



Parsha Overview

At the end of last week's parsha, we talked about how the people of the world had become very bad. They were mean to each other and would steal and fight with one another. There was one good person. His name was Noah. God spoke to Noah and told him that He was going to bring a flood to the world to punish the bad people. He told Noah to build an ark, a big boat, so that he and his family would be saved. There was another reason God wanted Noah to build the ark. God hoped that when Noah was building the ark, the people would ask him what he was doing. Noah would tell them that he was building a boat to be saved from the flood that God would bring to punish the bad people. God hoped that when the people heard this they would become afraid and change their bad ways and start being good. However, when the people heard what Noah was doing, they did not change their ways. Instead they just laughed at Noah.

God also told Noah to bring all the different kinds of animals into the ark so that after the flood the world would still have all animals that God had created. He told him to bring 2 each of the non-kosher animals and 14 each of the kosher animals. It took Noah 120 years to build the ark and gather the animals. The people still did not change their ways. God sent heavy rains to the earth. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Even after the rain stopped, the ground was still covered with water. Noah waited a long time for the water to dry up. He sent out a raven to see if the water had gone away, to see if it would have anywhere to land. The raven flew around the ark and returned, as the water was too high and there was no dry land for the raven land on. Noah waited and then sent out a dove to see if the water had gone down. The dove also flew around and came back. Noah sent the dove out a second time, and it came back with an olive branch. This showed that the top of an olive tree was sticking out, but there was still nowhere for the dove to land. Noah sent out the dove a third time and this time it did not come back. Noah knew that it was time to come out of the ark. When he got out of the ark, Noah brought sacrifices to God to thank Him for saving him from the flood. God was so pleased by this, that He promised to never bring a flood again. He showed Noah a rainbow as a sign of this promise.

Many years passed. The world became full with people once again. Unfortunately, they once again did not listen to the word of God. They decided to build a tower up to heaven to fight against God. At this point they all spoke the same language. God punished them by making them unable to understand each other anymore. This stopped them from being able to work together and they had to stop building the tower.

At the end of the Parsha, Abram was born. He realized that God must be in charge of the world, and began to teach about God to the rest of the world.

Parsha Questions

1. Why did God want to punish the world? [The people were being mean to each other and stealing from one another]
2. Was there anyone who was not doing bad things? [Yes. Noah]
3. What did God tell Noah to build? [An ark]
4. How long did it take Noah to build? [120 years]
5. Who came with Noah into the boat? [His family and animals]
6. How long did it rain for? [40 days and 40 nights]
7. After it stopped raining did Noah leave the ark right away? [No. He had to wait for the ground to dry up]
8. How did Noah figure out that the ground was dry? [He sent a raven and then a dove. When the dove didn't come back he knew the ground was dry]
9. What did Noah do after he got out of the ark? [He brought sacrifices to God]
10. How did God respond? [He promised never to destroy the world again]
11. What was the sign that God gave Noah for this promise? [The rainbow]
12. How did the people later rebel against God again? [They built a tower to try to come fight with God]
13. How did God punish them? [He caused them not to understand one another]

Focus of the Month: Kindness

Week 2

There are many ways a person can do acts of kindness. Acts of kindness can be done with a person's money, by giving charity, with their time, by volunteering for a worthy cause, and even with a person's words, by talking kindly to one another.

Note to Leaders: Discuss different ways that they, even as children, can perform acts of kindness. Talk about acts of kindness they have done in the past. Ask the children if there were any times they were not kind and how they could improve for the future.

Games

Doves and Olive Branches Game

Before Shabbat make a fake olive branch. Designate one child as Noah. Let him hide the olive branch while no one is looking. The rest of the children are doves. Noah says "Fly away and bring me a branch" The children scatter and look for the branches. The child who finds the branch becomes the new Noah who can hide the branches and repeat the game.

Noah's Ark Memory Game

First child says "Noah took a ___ on the ark. (animal name goes in the blank)
Second child repeats what the first said and adds their own animal. Each child must remember what has been said and add their own animal. If a child misses they are out and the next child play continues with the next child. The last player to get out wins.

Story

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa was so poor that he and his wife often had nothing to cook for Shabbat. Every Friday, before Shabbat, she would throw a burning coal into the oven, so that smoke would drift out of her chimney and the neighbors would assume that she had what to cook.

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When she knocked on their door, Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa's wife was mortified and went to hide in an inner room. The nosy neighbor entered anyway. A miracle occurred, and she found the oven full of loaves of bread and a mixing bowl full of dough.

She called, "Come! Come! Bring the spatula. Your bread is starting to burn, and you need to get it out quick!"

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa's wife said, "That's what I went into the inner room for."

Indeed, the sages say, she was telling the truth. She was so accustomed to miracles that she wasn't surprised that coals had turned into bread.

Later, Rabbi Chanina's wife asked him, "How long will we have to suffer like this?"

"What should we do?" he replied.

She said, "Pray that we be given something of value."

He prayed, and a hand-like apparition stretched down from the heavens and gave him a golden table leg.

He later dreamed that he saw all the righteous people in the world to come eating at three-legged tables, while he and his wife were eating at a table with just two legs.

He asked his wife, "Will it be okay with you if all the other righteous people are eating at three-legged tables, while you and I are eating at a table that's missing one of its legs?"

"What should we do?" she asked. "Pray that it should be taken from you."

He prayed, and it was taken from him.

The sages remarked that the second miracle was greater than the first, because tradition says that the heavens give but they don't take back.

Halacha of the week

People have to be nice to animals and not hurt them in any way. In fact, the Talmud says that a person has to feed their pets or animals before they eat themselves. However, it is permitted to use an animal in the normal way: i.e. riding a horse or using an ox to work the field. This is not considered hurting them.

Riddle of the Week

Who died right before the flood began?

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



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Many years passed. The world became full with people once again. Unfortunately, they once again did not listen to the word of God. They decided to build a tower up to heaven to fight against God. At this point they all spoke the same language. God punished them by making them unable to understand each other anymore. This stopped them from being able to work together and they had to stop building the tower. At the end of the Parsha, Abram was born. He realized that God must be in charge of the world, and began to teach about God to the rest of the world.

Parsha Questions

1. Why did God want to punish the world? [The people were being mean to each other and stealing from one another]
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5. What did God hope would happen while Noah was building the ark? [The people would repent]
6. Who came with Noah into the boat? [His family and animals]
7. How many of each animal did Noah bring into the ark? [2 of the non-kosher animals and 14 of the kosher animals]
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14. How did the people later rebel against God again? [They built a tower to try to come fight with God]
15. How did God punish them? [He caused them not to understand one another]

Focus of the Month: Kindness

Week 2

There are many ways a person can do acts of kindness. Acts of kindness can be done with a person's money, by giving charity, with their time, by volunteering for a worthy cause, and even with a person's words, by talking kindly to one another.

Discussion questions:

- 1) Which of these three categories of acts of kindness are the most important?
- 2) What are ways that we, as children, can perform acts of kindness?

Note to Leaders: All kinds of kindness are important. Discuss with the group when each kind of kindness is most important and why each one is important. Brainstorm different ways that they, even as children, can perform acts of kindness, especially through words. Talk about acts of kindness they have done in the past. Ask the children if there were any times they were not kind and how they could improve for the future.

Games

Noah's Ark Memory Game

First child says "Noah took a ___ on the ark. (animal name goes in the blank)
Second child repeats what the first said and adds their own animal. Each child must remember what has been said and add their own animal. If a child misses they are out and the next child play continues with the next child. The last player to get out wins.

Noah's Ark Tag (A.K.A Elbow Tag)

All the animals came to the ark in pairs. Play this game of tag where the players have to stay in pairs.

-Players spread around the field in pairs, with their arms hooked.

-One person, without a partner is "it".

-One person, without a partner is being chased, the "chasee"

- "It" attempts to tag the "chasee". To avoid being tagged, "chasee" hooks arms with any of the pairs. As soon as "chasee" hooks arms with someone, that person's pair

becomes the new “chasee”.

-If “it” tags “chasee”, “chasee” becomes “it” and “it becomes “chasee”.

Story

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa was so poor that he and his wife often had nothing to cook for Shabbat. Every Friday, before Shabbat, she would throw a burning coal into the oven, so that smoke would drift out of her chimney and the neighbors would assume that she had what to cook.

A nasty neighbor said, “I know that that they don’t have anything. Let me go and see what all that smoke is about.”

When she knocked on their door, Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa’s wife was mortified and went to hide in an inner room. The nosy neighbor entered anyway. A miracle occurred, and she found the oven full of loaves of bread and a mixing bowl full of dough.

She called, “Come! Come! Bring the spatula. Your bread is starting to burn, and you need to get it out quick!”

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa’s wife said, “That’s what I went into the inner room for.”

Indeed, the sages say, she was telling the truth. She was so accustomed to miracles that she wasn’t surprised that coals had turned into bread.

Later, Rabbi Chanina’s wife asked him, “How long will we have to suffer like this?”

“What should we do?” he replied.

She said, “Pray that we be given something of value.”

He prayed, and a hand-like apparition stretched down from the heavens and gave him a golden table leg.

He later dreamed that he saw all the righteous people in the world to come eating at three-legged tables, while he and his wife were eating at a table with just two legs.

He asked his wife, “Will it be okay with you if all the other righteous people are eating at three-legged tables, while you and I are eating at a table that’s missing one of its legs?”

“What should we do?” she asked. “Pray that it should be taken from you.”

He prayed, and it was taken from him.

The sages remarked that the second miracle was greater than the first, because tradition says that the heavens give but they don’t take back.

Halacha of the week

It is not permitted to harm an animal in any way. However, it is permitted to use an animal in the normal way: i.e. riding a horse or using an ox to work the field. Although one can imagine that it would be easier for the animal not to work, since this is considered normal for the animal, and not cruel, it is permitted. However, overloading or overworking an animal is cruel and therefore is forbidden. Similarly, keeping an animal in a place that is physically or emotionally harmful to the animal is prohibited.

Riddle of the Week

Who died right before the flood began?

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Many years passed. The world became full with people once again. Unfortunately, they once again did not listen to the word of God. They decided to build a tower up to heaven to fight against God. At this point they all spoke the same language. God punished them by making them unable to understand each other anymore. This stopped them from being able to work together and they had to stop building the tower. At the end of the Parsha, Abram was born. He realized that God must be in charge of the world, and began to teach about God to the rest of the world.

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10. How did Noah figure out that the ground was dry? [He sent a dove. When it didn't come back he knew the ground was dry]
11. How long was Noah in the ark for? [1 year]
12. What did Noah do after he got out of the ark? [He brought sacrifices to God]
13. How did God respond? [He promised never to destroy the world again]
14. What was the sign that God gave Noah for this promise? [The rainbow]
15. When we see a rainbow what is God telling us? [He wants to destroy the world]
16. How did the people later rebel against God again? [They built a tower to try to come fight with God]
17. How did God punish them? [He caused them not to understand one another]

Focus of the Month: Kindness

There are many ways a person can do acts of kindness.

Discussion questions:

- 1) What are some different ways that one can perform acts of kindness?
- 2) Which type of acts of kindness are the most important?

Note to Leaders: Acts of kindness can be done with a person's money, by giving charity, with their time, by volunteering for a worthy cause, and even with a person's words, by talking kindly to one another. Discuss with the group how all the types of kindness are important. Talk about different scenarios where each type of kindness would be most needed.

Games

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All the animals came to the ark in pairs. Play this game of tag where the players have to stay in pairs.

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Noah's Ark Relay Race

Divide children into two teams with an equal number of players on each team. Have them line up in two rows, next to each other, behind a line. To start the race, the referee calls out the name of an animal. The first two players must move like that animal across the field, making a noise like that animal. Before the initial racers get to the end, the referee will call out another animal. The racers will then move and make sounds like the new animal on the way back, and tap the next member of their team. After tapping their teammate, the child who just ran sits down. Once tapped, before starting to run, the referee calls out another animal. This continues until all players have run. Anyone who starts running or walking normally, unless "human" has been called, has to start from the beginning. The team that has all players sitting first is the winner.

In the event of an uneven amount of players, the team with fewer players can have one racer go twice.

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Halacha of the week

It is not permitted to harm an animal in any way. However, it is permitted to use an animal in the normal way: i.e. riding a horse or using an ox to work the field. Although one can imagine that it would be easier for the animal not to work, since this is considered normal for the animal, and not cruel, it is permitted. However, overloading or overworking an animal is cruel and therefore is prohibited. Similarly, keeping an animal in a place that is physically or emotionally harmful to the animal is prohibited. This prohibition only applies when the animal suffers. If the animal is killed, it would not be a violation of this prohibition. Other prohibitions, however may apply.

Riddle of the Week

What was the name of Noah's wife?

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PARSHA NATION



Teen Minyan Kol Haniarim

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

“These are the generations of Noah, Noah was a righteous man he was perfect in his generations; Noah walked with God”

(Genesis 6:9)

The fate of man and his world were sealed. Death and destruction would come in the form of a flood which would obliterate all that God had created. It was Noah who was chosen from all humanity to be the savior, to be the second Adam from whom the world would regenerate and start anew. Yet the text sends mixed messages about the piety of Noah. On one hand we are told he was righteous; however, when we look at the verses that follow we nothing extraordinary or exceptional in his behavior and actions. This leads to a rabbinic debate regarding the true nature of Noah’s spiritual identity. Some explain that Noah was a “relative” tzaddik (righteous individual). Compared to the rest of this morally bankrupt society he was righteous, but had he lived in the company of truly righteous men his identity would have been eclipsed by their true sanctity. This is why the above-quoted verse says that Noah was “perfect in his generation.” Others explain that Noah was an “absolute” tzaddik – after all, if he could maintain some level of piety in such decadent circumstances imagine what he could be have become with fellow co-tzaddikim.

This theme appears again just a few verses later:

And Noah went in and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him into the ark because of the flood waters (Genesis 7:7).

Rashi explains that Noah was m'kitanei emunah (small or lacking in his faith). The command of God was not enough to make him enter – it was only the powerful storm and rising waters that forced to him to seek refuge within the security of the ark.

This Rashi has always troubled me. The Torah calls Noah a tzaddik, the Torah calls him a tamim (perfect or complete) and now we are going to say he is lacking in faith! How are we to understand this statement of Rashi?

The great Chassidic master, Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev (1740-1809) offers a novel insight. The Rebbe explains that when Rashi says, Noah m'kitanei emunah haya – he is not referring to Noah's belief in God; rather it is referring to Noah's belief in himself. The Rebbe makes an amazing observation – why didn't Noah pray for his generation to be saved? Why didn't Noah go out and preach to the masses? Why didn't Noah do something to try to salvage some greater remnant of humanity? Because he felt powerless, he felt insignificant, he saw himself as no better than anyone else and so he figured if he was going to be saved surely others would as well. He waited outside the ark until the waters forced him in because he assumed others would be joining him. Noah lacked faith in himself; he failed to realize that he was chosen because he was special and unique. Had he chosen to act he could have done more. Although he could not save a whole world, perhaps, he could have salvaged a few more souls. Perhaps, he could have petitioned God for a little more time. But when you don't believe you are significant, when you don't believe you can accomplish something great, when you lack confidence in your ability to influence your circumstances, you simply sit back and wait for life to direct you.

Noah was a great man. If only he had realized how great. If only he had recognized his full potential and had believed in himself who knows how the story would have ended.

It is not enough to believe in God, you also have to believe in yourself. Too many people journey through life feeling helpless and frustrated. We fail to see the good we possess, we fail to see the progress we have made, and we fail to see the power and potential that lies, dormant within. There are some things in life that we cannot change – but many more that we can. Let us find the courage to believe in ourselves and begin to build and shape our life and our world.

[Rabbi Shmuel Silber]. [Noah: Crisis and Confidence]. This material originally appeared on www.YUTorah.org.

Dvar Halacha

(To be said right after Davening)

It is not permitted to harm an animal in any way. This prohibition is called *tzar ba'alei chaim*. This prohibition is against causing pain to animals. It is, however, permitted to use an animal in the normal way: i.e. riding a horse or using an ox to work the field. Similarly, if the animal is instantly killed, like if a person goes hunting, it would not be a violation of THIS prohibition. Other prohibitions, however may apply, and this act is certainly looked down upon by many great sages.

There is also a dispute amongst the rabbis whether it is permitted to use animals for scientific and medicinal research. Before one attempts anything of this nature they should consult their local orthodox rabbi (and probably their parents as well!).

Kiddush Activity

Introduction: Noah was very busy in the ark. He had to feed all the animals. Each animal had a specific food and a specific time that they ate. This was very difficult and Noah had to work hard not to mix up their foods and the times. One day he was late feeding the lion and it attacked Noah, causing him to limp for the rest of his life. Today you are going to get a chance to be Noah. (Don't worry, there are no lions involved in this game).

- 1) Pick 5 animals and foods that those animals eat. (monkeys=bananas, rabbits=carrots, elephants=peanuts etc.)- make it as challenging as you want!
 - 2) Before Shabbat prepare bags with the five foods (You will need one bag per team. The amount of teams you have will depend on how many teens are in your group. Each team will consist of 6 players.)
 - 3) Before Shabbat, write the names of the animals on note cards (Make enough sets for each team to have one set)
 - 4) Split the group into teams of six.
 - 5) Each team picks a Noah, and the rest of the players are the animals.
 - 6) Give a set of cards to each team for each of the non-Noah players. They look at their cards privately, without letting "Noah" see it.
 - 7) When you say GO! The players will have to act like their animals so the Noah can give them the right food.
 - 8) The first team whose Noah places all the foods in front of the correct animal wins.
- If you think you will have more time have a second round with 5 more animals and foods.

Riddle of the Week

What was the name of Noah's wife?

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