



GRADES K-2

Parsha Overview

In this week's Parsha, Moses continues the speech that he began in last week's parsha. He informed the people that he would not be the one to take them into the Land of Israel. Instead, a new leader of the Jewish people would take them. The new leader's name was Joshua. He was one of Moses's best students.

Moses wrote a new Torah scroll and gave it to the tribe of Levi as a sign that they will also be the ones who will help make sure that everyone keeps the Torah. He told them to place the scroll inside the ark, next to the tablets that had the Ten Commandments on them.

He told the Jewish people about the mitzvah of hakhel. The mitzvah of hakhel is that every seven years all the people, men, women and children, should come to the Temple. There, the Jewish king would read a part of the Torah.

Moses commanded Joshua to be a strong leader who will always make sure that the Jews are doing the right thing. God then spoke to Moses and Joshua together and told them about the future of their nation. Although there will be times when the Jewish people will sin and God will have to punish them, they will always remember the words of the Torah and do teshuvah.

Parsha Questions

1. Who did Moses appoint to be the next leader of the Jewish people? [Joshua]
2. What did Moses write down and give to the tribe of Levi? [A Torah scroll]
3. Where did he tell them to put it? [In the Holy Ark]
4. Why did he give it to them? [As a sign that they would be the one to help make sure that people keep the Torah]
5. How often would the Jews gather in the Temple to read a part of the Torah? [Every seven years]
6. Who would read it? [The Jewish king]

Focus of the Week: Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement. On this day we are forgiven for all of our sins. We spend much of the day in shul praying to God for this forgiveness. Although children cannot spend the entire day praying, it is important to spend time praying and asking God for forgiveness. It is important to keep in mind that when we pray, it is not just about what is in our mouths but rather what is in our hearts as well. Use the following story to illustrate this point.

Many years ago, before there were fire engines or electric fire alarms and most houses were built of wood, a fire could cause tremendous damage in a town. Therefore, when a fire broke out, everyone would rush to help put out the fire. They would leave their work or whatever they were doing and form a human chain, to pass pails of water to put out the fire.

Once, a young boy came through a town and happened to stay at an inn on the edge of the town.

Suddenly he heard a bugle blowing in the distance and asked the innkeeper what it was for. The innkeeper said: "Whenever we have a fire, we sound the bugle and the fire is quickly put out."

The boy thought that this was a wonderful idea and when he reached his own village he wanted to show everyone the new trick he had learned. So he set fire to a house and called all the villagers over to show them how he would put the fire out all by himself. So he started to blow a bugle. He blew and he blew but the fire, of course, did not go out.

The village burned down completely and all the men were very angry with him. When he tried to explain about blowing the bugle, they said: "You fool! Did you think it is the blowing which puts out the fire? It is only a call of an alarm to wake up people or to tell them to interrupt their work in order to send them to the well to draw water!

So it is with our prayers. By saying words, we won't lose our sins as if by magic. It is only when we listen to what the prayers are telling us and repent in our hearts that we are forgiven.

Games

High Holiday Trivia

Rules: Divide the children into teams of 5. Let each team pick a captain. They may also choose a team name if they wish. For each round one of the players from each team will come to the front of the room. The players will stand behind a table. When you read the question, if they think they know the answer they will hit the table. The first player to hit the table will get a chance to answer the question. They may not hit the table until the question is complete. If they do not answer the question correctly, the other players will have a chance to hit the table and answer the question (unless otherwise noted in the rules for that round). At the end of five rounds, the team with the most points wins.

For your convenience the correct answer will be highlighted.

Round 1-Multiple choice questions (Please wait until all the answers are read before attempting to answer)

1. What is the Day of Judgement?

A. Rosh Chodesh

B. Yom Kippur

C. Rosh Hashanah

2. One of the main ideas of Rosh Hashanah is that:

A. God is our king.

B. God took us through the Red Sea.

C. God performed miracles

3. We eat honey on Rosh Hashanah because:

A. We want to give business to the bee-keepers.

B. We hope God will grant us a sweet new year.

C. It is healthy.

4. On Rosh Hashanah we eat the head of a fish because:

A. We hope God will keep us ahead of other nations.

B. Jews like to go fishing.

C. It tastes better than the tail.

5. During which month do we blow the shofar just about every day?

A. Kislev

B. Tishrei

C. Elul

Round 2

1. Bitter herbs are eaten on:

A. Rosh Hashanah

B. Passover

C. Tisha B'av

2. What are the names of the sounds the shofar makes?

A. Tekia, Truah, Shevarim.

B. Tefilah, Torah, Sefarim.

C. Tequilla, Brew-a, Collada.

3. The ceremony of symbolically throwing our sins into a body of water is called:

A. Bedikat Chametz

B. Neilah

C. Tashlich

4. The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called:

A. 10 Days of Prayer

B. 10 Days of Charity

C. 10 Days of Repentance

5. Grown-ups fast on Yom Kippur because:

A. They have to diet at least once a year.

B. It is a Biblical commandment.

C. There aren't any good recipe books for Yom Kippur.

Story

On Yom Kippur, we say many prayers. One of the most moving prayers that we say is *unetaneh tokef*. It talks about how great the day is, and that everything that happens throughout the year is decided today. Where did this prayer come from? Let me tell a story.

In the eleventh century. Mainz was a center of Jewish learning and Rav Amnon was one of its leading citizens. His intelligence and common sense were respected by Jew and non-Jew alike. Even the local bishop was impressed. One day, he said to Rav Amnon, " I have often wondered why a bright person like you doesn't convert to Christianity. Think of all the glory and wealth you would have if you were one of us." Rav Amnon answered carefully. With all due respect, I cannot agree. Being a good Jew means more to me than all the money and glory in the world It gives me happiness that I couldn't find anywhere else."

But the bishop wouldn't take no for an answer He kept bothering Rav Amnon to change his mind and each time Rav Amnon would refuse. Finally, the bishop grew impatient. He summoned Rav Amnon to his palace and demanded, "I'm a very powerful person and I always get my way. I want you to become a Christian. Either you agree to do it, or I will force you."

Shocked, Rav Amnon remained speechless at first He was trying to think. Was there any way he could talk to the bishop out of his cruel threat? What would become of his family and his fellow Jews? Noticing the bishop's angry stare, he finally replied, "Sir, please give me three days to think of an answer."All right. But make sure you are back by then. If my men have to come and get you, you'll regret it."

In a daze Rav Amnon made his way home. Yet, even as he left the bishop, he knew that he made a mistake. There are times that a Jew can violate Torah laws in order to save a life. However, there are three sins one must avoid, no matter what: killing someone, performing immoral acts — and worshiping false gods. No, he could not convert. If the bishop would be angry and punish him for refusing, so be it. But why hadn't he said so immediately??!! He felt very bad that had he left the bishop with the impression that he might agree? Rav Amnon arrived home a sad and troubled man. For the next three days, Rav Amnon fasted and prayed for forgiveness with great concentration.

When the days were over he did not appear before the bishop. Enraged, the bishop ordered his men to bring Rav Amnon by force "Well, what is your answer?" he yelled. "It is very simple. I was born a Jew and I will always remain a Jew "The bishop kept his

promise and commanded that Rav Amnon be punished. The command was carried out at once. In great pain, Rav Amnon was carried home to the shock of his family and friends. A few days later, Rosh Hashanah arrived. Although Rav Amnon was very weak, he asked to be carried to shul and placed next to the *chazan*. Before the people recited *kedusha* he requested the chance to say a special prayer, the inspiring words of *unetaneh tokef*. Rav Amnin asked that this prayer be written down and spread them throughout the Jewish world to be recited every year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We follow these instructions to this very day.

Halacha of the week

There are a number of things that we are not allowed to do on Yom Kippur:

- 1) Working (like on a regular Shabbat)
- 2) Wearing leather shoes
- 3) Bathing or washing
- 4) Putting on creams or lotions
- 5) Adults over bar/bat mitzvah do not eat or drink

Riddle of the Week

Which Shabbat prohibition applies to Yom Kippur but not to other Holidays?

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



Parsha Overview

In this week's Parsha, Moses continues the speech that he began in last week's parsha. He informed the people that he would not be the one to take them into the Land of Israel. Instead a new leader of the Jewish people would take them. The new leader's name was Joshua. He was one of Moses's best students.

Moses wrote a new Torah scroll and gave it to the tribe of Levi as a sign that they will also be the ones who will help make sure that everyone keeps the Torah. He told them to place the scroll inside the ark, next to the tablets that had the Ten Commandments on them.

He told the people about the *mitzvah of hakhel*. The *mitzvah of hakhel* is that all the Jewish people, men, women and children, should come to the Temple. There, the Jewish king would read the entire book of Deuteronomy. This took place after Sukkot every seven years, during the year after the *shmittah*, the sabbatical year.

Moses commanded Joshua to be a strong leader who will always make sure that the Jews are doing the right thing. God then spoke to Moses and Joshua together and told them about the future of their nation. Although there will be times when the Jewish people will sin and God will have to punish them, they will always remember the words of the Torah and do *teshuvah*. He commanded them to write the *shirah*, the song, that we will read about in next week's parsha.

God called upon the heavens and earth to be witnesses to all that He had spoken to them.

Parsha Questions

1. Who did Moses appoint to be the next leader of the Jewish people? [Joshua]
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9. What part of the Torah did he read? [The book of Deuteronomy]
10. Who did God call upon to be witnesses to the words he had spoken to Moses and Joshua? [The heavens and the earth]

Focus of the Week: Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement. On this day we are forgiven for all of our sins. We spend much of the day in shul praying to God for this forgiveness. Although children cannot spend the entire day praying, it is important to spend time praying and asking God for forgiveness.

Discussion Question

- 1) What are some things that we should keep in mind when we pray?

Note to leaders: Discuss with the children how it is important to keep in mind that when we pray, it is not just about what is in our mouths but rather what is in our hearts as well. Use the following story to illustrate this point.

Many years ago, before there were fire engines or electric fire alarms and most houses were built of wood, a fire could cause tremendous damage in a town. Therefore, when a fire broke out, everyone

would rush to help put out the fire. They would leave their work or whatever they were doing and form a human chain, to pass pails of water to put out the fire..

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Suddenly he heard a bugle blowing in the distance and asked the innkeeper what it was for. The innkeeper said: "Whenever we have a fire, we sound the bugle and the fire is quickly put out."

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1. Bitter herbs are eaten on:

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A. They have to diet at least once a year.

B. It is a Biblical commandment.

C. There aren't any good recipe books for Yom Kippur.

Round 3- True or False

For the next two rounds if the player gets an answer wrong they lose a point. If the first person does not get the correct answer, move on to the next question without giving the other players a chance to answer the question.

1. Rosh Hashanah is a 2 day Festival even in Israel.

True

False

2. One can fulfill the mitzvah to hear the shofar by hearing 9 sounds.

True

False

3. The Shofar is never blown on Yom Kippur.

True

False

4. Cooking is prohibited on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

True

False

5. The extra amidah we say on Yom Kippur is called Kol Nidrei.

True

False

Round 4

1. Tashlich can be said until Hoshana Rabbah.

True

False

2. Throughout Yom Kippur we say the amidah prayer 5 times.

True

False

3. A blessing is recited before the Shofar is blown.

True

False

4. The Shofar is blown even if Rosh Hashanah falls out on Shabbat.

True

False

5. Yom Kippur is the holiest day of year.

True

False

Round 5- These questions are NOT multiple choice. These questions are worth double. If a player give a wrong answer they lose two points. In this round, if a player gets a wrong answer, the other players DO have a chance to answer.

1. Out of twelve I am the last, but each day I have a blast. Who am I?

Month of Elul

2. I am far from a toe, finger or knee and I used to live in the sea. Who am I?

Head of a fish

3. To bee or not to bee, I am as sweet as can be. Who am I?

Honey

4. I am a scroll. When I am read the reader makes me roll. Who am I?

Torah

5. I am especially dear, for I am the 1st of the year. Who am I?

Rosh Hashanah

Story

On Yom Kippur, we say many prayers. One of the most moving prayers that we say is *unetaneh tokef*. It talks about how great the day is, and that everything that happens throughout the year is decided today. Where did this prayer come from? Let me tell a story.

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When the days were over he did not appear before the bishop. Enraged, the bishop ordered his men to bring Rav Amnon by force "Well, what is your answer?" he yelled. "It is very simple. I was born a Jew and I will always remain a Jew" "The bishop kept his promise and commanded that Rav Amnon be punished. The command was carried out at once. In great pain, Rav Amnon was carried home to the shock of his family and friends. A few days later, Rosh Hashanah arrived. Although Rav Amnon was very weak, he asked to be carried to shul and placed next to the *chazan*. Before the people recited *kedusha* he requested the chance to say a special prayer. With his final breaths, Rav Amnon recited the inspiring words of *unetaneh tokef*. With his teshuva now complete, his holy soul went to heaven.

Three days later, Rav Amnon appeared in a dream to his friend Rav Klonimos ben Meshullam and repeated the words of *unetaneh tokef* until Rav Klonimos knew them. Rav Amnon asked his friend to write them down and spread them throughout the Jewish world to be recited every year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We follow these instructions to this very day.

Halacha of the week

There are a number of things that we are not allowed to do on Yom Kippur:

- 1) Working (like on a regular Shabbat)
- 2) Wearing leather shoes
- 3) Bathing or washing
- 4) Putting on creams or lotions
- 5) Adults over bar/bat mitzvah do not eat or drink. However, even children who can eat, should try participate in some way like by not eating candy and chips.

Riddle of the Week

Which Shabbat prohibition applies to Yom Kippur but not to other Holidays?

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

October 8, 2016 / Tishrei 5776

Volume 3, Issue 6 - Parshat Vayelech



PARSHA NATION



GRADES 5-6

Parsha Overview

In this week's Parsha, Moses continues the speech that he began in last week's parsha. He informed the people that he would not be the one to take them into the Land of Israel. Instead a new leader of the Jewish people would take them. The new leader's name was Joshua. He was one of Moses's best students.

Moses wrote a new Torah scroll and gave it to the tribe of Levi as a sign that they will also be the ones who will help make sure that everyone keeps the Torah. He told them to place the scroll inside the ark, next to the tablets that had the Ten Commandments on them.

He told the people about the *mitzvah of hakhel*. The *mitzvah of hakhel* is that all the Jewish people, men, women and children, should come to the Temple. There, the Jewish king would read the entire book of Deuteronomy. This is the only time when sitting was permitted in the Temple. This took place after Sukkot every seven years, during the year after the *shmittah*, the sabbatical year.

Moses commanded Joshua to be a strong leader who will always make sure that the Jews are doing the right thing. God then spoke to Moses and Joshua together and told them about the future of their nation. Although there will be times when the Jewish people will sin and God will have to punish them, they will always remember the words of the Torah and do *teshuvah*. He commanded them to write the *shirah*, the song, that we will read about in next week's parsha.

God called upon the heavens and earth to be witnesses to all that He had spoken to them.

Parsha Questions

1. Who did Moses appoint to be the next leader of the Jewish people? [Joshua]
2. What advice did Moses have for Joshua? [He should be a strong leader]
3. What did Moses write down and give to the tribe of Levi? [A Torah scroll]
4. Where did he tell them to put it? [In the Holy Ark]
5. Why did he give it to them? [As a sign that they would be the one to help make sure that people keep the Torah]

6. How often would the Jews gather in the Temple to read a part of the Torah? [Every seven years]
7. What time of year would they gather? [After Sukkot]
8. Who would read it? [The Jewish king]
9. What was the king permitted to do in the temple that was normally prohibited? [Sit]
10. What part of the Torah did he read? [The book of Deuteronomy]
11. Who spoke to Moses and Joshua about the future of the Jewish people? [God]
12. Who did God call upon to be witnesses to the words he had spoken to Moses and Joshua? [The heavens and the earth]

Focus of the Week: Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement. On this day we are forgiven for all of our sins. We spend much of the day in shul praying to God for this forgiveness. Although it is difficult to spend long periods of time in shul, it is important to spend as much time as we could praying and asking God for forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What are some things we should be thinking about during our prayers?
- 2) How can we make it easier to make the prayers meaningful and not a burden?

Note to leaders: Discuss with the children how it is important to realize that everything that will happen to us in the coming year is decided on Yom Kippur. When we realize what is at stake we will take it more seriously. Also, it is important to keep in mind that when we pray, it is not just about what is in our mouths but rather what is in our hearts as well. Use the following story to illustrate this point.

Many years ago, before there were fire engines or electric fire alarms and most houses were built of wood, a fire could cause tremendous damage in a town. Therefore, when a fire broke out, everyone would rush to help put out the fire. They would leave their work or whatever they were doing and form a human chain, to pass pails of water to put out the fire.

Once, a young boy came through a town and happened to stay at an inn on the edge of the town.

Suddenly he heard a bugle blowing in the distance and asked the innkeeper what it was for. The innkeeper said: "Whenever we have a fire, we sound the bugle and the fire is quickly put out."

The boy thought that this was a wonderful idea and when he reached his own village he wanted to show everyone the new trick he had learned. So he set fire to a house and called all the villagers over to show them how he would put the fire out all by himself. So he started to blow a bugle. He blew and he blew but the fire, of course, did not go out.

The village burned down completely and all the men were very angry with him. When he tried to explain about blowing the bugle, they said: "You fool! Did you think it is the blowing which puts out the fire? It is only a call of an alarm to wake up people or to tell them to interrupt their work in order to send them to the well to draw water!"

So it is with our prayers. By saying words, we won't lose our sins as if by magic. It is only when we listen to what the prayers are telling us and repent in our hearts that we are forgiven.

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For your convenience the correct answer will be highlighted.

1. What is the Day of Judgement?

A. Rosh Chodesh

B. Yom Kippur

C. Rosh Hashanah

2. The musaf amidah that we say on Rosh Hashana has ____ blessings.

A. 7

B. 9

C. 13

3. We eat pomegranates on Rosh Hashanah because:

A. They are sweet

B. They grow in Israel

C. They have lots of seeds

4. How many shofar blasts do we blow on Rosh Hashanah?

A. 9

B. 30

C. 100

5. During which month do we blow the shofar just about every day?

A. Kislev

B. Tishrei

C. Elul

Round 2

1. The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called:

A. Shabbat Shuvah

B. Shabot Hagadol

C. Shabbat Shirah

2. The person who blows the shofar is called the:

A. Baal Koreh

B. Baal Tefilah

C. Baal Tokeah

3. The ceremony of symbolically throwing our sins into a body of water is called:

A. Kaparos

B. Neilah

C. Tashlich

4. The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called:

A. 10 Days of Prayer

B. 10 Days of Charity

C. 10 Days of Repentance

5. Which of these is prohibited on Yom Kippur?

A. Sleeping

B. Putting on lotion.

C. Wearing a leather belt.

Round 3- True or False

For the next two rounds if the player gets an answer wrong they lose a point. If the first person does not get the correct answer, move on to the next question without giving the other players a chance to answer the question.

1. Rosh Hashanah is a 2 day Festival even in Israel.

True

False

2. One can fulfill the mitzvah to hear the shofar by hearing 9 sounds.

True

False

3. The Shofar is never blown on Yom Kippur.

True

False

4. Cooking is prohibited on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

True

False

5. The extra amidah we say on Yom Kippur is called Kol Nidrei.

True

False

Round 4

1. Tashlich can be said until Hoshana Rabbah.

True

False

2. Throughout Yom Kippur we say the amidah prayer 5 times.

True

False

3. 3 blessing are recited before the Shofar is blown.

True

False

4. The Shofar is blown even if Rosh Hashanah falls out on Shabbat.

True

False

5. Yom Kippur lasts about 25 hours

True

False

Round 5- These questions are NOT multiple choice. These questions are worth double. If a player give a wrong answer they lose two points. In this round, if a player gets a wrong answer, the other players DO have a chance to answer.

1. Out of twelve I am the last, but each day I have a blast. Who am I?

Month of Elul

2. I am far from a toe, finger or knee and I used to live in the sea. Who am I?

Head of a fish

3. To bee or not to bee, I am as sweet as can be. Who am I?

Honey

4. I am a scroll. When I am read the reader makes me roll. Who am I?

Torah

5. I am especially dear, for I am the 1st of the year. Who am I?

Rosh Hashanah

Story

On Yom Kippur, we say many prayers. One of the most moving prayers that we say is *unetaneh tokef*. It talks about how great the day is, and that everything that happens throughout the year is decided today. Where did this prayer come from? Let me tell a story.

In the eleventh century. Mainz was a center of Jewish learning and Rav Amnon was one of its leading citizens. His intelligence and common sense were respected by Jew and non-Jew alike. Even the local bishop was impressed. One day, he said to Rav Amnon, " I have often wondered why a bright person like you doesn't convert to Christianity. Think of all the glory and wealth you would have if you were one of us." Rav Amnon answered carefully. With all due respect, I cannot agree. Being a good Jew means more to me than all the money and glory in the world It gives me happiness that I couldn't find anywhere else."

But the bishop wouldn't take no for an answer He kept bothering Rav Amnon to change his mind and each time Rav Amnon would refuse. Finally, the bishop grew impatient. He summoned Rav Amnon to his palace and demanded, "I'm a very powerful person and I always get my way. I want you to become a Christian. Either you agree to do it, or I will force you - or kill you." Shocked, Rav Amnon remained speechless at first He was trying to think. Was there any way he could talk to the bishop out of his cruel threat? What would become of his family and his fellow Jews? Noticing the bishop's angry stare, he finally replied, "Sir, please give me three days to think of an answer."All right. But make sure you are back by then. If my men have to come and get you, you'll regret it."

In a daze, Rav Amnon made his way home. Yet, even as he left the bishop, he knew that he made a mistake. There are times that a Jew can violate Torah laws in order to save a life. However, there are three sins one must avoid, even if this means death: killing someone, performing immoral acts — and worshipping false gods. No, he could not convert. If the bishop would kill him for refusing, so be it. But why hadn't he said so immediately??!! Why had he left the bishop with the impression that he might agree? Rav Amnon arrived home a sad and troubled man. For the next three days, Rav Amnon fasted and prayed for forgiveness with great fervor.

When the days were over he did not appear before the bishop. Enraged, the bishop ordered his men to bring Rav Amnon by force "Well, what is your answer?" he yelled. "It is very simple. I was born a Jew and I will be glad to die a Jew. My only regret is that I did not say so right away. I know I deserve a punishment for this. Since my mistake was in not clearly stating my loyalty to Judaism, I ask you to cut off my tongue." The bishop shook his head. "No, your sin was in not running here and grabbing the chance to become a Christian. I therefore order that your hands and feet be cut off." The command was carried out at once. In great pain, Rav Amnon was carried home to the shock of his family and friends. A few days later, Rosh Hashanah arrived. Rav Amnon's condition was quickly getting worse, but he asked to be carried to shul and placed next to the *chazan*. Before the people recited *kedusha*, he requested the chance to say a

special prayer. With his final breaths, Rav Amnon recited the inspiring words of *unetaneh tokef*. With his teshuva now complete, his holy soul went to heaven.

Three days later, Rav Amnon appeared in a dream to his friend Rav Klonimos ben Meshullam and repeated the words of *unetaneh tokef* until Rav Klonimos knew them. Rav Amnon asked his friend to write them down and spread them throughout the Jewish world to be recited every year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We follow these instructions to this very day saying *unetaneh tokef* as a memorial to a faithful Jew and a reminder that we, too, must behave as proud, loyal Jews every day of our lives

Halacha of the week

There are a number of things are prohibited on Yom Kippur:

- 1) Doing work (like on a regular Shabbat)
- 2) Wearing leather shoes
- 3) Bathing or washing for pleasure. However if one's hands are dirty they can wash to get the dirt off.
- 4) Putting on creams or lotions
- 5) Adults over bar/bat mitzvah do not eat or drink. However, even children who can eat should try participate in some way like fasting part of the day or by only eating enough so they are not hungry, but not overeating.

Riddle of the Week

Which days of the week can Yom Kippur never fall on?

Send you 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

Moshe Went, but Never Left

By Rabbi Berel Wein

Moshe's last day on earth is at hand. His leadership of Israel is about to end. His physical strength has not failed him but he is unable any longer to come and to go. The Talmud explains that the time of a ruler can in no way infringe not even a hairsbreadth on the time of the next ruler. It is no longer the time of Moshe. It is the time of Yehoshua. As in the life of almost all humans, Moshe leaves the world with some regrets and unrealized hopes. He will not lead the people of Israel into the Land of Israel and he himself will not be buried there. His two sons will not succeed him in leadership and special prominence. And, he has seen into the dark tunnel of future Jewish history and is therefore acutely aware of the tragedies, difficulties, struggles and challenges that face his beloved people and their descendants throughout the coming ages.

Yet he is comforted by the fact that his beloved Yehoshua will take his place and bring Israel into its homeland and guide them in settling it. He is also comforted by the promise of God that Israel will survive all of the vicissitudes of its history and eventually be redeemed and strengthened physically and spiritually. The Midrash has Moshe attended to in his final hours by God Himself, so to speak. Thus death itself has no terrors for him, only the sadness of leaving a world where so much can be accomplished for a world that is eternal but poses no further challenge.

The title word of the parsha vayelech Moshe went is itself interesting and yet puzzlesome. Where is Moshe going? If it is to speak to the Jewish people, he always did so from the confines of the camp of holiness surrounding the mishkan/tabernacle. The Midrash provides us insight into the word vayelech he went. It states that Moshe now went from tribe to tribe, from tent to tent of the families of Israel to take leave of them. He showed them that his love for them knew no bounds and that even though he ruled over them with a strong hand and an uncompromising demeanor, everything that he did in his forty-year stewardship of Israel was done with Divine blessing and enormous care and love. To confirm all of this in the minds of the Jews, he now visited them all he went to them to say goodbye and as we will read in a few short weeks, to bless them and strengthen them.

Even on the last day of his life, the welfare of the Jewish people is Moshes main concern and preoccupation. Is there any wonder therefore, that there arose none like Moshe in all of human history? Moshe is the paradigm of leadership, of selfless concern and wise guidance for an often contentious and fractious society. Moshe went in this week's parsha but his influence and teachings remain with Israel and in fact all of humanity on a continuing and eternal basis.

Shabbat Shalom.

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Dvar Halacha

(To be said right after Davening)

There are a number of things are prohibited on Yom Kippur:

- 1) Working (like on a regular Shabbat)
- 2) Wearing leather shoes
- 3) Bathing or washing for pleasure. However if one's hands are dirty or they used the restroom, it is permitted to wash them.
- 4) Putting on creams or lotions unless there is a strong medical reason.
- 5) Eating and drinking.

Although there are some circumstances where some or all of these prohibitions are waived due to health concerns or other cases of strong need, a Rabbi should always be consulted. If one eats when they are not suppose to, or doesn't eat when they are suppose to, to protect their health, it is a great sin. Especially on Yom Kippur, we want to make sure we are sin-free.

Kiddush Activity

Discussion Questions

- 1) Does anyone find staying in shul for many hours on Yom Kippur easy?
- 2) How can we make it a little easier?

Note to Leaders: Discuss with the teens the importance of the day. How everything that will happen to us, good or bad, is sealed on this day. It is decided whether we will be healthy or sick. It is decided whether we will have an easy year or a hard year. Imagine you had a final or the SAT's coming up. Wouldn't you spend all day studying? Imagine you were going on a job interview for your dream job. Wouldn't you prepare in any way that you could? All the more so on Yom Kippur. We have to use this time to ensure a good future for ourselves. While the connection between studying and the tests are obvious, it is a bit more difficult to truly see and feel the connection between our prayers and repentance to the outcome of the coming year. However, we must do our best to make it real and internalize its message.

Although with Yom kippur, it is harder to see that our actions on this one day affect the rest of the year, we have to do our best to internalize this message.

Riddle of the Week

Which days of the week can Yom Kippur never fall on?

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