, Rabbi Aryeh Levin, the Tzadik of Jerusalem, would visit the inmates of the British-controlled Jerusalem prison on every Shabbos. Though most of the Jewish prisoners were not observant, they would quickly don kippot before the revered Rabbi would greet them. Then they would join in the Shabbos morning prayer service that Reb Aryeh organized and they would read along with the rabbi, as if they were observant Jews.

The entire scene agitated one particularly nasty fellow named Yaakov. He would try in every way to irritate the gentle Rabbi. Each Shabbos, he would purposely light up a cigarette in Reb Aryeh's face in order to disturb him. Reb Aryeh was never fazed. One Shabbos, Yaakov stormed into the makeshift synagogue and snapped at the aged Rabbi.

"Why do you waste your time with these liars and fakes? They are no more observant than I am. They only put the kippah on their heads when you come here. Furthermore, they only pray and open their lips to G-d when you are here. Otherwise they have no feeling in their hearts!"

Reb Aryeh turned to Yaakov and rebuked him with a firm but gentle voice. "Why do you slander these souls. They come to pray every single week. I do not look at their heads but rather in their hearts. And when I hear the prayers coming from their lips, I know that their hearts are following as well."

It was not long before Yaakov became a steady member of the prayer group.

The Torah may be hinting at a powerful message. It may be telling us that even though our hearts have not arrived as yet, it is still important to use our lips to communicate the commitments and pray the prayers of the Jewish People. The Torah is not far away. It is close and easy for your mouth. The books are available. The siddur is understandable and translated. It is very near to your lips. All you have to do is talk the talk - sincerely. Soon enough, you will walk the walk with the same sincerity as well.

Good Shabbos!

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Dvar Halacha

(To be said right after Davening)

Everyone must hear the shofar on Rosh Hashana. How many sounds must we hear? The Torah says that one should blow a *tekiah*, a straight sound, followed by a broken sound, followed by a another *tekiah*. This must be repeated three times for a total of nine sounds. However, the Rabbis did not know what the Torah meant when it said to blow a broken sound. One opinion is that it means three medium sized blasts, commonly referred to as a *shevarim*. Another opinion is that it means nine short blasts, commonly referred to as a *teruah*. A third opinion is that it is both sounds, commonly referred to as a *shevarim-teruah*. Therefore, one must blow 3 sets of all three for a total of 30 sounds. Additionally the custom is to blow more sounds during the *chazan's* repetition of the Amidah and at the end of davening for a total of 100 sounds.

Kiddush Activity

Rabbi Miller's Apples

What you will need:

1 apple for each teen

A few sharp knives to cut the apples open

Give out an apple to each of the teens. Let them know that these are special apples. They are called Miller apples. Each one contains a treasure inside. A treasure that has the potential to make millions of dollars. Pass out a knife so everyone can cut open the apple. Ask them if anyone find the treasure. When they fail to find it, let them know that it is all the way in the center. If they still can't find it, walk over to one of the apples and pick up the seed. Let the following conversation play out.

Leader: This is the treasure!

Group: But we don't see a treasure. That's just an appleseed.

Leader: Yes. But it is what's inside the seed that is the treasure." These special seeds contain a special code. One that if written out would fill 1,000 textbooks. It also has plans how to build an amazing factory. Go ahead open up these special seeds.

Let them open the seeds.

Group: But it just looks like a regular apple seed.

Leader: A regular apple seed?! Absolutely not! Do you know what this seed could do? Do you know what would happen if you put this seed in the ground and water it? It would rot.

But then the most amazing thing would happen. This tiny rotten seed, which seems totally worthless would read the thousands of pages of DNA code that it has inside it. It would read the instructions how to make an apple factory. An then it would, on its own, begin to build. Out of nowhere, a sprout will pop out of the ground. It will grow and grow and grow until it is a massive tree. Then, using the special secret code that was printed inside it, it would mix water, minerals from dirt, and sunlight. Do you know produce with these simple ingredients???

Group: What?

Leader: APPLES!!! And not just one apples. Hundreds of apples. Every year. In its lifetime it could produce thousands of apples. All from one little seed. But not only that. Each of those thousands of apples has more seeds inside it. If you planted all of those seeds you could grow, millions, if not hundreds of millions, of apples. All in this one little seed. So this seed really is a treasure. It could make millions of dollars. It is filled with apple DNA, directions to grow an apple factory, (a tree), and an apple making recipe that only needs dirt, water and sunlight, that if written out would fill thousands of books.

This is what Rabbi Avigdor Miller, one of the greatest American Rabbis and teachers of the 1900's, saw in a simple apple seed. If we take the time to look around at the world around us and see all of the amazing things that God put into it, we would be filled with gratitude towards God and always look for ways to thank him.

Riddle of the Week

Which days of the week does Rosh Hashanah never fall out on?

Send you answer to youth@youngisrael.org for a chance to win a great prize.