



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 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.

NCYI Department of Synagogue Services

Youth@YoungIsrael.org

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 All Rights Reserved, No reproduction or copying of this work without permission of the National Council of Young Israel is permitted. Any copying of this work is a violation of U.S. Copyright law and Halacha.



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.

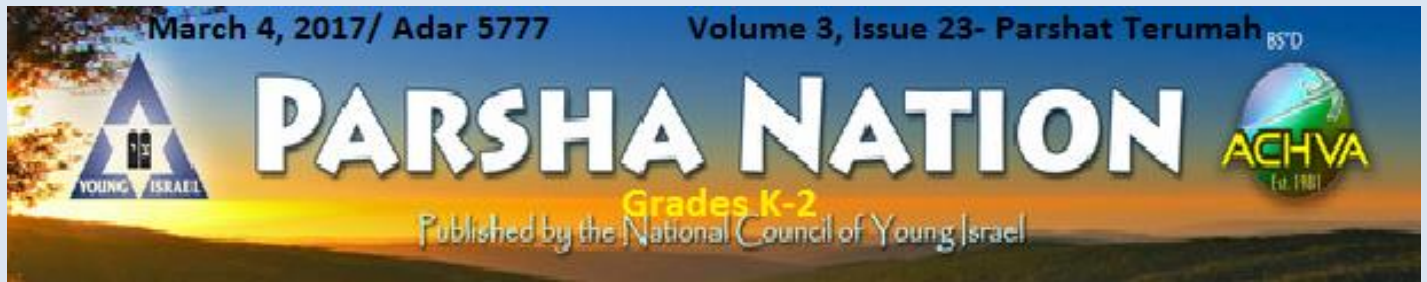
Leader Tip- Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 All Rights Reserved, No reproduction or copying of this work without permission of the National Council of Young Israel is permitted. Any copying of this work is a violation of U.S. Copyright law and Halacha.



Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Review	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
Total Time:	2 hours & 40 min of programing!	



TERUMAH REVIEW

Hashem told Moshe to gather donations from Bnei Yisrael for the building of the Mishkan, a place where Hashem can dwell amongst Bnei Yisrael. The materials they needed in order to build it were precious metals, dyed wools and hides, flax, wood, olive oil, spices and gems. Hashem then gave detailed instructions on how to build it regarding the construction and dimensions of the Mishkan as well as all the vessels inside it—starting with the Aron that kept the Luchot. The Aron was to be made of gold-plated acacia wood. Rings were to be attached to the corners of the Aron, so that when Bnei Yisrael would travel they inserted the poles that were used to transport the Aron here. The Aron was to be covered with pure gold. Two golden, winged kruvim were to stand on top of the cover. Next Hashem gave instructions for constructing the Shulchan for the Lechem HaPanim. The Shulchan was also to be made of gold-plated acacia wood, and also to contain rings for transportation poles. The Menorah was to be created out of a single block of pure gold, with seven branches, and decorative cups, knobs and flowers on its body. The covering of the Mishkan was to have several layers of tapestries. The first layer was to be a woven mixture of dyed wools and linen. The second layer was to be made of goat's hair. These two oversized coverings also covered the outsides of the Mishkan's walls. The very top of the Mishkan was then to be further covered by dyed ram skins and *tachash* hides. The walls of the Mishkan were to be upright beams made of gold-plated acacia wood. The front side (to the east) of the Mishkan was to have no wall. Its northern and southern side were to have twenty beams each. Its western wall was to have eight. Altogether the inside of the Mishkan was 30 cubits (approx. 45 feet) by 10 cubits, and 10 cubits high. The beams were held together by several crossbars. The Mishkan was to consist of two sections: the innermost section was the Kodesh HaKodashim, wherein the Aron was to be placed. The outer section was the Kodesh, which housed the Menorah and the Shulchan (as well as the Mizbeach HaZahav which will be described in next week's Parsha). Two curtains were to be woven of dyed wools and linen. One was to be placed between the Kodesh HaKodashim and the Kodesh, the other covered the eastern side of the Mishkan—its entrance. Hashem then gave instructions for the construction of the Outdoor Mizbeach. This Mizbeach was to be made of copper-plated acacia wood, and it was to have four "horns," vertical poles, sticking out from its uppermost corners. The Mizbeach, too, was equipped with rings and transportation poles. The Mishkan courtyard was to be 100 cubits (approx. 150 feet) by 50 cubits, and enclosed by mesh linen curtains. The entrance to the courtyard was to be on its eastern side, and the entrance was to be covered by a curtain woven of dyed wools and linen.

LEADER TIP: It's time to build the Mishkan! Come to groups dressed as the Kohen Gadol Contractor!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to build in the Midbar?
2. Who was in charge of building the Mishkan?
3. What was the holiest room of the Mishkan called?
4. What was in the Kodesh Hakadashim?
5. What was on the cover of the Aron?
6. Describe how they looked.
7. What did they keep inside the Aron?
8. What did they put on the Shulchan?
9. What was the miracle that occurred with the bread on the Shulchan?
10. How many branches did the Menorah have?

Answers

1. The Mishkan
2. Bezalel
3. Kodesh Hakadashim
4. The Aron with the Cheruvim on top
5. Cheruvim (angelic faces facing each other)
6. Like children's faces
7. Luchot
8. The Lechem Hapanim (show bread)
9. It tasted fresh even when it was a week old
10. Seven

LEADER TIP: As prizes for answering questions this week, give out gold coins in honor of collecting money for the building of the Mishkan.

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 All Rights Reserved, No reproduction or copying of this work without permission of the National Council of Young Israel is permitted. Any copying of this work is a violation of U.S. Copyright law and Halacha.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To learn about the different Keilim in the Mishkan

ACTIVITY:

Steps:

1. How did it look?
2. How will it look?
3. Summary

Things to prepare:

Ideally there should be at least 10 kids in a group.

1. 30m (100") rope
2. Curtain, sheet, or talit
3. Pictures of or models of the following vessels:

- Aron HaBrit
- Menorah
- Shulchan (for Lechem HaPanim)
- Mizbeach Hazahav

1. How did it look?

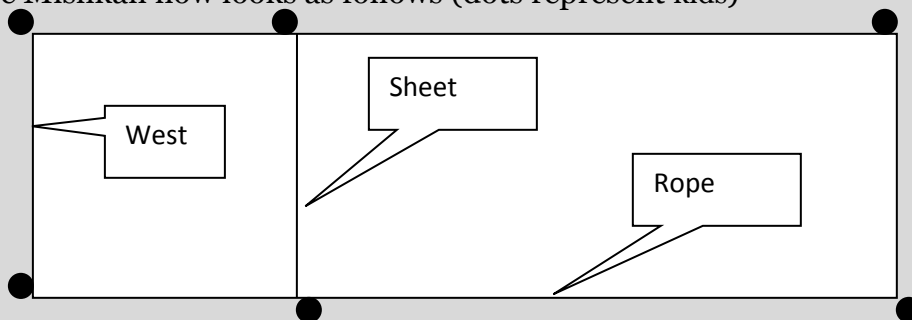
Explain to the group that we are going to try to find out how the Mishkan looked, and what the main vessels were and what they were used for.

Get four kids to hold the rope so that they make a rectangle (with Narrow ends in North and South). Tell them that this represents the walls of the Mishkan.

Discuss how the Mishkan was divided – see if they know that the Mishkan was divided into 2 sections, the Kodesh, and the Kodesh HaKodshim.

The kodesh and Kodesh haKodhim were divided with a Parochet.

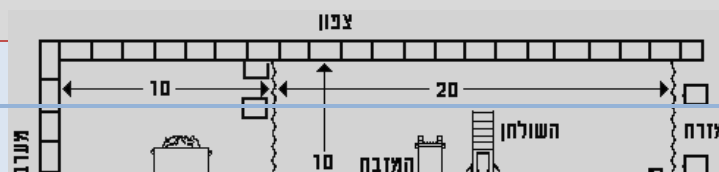
The Mishkan now looks as follows (dots represent kids)



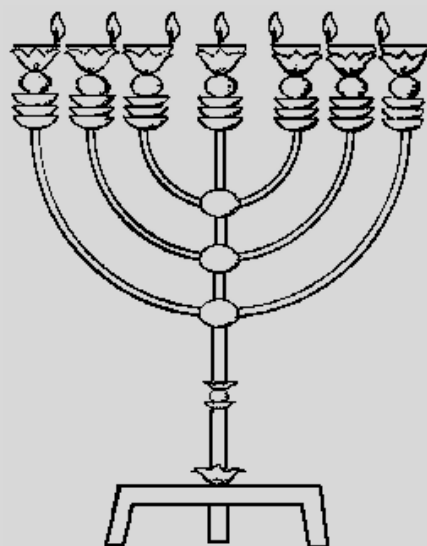
Now you can place each of the Keilim into the Mishkan

Explain to the kids what the purpose of each of the Keilim were.

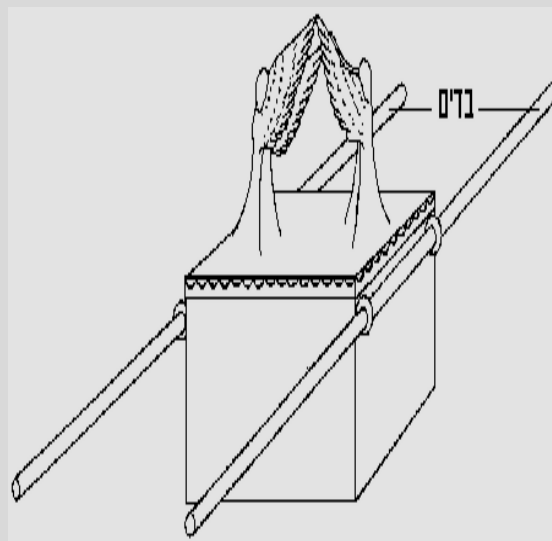
Aron held the Luchot, Mizbeach was for Korbanot, Shulchan was for Lechem HaPanim, and Menorah was to light by the Kohen Gadol.



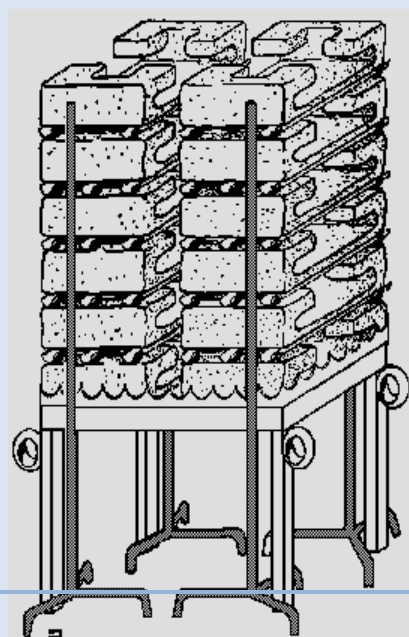
The Menorah



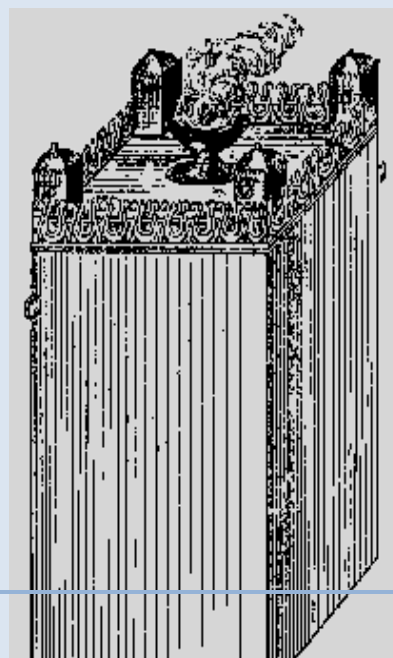
The Aron



The Shulchan



The Mizbeach haZahav



2. How will it look?

Read out loudly supposal situations that can happen when we will have Beit Mikdash. Let the kids move from one side of the room to the other side if they think it will happen. Ask questions and try to make them think about their opinion.

In the Beit HaMikdash...

- What will the Kohen Gadol look like?
- On Pesach, Shavuot and Succot everyone will come with their first fruit to Jerusalem.
- I spoke Lashon Hara on the teacher. Now I'll miss two weeks of school because I need to go to Beit HaMikdash to bring a Korban.
- Cell phones will not be allowed in the Beit HaMikdash.
- The Kohen Gadol will speak every week in the main hall to everyone.

Summary:

We Daven 3 times a day for Hashem to build the Beit HaMikdash . We want Hashem to live amongst us and we want to be able to visit Hashem as much as we can and get as close to Him as possible. We should try our best to Daven as best as we could so that we can get theBeit HaMikdash back.

DISCUSSION: In this activity, we learn about different kinds of parts of the Mishkan, the home of Hashem. One of the items that was constructed to be used in the Mishkan was the Menorah. The Menorah had six branches and a stem. The unique feature of the Menorah was that it had to be constructed MIKSHA, “hammered out”. Rashi explains that this means its parts were not to be created separately and then attached the way many of the other utensils were created. The Menorah needed to be formed out of one piece of gold. A Rabbi once suggested that there was a significant reason for this. The branches represented different types of Jews. They corresponded to diverse kinds of Jews, each living his Judaism in a different style. Though this is not the ideal situation and preferably Jews should live by observance of the Torah, nevertheless, all Jews, whether they observe or not, are part of the Jewish people. Thus the different branches of the Menorah symbolized the various types of Jews, but the Menorah had to be constructed and hammered out from one solid piece. This was to emphasize the strong belief that all Jews comprise the Jewish people.

LEADER TIP: Be sensitive when talking about the different kinds of Jews since some of the kids in your group may be more or less strict on certain things. Talk in broad terms.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: A home is more than just a building with walls, ceilings and floors. It's a place to live, learn and grow. This week's Parsha tells us about the Mishkan - the 'home,' so to speak, that the people built for Hashem to dwell with them as they traveled through the desert. Our homes too can be loving, happy sanctuaries, where we truly feel at home,

HOMeward BOUND

Kim stomped into the living room like dark thundercloud. "Look at all this snow - again!" she said, pointing out the window, "I'm so bummed out!"

"Bummed out over a day off from school?" her younger brother, Andy, laughed.

"You bet," Kim said. "I just called every single one of my friends and there is nobody who can come out to do anything."

"No?" her brother asked.

"No!" Kim said glumly. "They're snowed in - just like us. Mom can't drive me anywhere either."

"Hey, you're right. I didn't think about that," Andy said. "That means I can't go out too."

"Bingo! That means that you, me, the whole family are in for a boring, snoring day stuck at home!"

Just then, the lights began to flicker and went out.

"Hey, what happened?" Andy asked.

"Nothing to worry about, guys," their mother said, walking out of her home office. "I just heard on the news - before the electricity went out - that they were expecting some temporary power outages because of the storm. But they should fix things soon."

"That's awful!" Kim moaned.

"It's not so bad," her mom assured her. "Meanwhile it's still light out, our heating system runs on oil so we'll be nice and warm, and we can still cook on our gas stove."

"No, I mean..." Kim said, "since I'm stuck at home, I was planning to pass the day on the computer - now I can't even do that. What in the world am I going to do all day?" The girl began to pace back and forth in the room like a caged tiger.

"My work computer's off too," their mother said. "So I guess we're all just going to enjoy a nice 'stay at home' day together."

Kim and Andy looked at her and then at each other, neither of them having any idea how a day like this could be anything to possibly 'enjoy.' But with no other choice they grudgingly followed their mother into the kitchen.

At first they were all frowns, but soon things started looking up.

"Wow, that's cool. I never knew you could make popcorn in a pot like that." Andy said, listening to the rat-a-tat of the kernels ricocheting off the pot's cover.

"The hot cocoa's almost done, too," Kim said, stirring the milk, sugar and cocoa powder like her mom showed her how to do.

"...And that's how they lived happily ever after," their mother said, flipping closed the big storybook in the warm, orangey glow of the log-lit fireplace that neither of the kids could remember ever seeing actually being used before.

"Read us another one," begged Andy, wide-eyed.

"Yeah," Kim echoed, lying on the cozy carpet next to her mom. "Then let's play another game, okay?"

"Okay," their mother smiled, reading. "Once there was a frolicky, fun-loving dolphin..." Suddenly the lights went on; the various blips and beeps of reenergized appliances chirped throughout the house like a field of crickets.

"See, the power's back on," their mother said. She turned to Kim. "You probably want to go use your computer now, right?"

"Uh ... I guess. But really I'd rather..."

"Rather go to one of your friends?" her mom nodded. "Well, I can hear the snowplows outside. Maybe I'll be able to drive you somewhere soon..."

"Um, no. What I meant," Kim said, surprising even herself, "is I'd really rather stay sitting right here with you and Andy and hearing the rest of the story ... together."

Discussion Questions:

Q. How did Kim feel at first about staying home?

A. She was upset and afraid she'd be bored and unhappy.

Q. How did she feel in the end?

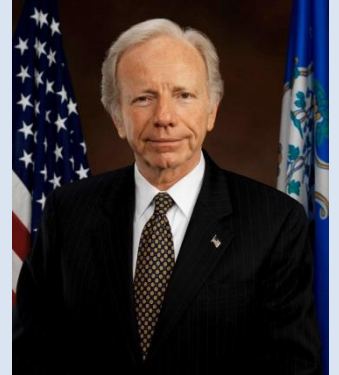
A. She really enjoyed spending some cozy, quiet time with her family.

LEADER TIP: How many songs can you think of that have the word HOME? Have a competition with everyone!

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Joe Lieberman

(February 24, 1942-)



Joseph Lieberman is a Jewish American politician and author and a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut. Lieberman (born February 24, 1942) was born on February 24, 1942 in Stamford, Connecticut. He received his bachelor's degree and his Law degree from Yale University.

Lieberman is the author of a seven of books and lives in Connecticut with his wife Hadassah, a Czech-born daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Together they have one daughter, Hannah, and they have two granddaughters.

His most famous book is called “The Gift of Rest”, which talks about the importance and beauty of Shabbat. Lieberman, who is a big political figure, is able to keep Shabbat (among the rest of the mitzvot). Every Shabbat and Yom Tov he closes himself off to his busy political world and enjoys the beauty of Shabbat. “Six days a week, I’m never without this little piece of plastic, chips and wires that miraculously connect me to the rest of the world and that I hope makes me more efficient, but clearly consumes a lot of my time and attention,” he writes. “If there were no Sabbath law to keep me from sending and receiving email all day as I normally do, do you think I would be able to resist the temptation on the Sabbath? Not a chance. Laws have this way of setting us free.”

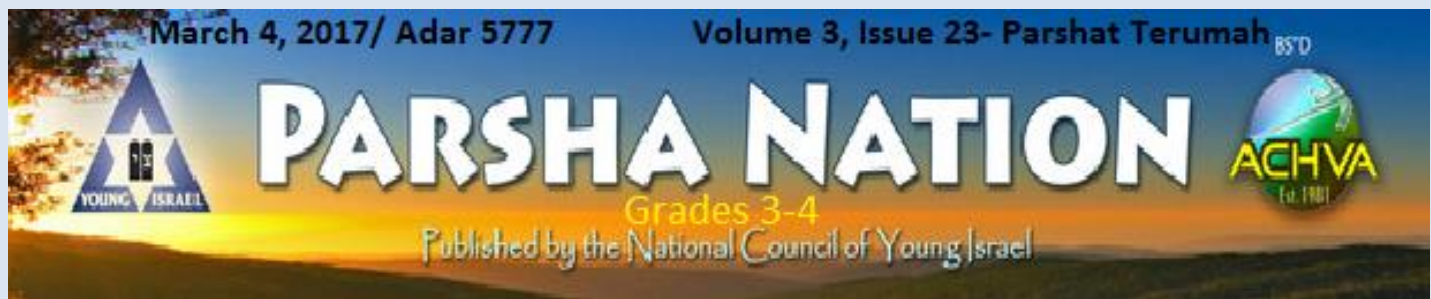
LEADER TIP: Joe Lieberman is a great role model because he doesn't lose sight of his priorities. Are you ever embarrassed of your Judaism? Why or why not?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Limanshinim

In this bracha we daven for the destruction of people who wish to destroy Judaism and the Jewish people both spiritually and/or physically. Who are the “zeidim”? They are people who do evil, the conscious and intentional sinners, who try to pull Jews away from their service of Hashem. We ask that Hashem punish the zeidim in four different ways: He should “uproot, smash, cast down, and humble them. Rav Schwab explains that these four verbs were chosen very carefully and represent four different types of punishment. 1- “Ti’Aker”- We pray that Hashem uproot the evil doers, to prevent any future growth. It is our prayer that any ideas that try to take Jews away from Judaism—either by force or persuading—should be uprooted and should stop to grow and develop. 2- “Ti’Shaber”- We pray that evil-doers should be smashed into many parts, thus making them ineffective in reaching their evil goals. 3- “Ti’Mager”- We pray that even the parts of evil-doers be broken up—that they should be further divided into individuals. Nevertheless, even without the strength of the group, these individuals are still dangerous. 4- “Tachniah”- We pray that Hashem humble the remaining individual evil-doers, so that individual zeidim are made harmless.

LEADER TIP: “People” who want to pull us away from our Judaism can also be our Yetzer Haras. Daven for Hashem to get rid of our Yetzer Haras forever!



TERUMAH REVIEW

Hashem told Moshe to gather donations from Bnei Yisrael for the building of the Mishkan, a place where Hashem can dwell amongst Bnei Yisrael. The materials they needed in order to build it were precious metals, dyed wools and hides, flax, wood, olive oil, spices and gems. Hashem then gave detailed instructions on how to build it regarding the construction and dimensions of the Mishkan as well as all the vessels inside it—starting with the Aron that kept the Luchot. The Aron was to be made of gold-plated acacia wood. Rings were to be attached to the corners of the Aron, so that when Bnei Yisrael would travel they inserted the poles that were used to transport the Aron here. The Aron was to be covered with pure gold. Two golden, winged kruvim were to stand on top of the cover. Next Hashem gave instructions for constructing the Shulchan for the Lechem HaPanim. The Shulchan was also to be made of gold-plated acacia wood, and also to contain rings for transportation poles. The Menorah was to be created out of a single block of pure gold, with seven branches, and decorative cups, knobs and flowers on its body. The covering of the Mishkan was to have several layers of tapestries. The first layer was to be a woven mixture of dyed wools and linen. The second layer was to be made of goat's hair. These two oversized coverings also covered the outsides of the Mishkan's walls. The very top of the Mishkan was then to be further covered by dyed ram skins and *tachash* hides. The walls of the Mishkan were to be upright beams made of gold-plated acacia wood. The front side (to the east) of the Mishkan was to have no wall. Its northern and southern side were to have twenty beams each. Its western wall was to have eight. Altogether the inside of the Mishkan was 30 cubits (approx. 45 feet) by 10 cubits, and 10 cubits high. The beams were held together by several crossbars. The Mishkan was to consist of two sections: the innermost section was the Kodesh HaKodashim, wherein the Aron was to be placed. The outer section was the Kodesh, which housed the Menorah and the Shulchan (as well as the Mizbeach HaZahav which will be described in next week's Parsha). Two curtains were to be woven of dyed wools and linen. One was to be placed between the Kodesh HaKodashim and the Kodesh, the other covered the eastern side of the Mishkan—its entrance. Hashem then gave instructions for the construction of the Outdoor Mizbeach. This Mizbeach was to be made of copper-plated acacia wood, and it was to have four "horns," vertical poles, sticking out from its uppermost corners. The Mizbeach, too, was equipped with rings and transportation poles. The Mishkan courtyard was to be 100 cubits (approx. 150 feet) by 50 cubits, and enclosed by mesh linen curtains. The entrance to the courtyard was to be on its eastern side, and the entrance was to be covered by a curtain woven of dyed wools and linen.

LEADER TIP: It's time to build the Mishkan! Come to groups dressed as the Kohen Gadol Contractor!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to build in the Midbar?
2. Who was in charge of building the Mishkan?
3. Why did the walls of the Mishkan have to come apart?
4. What was the holiest room of the Mishkan called?
5. What was in the Kodesh Hakadashim?
6. What was on the cover of the Aron?
7. Describe how they looked.
8. What did they keep inside the Aron?
9. What did they put on the Shulchan?
10. What was the miracle that occurred with the bread on the Shulchan?
11. How many chalos were put on the shulchan?
12. Could they be eaten on Pesach?
13. What was the Menorah made out of?
14. How many branches did it have?
15. What was the Mizbea'ch Hanechochesh used for?

Answers

1. The Mishkan
2. Bezalel
3. The Bnei Yisrael were constantly traveling in the Midbar
4. Kodesh Hakadashim
5. The Aron with the Cheruvim on top
6. Cheruvim (angelic faces facing each other)
7. Like children's faces
8. Luchot
9. The Lechem Hapanim (show bread)
10. It tasted fresh even when it was a week old
11. 12
12. Yes
13. Gold
14. Seven
15. Karbanot

LEADER TIP: As prizes for answering questions this week, give out gold coins in honor of collecting money for the building of the Mishkan.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids that there are many types of Jews and it takes every one of us to be the greatest nation we can.

ACTIVITY: In this activity, you will be introducing to the kids four different people. Each of these people believe that they are the “Greatest Jew”. Have a group leader act out each character (costumes are very much encouraged) and convince the kids why they really are the “Greatest Jew”. After each of the four characters presents their case, split up the kids into groups and have them discuss together which character they think is the “Greatest Jew”. You can also have the kids split up into their own groups divided by each character. Have the group leader that is the character lead each group. The characters are as follows...

- 1- The person in the Beit Midrash learning all day, is very religious, Hashem loves him the most cause he's always learning Torah.
- 2- The Chessed Guy is a frum guy, not necessarily the most religious but keeps Shabbat and Kosher but will eat salad and tuna at a non-Kosher restaurant. Hashem loves him the most because he does chessed.
- 3- Sports player who is not frum, plays on Shabbat, but does RH and YK and sometimes Pesach seder, Hashem loves him the most since he is a great role model, always says his talents are from G-d, gives a ton of money to charity.
- 4- Doctor totally off the derech but Hashem loves him the most since he saves lives on a constant basis

1. Shalom chevre, my name is Yankl Mendl Shwartzberg and I have been learning in the beis for 17 years now. I began when I was a mere child of five years old, and I have barely left the room since. I sit at a desk surrounded by beautiful seforim, ranging from Rashi to the Ritva to Messilat Yesharim to Shutim of the 1900's. I leave the beis to eat, sleep, and say hello to my family. Rabbanim are present every day, and I ask them all of my questions whenever I wish, and they help me think deeply about the text. I have thought about teaching, but I just can't see myself leaving the beis any time. I just connect so deeply to Hashem every day through my learning, I'm not ready yet to find my fulfillment in giving in it over. I know I connect with Hashem through my learning, how could I live my life doing anything else?

2- Shalom friends! My name is Serena Slomowitzerson and I have found my profession in the business area of non-profit organization. I fundraise for 7 different chessed organizations and I work very hard to make sure that I work honestly and with the deepest consideration for the organizations that I work for and the donors that contribute to them. I spend my days looking into how I can best help the organizations, whether it be through raising money, organizing new programming, or developing infrastructure. I grew up in a religious home and I practice Shabbat, kashrut, and all the rest of the 613. I don't learn Torah on a regular basis, but I find that my Judaism grows in other ways, through my interaction with people and my dedication to my non-profit organizations. I connect to G-d through encouraging an atmosphere of giving in the community. I know that I connect to G-d through chessed, how could I live my life doing anything else?

3- Shalom peeps my name is Michael Jordanberg and I play for the New York Knicks. I grew up irreligious, but we religiously attend Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services in our synagogue every year. Sometimes we even attend a Passover seder in the Spring. I am very proud to call myself a Jew. I don't keep Sabbath, especially with my profession I couldn't even consider it. I connect with G-d every day though. I am an ethical man, and I make sure to be honest, friendly, a team player, and a true role model. Anytime anyone compliments my talents, I tell them that it's only due to Gd that I have made it to where I am today. I find basketball playing a spiritual endeavor, how could I live my life doing anything else?

4- Hi, my name is Rachel Golberg. I am a doctor, and I have been performing open heart surgeries for 18 years now. I save lives on a daily basis, and I am known worldwide for my skill and success rate. I grew up in a very religious house hold, but I abandoned that lifestyle. I couldn't reconcile scientific realities with what it said in the Torah, so I decided the day to day practice of Judaism wasn't for me. I connect with Hashem every day though, in a way that is not typical of those born Jewish. I save lives, I look after G-d's children. Though I don't consider myself a practicing Jew, I find that I have a very close connection with G-d because of my profession. In a way, I think my profession allows me to practice a spiritual activity every day, by looking after the health of hundreds of people every year. I love helping G-d's children, how could I live my life doing anything else?

Cut up a list of different things a good Jewish person should do and give them to each group. Have the kids rank these in order from most important to least important. Use these things to help the kids decide what it means to be the best Jew possible. Guide the discussion to be about what the kids can do at the age they are now to be the best Jews they can be. Things can include: Davening, Benching, Tzitzit, Shabbat, Kosher, Saying Thank You, Helping your friends and family, Tzedakah, Eating healthy, Doing well in school, etc.

DISCUSSION: In this activity, we learn about different kinds of Jews. One of the items that was constructed to be used in the Mishkan was the Menorah. The Menorah had six branches and a stem. The unique feature of the Menorah was that it had to be constructed MIKSHA, "hammered out". Rashi explains that this means its parts were not to be created separately and then attached the way many of the other utensils were created. The Menorah needed to be formed out of one piece of gold. A Rabbi once suggested that there was a significant reason for this. The branches represented different types of Jews. They corresponded to diverse kinds of Jews, each living his Judaism in a different style. Though this is not the ideal situation and preferably Jews should live by observance of the Torah, nevertheless, all Jews, whether they observe or not, are part of the Jewish people. Thus the different branches of the Menorah symbolized the various types of Jews, but the Menorah had to be constructed and hammered out from one solid piece. This was to emphasize the strong belief that all Jews comprise the Jewish people. There is no "Greatest Jew". Everyone is different and everyone should strive to be the best Jew that they could be.

LEADER TIP: Be sensitive when talking about the different kinds of Jews since some of the kids in your group may be more or less strict on certain things. Talk in broad terms.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: A home is more than just a building with walls, ceilings and floors. It's a place to live, learn and grow. This week's Parsha tells us about the Mishkan - the 'home,' so to speak, that the people built for Hashem to dwell with them as they traveled through the desert. Our homes too can be loving, happy sanctuaries, where we truly feel at home,

HOMeward BOUND

Kim stomped into the living room like dark thundercloud. "Look at all this snow - again!" she said, pointing out the window, "I'm so bummed out!"

"Bummed out over a day off from school?" her younger brother, Andy, laughed.

"You bet," Kim said. "I just called every single one of my friends and there is nobody who can come out to do anything."

"No?" her brother asked.

"No!" Kim said glumly. "They're snowed in - just like us. Mom can't drive me anywhere either."

"Hey, you're right. I didn't think about that," Andy said. "That means I can't go out too."

"Bingo! That means that you, me, the whole family are in for a boring, snoring day stuck at home!"

Just then, the lights began to flicker and went out.

"Hey, what happened?" Andy asked.

"Nothing to worry about, guys," their mother said, walking out of her home office. "I just heard on the news - before the electricity went out - that they were expecting some temporary power outages because of the storm. But they should fix things soon."

"That's awful!" Kim moaned.

"It's not so bad," her mom assured her. "Meanwhile it's still light out, our heating system runs on oil so we'll be nice and warm, and we can still cook on our gas stove."

"No, I mean..." Kim said, "since I'm stuck at home, I was planning to pass the day on the computer - now I can't even do that. What in the world am I going to do all day?" The girl began to pace back and forth in the room like a caged tiger.

"My work computer's off too," their mother said. "So I guess we're all just going to enjoy a nice 'stay at home' day together."

Kim and Andy looked at her and then at each other, neither of them having any idea how a day like this could be anything to possibly 'enjoy.' But with no other choice they grudgingly followed their mother into the kitchen.

At first they were all frowns, but soon things started looking up.

"Wow, that's cool. I never knew you could make popcorn in a pot like that." Andy said, listening to the rat-a-tat of the kernels ricocheting off the pot's cover.

"The hot cocoa's almost done, too," Kim said, stirring the milk, sugar and cocoa powder like her mom showed her how to do.

"...And that's how they lived happily ever after," their mother said, flipping closed the big storybook in the warm, orangey glow of the log-lit fireplace that neither of the kids could remember ever seeing actually being used before.

"Read us another one," begged Andy, wide-eyed.

"Yeah," Kim echoed, lying on the cozy carpet next to her mom. "Then let's play another game, okay?"

"Okay," their mother smiled, reading. "Once there was a frolicky, fun-loving dolphin..." Suddenly the lights went on; the various blips and beeps of reenergized appliances chirped throughout the house like a field of crickets.

"See, the power's back on," their mother said. She turned to Kim. "You probably want to go use your computer now, right?"

"Uh ... I guess. But really I'd rather..."

"Rather go to one of your friends?" her mom nodded. "Well, I can hear the snowplows outside. Maybe I'll be able to drive you somewhere soon..."

"Um, no. What I meant," Kim said, surprising even herself, "is I'd really rather stay sitting right here with you and Andy and hearing the rest of the story ... together."

Discussion Questions:

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

A. She'd felt that the only way to have a good time was to be on the move, going out with friends, etc. She'd dreaded being 'stuck' at home, but discovered that being home and spending time with her family had more to offer than she thought.

Q. Why do you think Kim and her family had a better time together that day than they usually did?

A. People can get so swept up in the rush of their individual daily activities, friends, work, etc. that they aren't able to focus on their home life together and can almost come to see it as a burden. The snowstorm and power outage took away a lot of other options, so the family could spend quiet, undistracted time together and found out how great it felt.

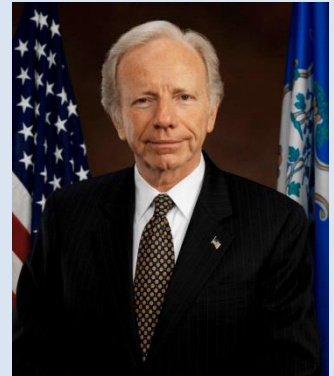
LEADER TIP: How many songs can you think of that have the word HOME? Have a competition with everyone!

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Joe Lieberman

(February 24, 1942-)

Joseph Lieberman is a Jewish American politician and author and a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut. Lieberman (born February 24, 1942) was born on February 24, 1942 in Stamford, Connecticut. He received his bachelor's degree and his Law degree from Yale University.



Lieberman co-sponsored the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, calling on the President to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On August 8, 2000, Lieberman was selected as Al Gore's vice presidential candidate, the first time in U.S. history that a Jew had been selected to run for the one of the two highest places in the U.S. political system. Though Gore and Lieberman lost the election to George Bush, history had been set.

Lieberman is the author of a seven of books and lives in Connecticut with his wife Hadassah, a Czech-born daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Together they have one daughter, Hannah, and they have two granddaughters.

His most famous book is called "The Gift of Rest", which talks about the importance and beauty of Shabbat. Lieberman, who is a big political figure, is able to keep Shabbat (among the rest of the mitzvot). Every Shabbat and Yom Tov he closes himself off to his busy political world and enjoys the beauty of Shabbat. "Six days a week, I'm never without this little piece of plastic, chips and wires that miraculously connect me to the rest of the world and that I hope makes me more efficient, but clearly consumes a lot of my time and attention," he writes. "If there were no Sabbath law to keep me from sending and receiving email all day as I normally do, do you think I would be able to resist the temptation on the Sabbath? Not a chance. Laws have this way of setting us free."

LEADER TIP: Joe Lieberman is a great role model because he doesn't lose sight of his priorities. Are you ever embarrassed of your Judaism? Why or why not?

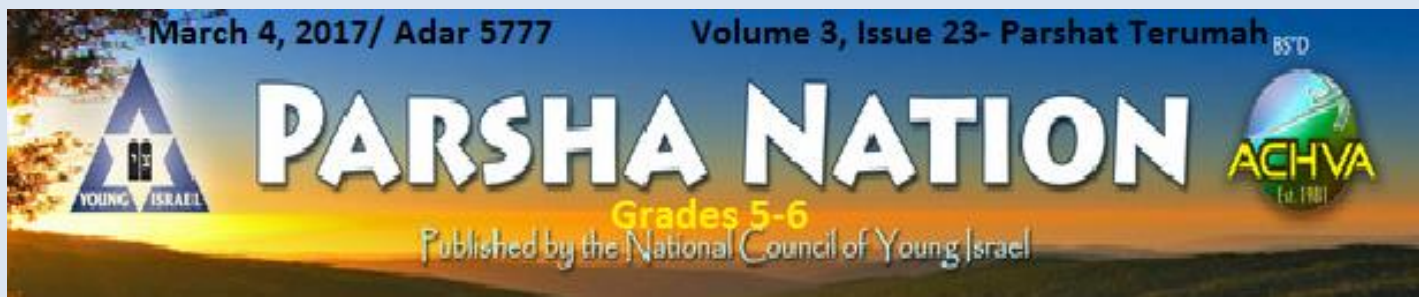
TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Limanshinim

In this bracha we daven for the destruction of people who wish to destroy Judaism and the Jewish people both spiritually and/or physically. Who are the “zeidim”? They are people who do evil, the conscious and intentional sinners, who try to pull Jews away from their service of Hashem. We ask that Hashem punish the zeidim in four different ways: He should “uproot, smash, cast down, and humble them. Rav Schwab explains that these four verbs were chosen very carefully and represent four different types of punishment. 1- “Ti’Aker”- We pray that Hashem uproot the evil doers, to prevent any future growth. It is our prayer that any ideas that try to take Jews away from Judaism—either by force or persuading—should be uprooted and should stop to grow and develop. 2- “Ti’Shaber”- We pray that evil-doers should be smashed into many parts, thus making them ineffective in reaching their evil goals. 3- “Ti’Mager”- We pray that even the parts of evil-doers be broken up—that they should be further divided into individuals. Nevertheless, even without the strength of the group, these individuals are still dangerous. 4- “Tachniah”- We pray that Hashem humble the remaining individual evil-doers, so that individual zeidim are made harmless.

This bracha is the one that was later inserted, with the result that there are nineteen brachot in “Shemoneh Esrei.” According to the Talmud in Brachot (28b), this bracha was added in the days of Rabban Gamliel in response to an increase in heretics. According to Rashi, “minim” (heretics) is talking about people who deny that the origin of the Torah is from Hashem. The term minim is commonly used by the Talmud to refer to early groups of Christians, who were more comparable to today’s “Messianic Jews” than to modern Christianity. That is, they identified as Jews, although with ideas against Jewish thought, rather than as a fully-independent religion. Since this philosophy posed a threat to the Jewish people, the bracha was instituted as an anti-missionary move. It is talking about any individual or group promoting heretical ideas against Judaism within the community.

LEADER TIP: “People” who want to pull us away from our Judaism can also be our Yetzer Haras. Daven for Hashem to get rid of our Yetzer Haras forever!



TERUMAH REVIEW

Hashem told Moshe to gather donations from Bnei Yisrael for the building of the Mishkan, a place where Hashem can dwell amongst Bnei Yisrael. The materials they needed in order to build it were precious metals, dyed wools and hides, flax, wood, olive oil, spices and gems. Hashem then gave detailed instructions on how to build it regarding the construction and dimensions of the Mishkan as well as all the vessels inside it—starting with the Aron that kept the Luchot. The Aron was to be made of gold-plated acacia wood. Rings were to be attached to the corners of the Aron, so that when Bnei Yisrael would travel they inserted the poles that were used to transport the Aron here. The Aron was to be covered with pure gold. Two golden, winged kruvim were to stand on top of the cover. Next Hashem gave instructions for constructing the Shulchan for the Lechem HaPanim. The Shulchan was also to be made of gold-plated acacia wood, and also to contain rings for transportation poles. The Menorah was to be created out of a single block of pure gold, with seven branches, and decorative cups, knobs and flowers on its body. The covering of the Mishkan was to have several layers of tapestries. The first layer was to be a woven mixture of dyed wools and linen. The second layer was to be made of goat's hair. These two oversized coverings also covered the outsides of the Mishkan's walls. The very top of the Mishkan was then to be further covered by dyed ram skins and *tachash* hides. The walls of the Mishkan were to be upright beams made of gold-plated acacia wood. The front side (to the east) of the Mishkan was to have no wall. Its northern and southern side were to have twenty beams each. Its western wall was to have eight. Altogether the inside of the Mishkan was 30 cubits (approx. 45 feet) by 10 cubits, and 10 cubits high. The beams were held together by several crossbars. The Mishkan was to consist of two sections: the innermost section was the Kodesh HaKodashim, wherein the Aron was to be placed. The outer section was the Kodesh, which housed the Menorah and the Shulchan (as well as the Mizbeach HaZahav which will be described in next week's Parsha). Two curtains were to be woven of dyed wools and linen. One was to be placed between the Kodesh HaKodashim and the Kodesh, the other covered the eastern side of the Mishkan—its entrance. Hashem then gave instructions for the construction of the Outdoor Mizbeach. This Mizbeach was to be made of copper-plated acacia wood, and it was to have four "horns," vertical poles, sticking out from its uppermost corners. The Mizbeach, too, was equipped with rings and transportation poles. The Mishkan courtyard was to be 100 cubits (approx. 150 feet) by 50 cubits, and enclosed by mesh linen curtains. The entrance to the courtyard was to be on its eastern side, and the entrance was to be covered by a curtain woven of dyed wools and linen.

LEADER TIP: It's time to build the Mishkan! Come to groups dressed as the Kohen Gadol Contractor!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to build in the Midbar?
2. Who was in charge of building the Mishkan?
3. Which three metals did people donate to the Mishkan?
4. Why did the walls of the Mishkan have to come apart?
5. What was the holiest room of the Mishkan called?
6. What was in the Kodesh Hakadashim?
7. Who was the only person allowed to enter this room and when?
8. What divided between the Kodesh Kadashim and the rest of the Mishkan?
9. What was on the cover of the Aron?
10. Describe how they looked.
11. What did they keep inside the Aron?
12. Why is it called Aron Ha'edut?
13. From which place did the voice of Hashem come after coming out from shamayim?
14. What did they put on the Shulchan?
15. What was the miracle that occurred with the bread on the Shulchan?
16. How many chalos were put on the shulchan?
17. Could they be eaten on Pesach?
18. What was the Menorah made out of?
19. How many branches did it have?
20. What was the Mizbea'ch Hanechochesh used for?

LEADER TIP: As prizes for answering questions this week, give out gold coins in honor of collecting money for the building of the Mishkan.

Answers

1. The Mishkan
2. Bezalel
3. Zahav (gold), Kesef (silver), Nechoshes (copper)
4. The Bnei Yisrael were constantly traveling in the Midbar
5. Kodesh Hakadashim
6. The Aron with the Cheruvim on top
7. The Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur
8. Perochet (partition)
9. Cheruvim (angelic faces facing each other)
10. Like children's faces
11. Luchot
12. The Torah serves as testimony that Hashem commanded us to do Mitzvot
13. From between the two Cheruvim
14. The Lechem Hapanim (show bread)
15. It tasted fresh even when it was a week old
16. 12 8
17. Yes
18. Gold
19. Seven
20. Karbanot

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids that there are many types of Jews and it takes every one of us to be the greatest nation we can.

ACTIVITY: In this activity, you will be introducing to the kids four different people. Each of these people believe that they are the “Greatest Jew”. Have a group leader act out each character (costumes are very much encouraged) and convince the kids why they really are the “Greatest Jew”. After each of the four characters presents their case, split up the kids into groups and have them discuss together which character they think is the “Greatest Jew”. You can also have the kids split up into their own groups divided by each character. Have the group leader that is the character lead each group. The characters are as follows...

- 1- The person in the Beit Midrash learning all day, is very religious, Hashem loves him the most cause he's always learning Torah.
- 2- The Chessed Guy is a frum guy, not necessarily the most religious but keeps Shabbat and Kosher but will eat salad and tuna at a non-Kosher restaurant. Hashem loves him the most because he does chessed.
- 3- Sports player who is not frum, plays on Shabbat, but does RH and YK and sometimes Pesach seder, Hashem loves him the most since he is a great role model, always says his talents are from G-d, gives a ton of money to charity.
- 4- Doctor totally off the derech but Hashem loves him the most since he saves lives on a constant basis

1. Shalom chevre, my name is Yankl Mendl Shwartzberg and I have been learning in the beis for 17 years now. I began when I was a mere child of five years old, and I have barely left the room since. I sit at a desk surrounded by beautiful seforim, ranging from Rashi to the Ritva to Messilat Yescharim to Shutim of the 1900's. I leave the beis to eat, sleep, and say hello to my family. Rabbanim are present every day, and I ask them all of my questions whenever I wish, and they help me think deeply about the text. I have thought about teaching, but I just can't see myself leaving the beis any time. I just connect so deeply to Hashem every day through my learning, I'm not ready yet to find my fulfillment in giving in it over. I know I connect with Hashem through my learning, how could I live my life doing anything else?

2- Shalom friends! My name is Serena Slomowitzerson and I have found my profession in the business area of non-profit organization. I fundraise for 7 different chessed organizations and I work very hard to make sure that I work honestly and with the deepest consideration for the organizations that I work for and the donors that contribute to them. I spend my days looking into how I can best help the organizations, whether it be through raising money, organizing new programming, or developing infrastructure. I grew up in a religious home and I practice Shabbat, kashrut, and all the rest of the 613. I don't learn Torah on a regular basis, but I find that my Judaism grows in other ways, through my interaction with people and my dedication to my non-profit organizations. I connect to G-d through encouraging an atmosphere of giving in the community. I know that I connect to G-d through chessed, how could I live my life doing anything else?

3- Shalom peeps my name is Michael Jordanberg and I play for the New York Knicks. I grew up irreligious, but we religiously attend Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services in our synagogue every year. Sometimes we even attend a Passover seder in the Spring. I am very proud to call myself a Jew. I don't keep Sabbath, especially with my profession I couldn't even consider it. I connect with G-d every day though. I am an ethical man, and I make sure to be honest, friendly, a team player, and a true role model. Anytime anyone compliments my talents, I tell them that it's only due to Gd that I have made it to where I am today. I find basketball playing a spiritual endeavor, how could I live my life doing anything else?

4- Hi, my name is Rachel Golberg. I am a doctor, and I have been performing open heart surgeries for 18 years now. I save lives on a daily basis, and I am known worldwide for my skill and success rate. I grew up in a very religious house hold, but I abandoned that lifestyle. I couldn't reconcile scientific realities with what it said in the Torah, so I decided the day to day practice of Judaism wasn't for me. I connect with Hashem every day though, in a way that is not typical of those born Jewish. I save lives, I look after G-d's children. Though I don't consider myself a practicing Jew, I find that I have a very close connection with G-d because of my profession. In a way, I think my profession allows me to practice a spiritual activity every day, by looking after the health of hundreds of people every year. I love helping G-d's children, how could I live my life doing anything else?

DISCUSSION: In this activity, we learn about different kinds of Jews. One of the items that was constructed to be used in the Mishkan was the Menorah. The Menorah had six branches and a stem. The unique feature of the Menorah was that it had to be constructed MIKSHA, "hammered out". Rashi explains that this means its parts were not to be created separately and then attached the way many of the other utensils were created. The Menorah needed to be formed out of one piece of gold. A Rabbi once suggested that there was a significant reason for this. The branches represented different types of Jews. They corresponded to diverse kinds of Jews, each living his Judaism in a different style. Though this is not the ideal situation and preferably Jews should live by observance of the Torah, nevertheless, all Jews, whether they observe or not, are part of the Jewish people. Thus the different branches of the Menorah symbolized the various types of Jews, but the Menorah had to be constructed and hammered out from one solid piece. This was to emphasize the strong belief that all Jews comprise the Jewish people. There is no "Greatest Jew". Everyone is different and everyone should strive to be the best Jew that they could be.

LEADER TIP: Be sensitive when talking about the different kinds of Jews since some of the kids in your group may be more or less strict on certain things. Talk in broad terms.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: A home is more than just a building with walls, ceilings and floors. It's a place to live, learn and grow. This week's Parsha tells us about the Mishkan - the 'home,' so to speak, that the people built for Hashem to dwell with them as they traveled through the desert. Our homes too can be loving, happy sanctuaries, where we truly feel at home,

HOMeward BOUND

Kim stomped into the living room like dark thundercloud. "Look at all this snow - again!" she said, pointing out the window, "I'm so bummed out!"

"Bummed out over a day off from school?" her younger brother, Andy, laughed.

"You bet," Kim said. "I just called every single one of my friends and there is nobody who can come out to do anything."

"No?" her brother asked.

"No!" Kim said glumly. "They're snowed in - just like us. Mom can't drive me anywhere either."

"Hey, you're right. I didn't think about that," Andy said. "That means I can't go out too."

"Bingo! That means that you, me, the whole family are in for a boring, snoring day stuck at home!"

Just then, the lights began to flicker and went out.

"Hey, what happened?" Andy asked.

"Nothing to worry about, guys," their mother said, walking out of her home office. "I just heard on the news - before the electricity went out - that they were expecting some temporary power outages because of the storm. But they should fix things soon."

"That's awful!" Kim moaned.

"It's not so bad," her mom assured her. "Meanwhile it's still light out, our heating system runs on oil so we'll be nice and warm, and we can still cook on our gas stove."

"No, I mean..." Kim said, "since I'm stuck at home, I was planning to pass the day on the computer - now I can't even do that. What in the world am I going to do all day?" The girl began to pace back and forth in the room like a caged tiger.

"My work computer's off too," their mother said. "So I guess we're all just going to enjoy a nice 'stay at home' day together."

Kim and Andy looked at her and then at each other, neither of them having any idea how a day like this could be anything to possibly 'enjoy.' But with no other choice they grudgingly followed their mother into the kitchen.

At first they were all frowns, but soon things started looking up.

"Wow, that's cool. I never knew you could make popcorn in a pot like that." Andy said, listening to the rat-a-tat of the kernels ricocheting off the pot's cover.

"The hot cocoa's almost done, too," Kim said, stirring the milk, sugar and cocoa powder like her mom showed her how to do.

"...And that's how they lived happily ever after," their mother said, flipping closed the big storybook in the warm, orangey glow of the log-lit fireplace that neither of the kids could remember ever seeing actually being used before.

"Read us another one," begged Andy, wide-eyed.

"Yeah," Kim echoed, lying on the cozy carpet next to her mom. "Then let's play another game, okay?"

"Okay," their mother smiled, reading. "Once there was a frolicky, fun-loving dolphin..." Suddenly the lights went on; the various blips and beeps of reenergized appliances chirped throughout the house like a field of crickets.

"See, the power's back on," their mother said. She turned to Kim. "You probably want to go use your computer now, right?"

"Uh ... I guess. But really I'd rather..."

"Rather go to one of your friends?" her mom nodded. "Well, I can hear the snowplows outside. Maybe I'll be able to drive you somewhere soon..."

"Um, no. What I meant," Kim said, surprising even herself, "is I'd really rather stay sitting right here with you and Andy and hearing the rest of the story ... together."

Discussion Questions:

Q. What do you think makes a 'house' a 'home'?

A. It had to do with people, and priorities. If we realize that our family is more than just people we happen to live with, but can be our closest source of support and companionship - and we make it our priority to invest in that relationship - we will likely soon see that our home and family give us something we can't get anywhere else.

Q. What practical steps can we take in this direction?

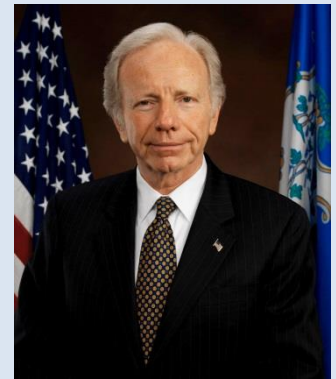
A. Scheduled 'family at home' times together make a big difference. Family meals together are great times to bond. Many use the weekly Shabbat for exactly this purpose. One or more unrushed family meals together, sharing songs and stories - minimized outside distractions, and a general 'time out' from life's hectic pace to get to know - and grow with each other, in a warm, loving way.

LEADER TIP: How many songs can you think of that have the word HOME?
Have a competition with everyone!

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Joe Lieberman

(February 24, 1942-)



Joseph Lieberman is a Jewish American politician and author and a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut. Lieberman (born February 24, 1942) was born on February 24, 1942 in Stamford, Connecticut. He received his bachelor's degree and his Law degree from Yale University.

In 1970, he was elected to Connecticut State Senate and served as majority leader from 1974 to 1980. From 1982 to 1988, he served as Connecticut's attorney general. In 1988, Lieberman won his first election to the U.S. Senate, upsetting three-term liberal Republican Lowell Weicker. He was re-elected in 1994 in the biggest landslide victory in a Connecticut Senate race, receiving more than 67 percent of the vote. He won reelection as a Democrat again 2000.

Lieberman co-sponsored the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, calling on the President to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On August 8, 2000, Lieberman was selected as Al Gore's vice presidential candidate, the first time in U.S. history that a Jew had been selected to run for the one of the two highest places in the U.S. political system. Though Gore and Lieberman lost the election to George Bush, history had been set.

Lieberman is the author of a seven of books and lives in Connecticut with his wife Hadassah, a Czech-born daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Together they have one daughter, Hannah, and they have two granddaughters.

His most famous book is called "The Gift of Rest", which talks about the importance and beauty of Shabbat. Lieberman, who is a big political figure, is able to keep Shabbat (among the rest of the mitzvot). Every Shabbat and Yom Tov he closes himself off to his busy political world and enjoys the beauty of Shabbat. "Six days a week, I'm never without this little piece of plastic, chips and wires that miraculously connect me to the rest of the world and that I hope makes me more efficient, but clearly consumes a lot of my time and attention," he writes. "If there were no Sabbath law to keep me from sending and receiving email all day as I normally do, do you think I would be able to resist the temptation on the Sabbath? Not a chance. Laws have this way of setting us free."

LEADER TIP: Joe Lieberman is a great role model because he doesn't lose sight of his priorities. Are you ever embarrassed of your Judaism? Why or why not?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Limanshinim

In this bracha we daven for the destruction of people who wish to destroy Judaism and the Jewish people both spiritually and/or physically. Who are the “zeidim”? They are people who do evil, the conscious and intentional sinners, who try to pull Jews away from their service of Hashem. We ask that Hashem punish the zeidim in four different ways: He should “uproot, smash, cast down, and humble them. Rav Schwab explains that these four verbs were chosen very carefully and represent four different types of punishment. 1- “Ti’Aker”- We pray that Hashem uproot the evil doers, to prevent any future growth. It is our prayer that any ideas that try to take Jews away from Judaism—either by force or persuading—should be uprooted and should stop to grow and develop. 2- “Ti’Shaber”- We pray that evil-doers should be smashed into many parts, thus making them ineffective in reaching their evil goals. 3- “Ti’Mager”- We pray that even the parts of evil-doers be broken up—that they should be further divided into individuals. Nevertheless, even without the strength of the group, these individuals are still dangerous. 4- “Tachniah”- We pray that Hashem humble the remaining individual evil-doers, so that individual zeidim are made harmless.

This bracha is the one that was later inserted, with the result that there are nineteen brachot in “Shemoneh Esrei.” According to the Talmud in Brachot (28b), this bracha was added in the days of Rabban Gamliel in response to an increase in heretics. According to Rashi, “minim” (heretics) is talking about people who deny that the origin of the Torah is from Hashem. The term minim is commonly used by the Talmud to refer to early groups of Christians, who were more comparable to today’s “Messianic Jews” than to modern Christianity. That is, they identified as Jews, although with ideas against Jewish thought, rather than as a fully-independent religion. Since this philosophy posed a threat to the Jewish people, the bracha was instituted as an anti-missionary move. It is talking about any individual or group promoting heretical ideas against Judaism within the community.

The bracha was written by Shmuel HaKatan in response to Rabban Gamliel’s request. Shmuel HaKatan is also mentioned in Pirkei Avot for quoting Mishlei not to take joy in the downfall of one’s enemies. We can see the relevance of this statement to someone given the unpleasant task of writing a prayer against other Jews, even those who serve as a threat against the Jewish people. Despite the addition of this nineteenth bracha, the prayer is still called “Shemoneh Esrei” because we hope that one day this bracha will be considered unnecessary and removed, bringing our daily prayers to the originally-intended eighteen.

LEADER TIP: “People” who want to pull us away from out Judaism can also be our Yetzer Haras. Daven for Hashem to get rid of our Yetzer Haras forever!

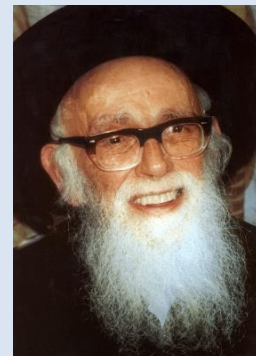
This Week in Jewish History=

February 20, 1995

Yahrtzeit of Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach

Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach was a renowned Rabbi, Posek and Rosh Yeshiva of the Kol Torah yeshiva in Israel. Rabbi Auerbach was born in the Sha'arei Chessed neighborhood of Yerushalayim founded by his maternal grandfather, Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Porush, after whom he was named. His father Rabbi Chaim Yehuda Leib Auerbach headed the Shaar Hashaim Yeshiva. By the age of eleven he was proficient in the entire talmudic masechet of Kiddushin. As a teenager he attended the Etz Chaim Yeshiva in Yerushalayim. He was known for his diligence which is illustrated by an event which occurred while he was in yeshiva. On the day the first automobile rolled into Jerusalem along the Yafo Road, all the students left their studies to marvel at the horse-less wagon. Only young Shlomo Zalman remained in his chair immersed in his studies. Following his marriage he studied under Rabbi Zvi Pesach Frank at Kollel Kerem Tzion which focused on the laws of the Land of Israel. His first major published work, *Meorei Esh*, was

the first ever written on the subject of using electricity on Shabbat. The work was endorsed by Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinski who read it and declared: "*Or chadash al Tziyon ta'ir*" — "A new light will shine upon Zion" — a quote from the daily morning prayers. He had a close association with Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodzinski, as well as the Chazon Ish and Rabbi Elazar Menachem Shach, the two iconic and preeminent leaders of Haredi Judaism of the first and middle segments of the 20th century. He became the pre-eminent Halachic posek of his time in Israel, respected by all streams of Orthodox Judaism. He was unique in his approach to Halacha through thought experiments. Renowned for his articulate classes as Rosh Yeshiva, his thousands of students continue to influence the Torah world today. An estimated 300,000 - 500,000 people attended his funeral in 1995.



FIND...

- Mishkan
- Aron
- Kodesh
- HaKodashim
- Mizbeach
- Shulchan
- Shechinah
- Menorah

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- TERUMAH

19th of 54 sedras; 7th of 11 in Shemot
 Written on 154.8 lines in a Sefer Torah, rank: 43
 9 Parshiot; 4 open, 5 closed
 96 p'sukim – ranks 38th (9th in Shemot)
 1145 words – ranks 45th (10th in Shemot)
 4692 letters – ranks 41st (9th in Shemot)
 Terumah is a short sedra with very short p'sukim (especially in words per pasuk)
MITZVOT
 Contains 3 mitzvot; 1 positive and 2 prohibitions
 The one mitzva in Terumah is a super-mitzva, in that it includes the many commands to make all the furnishings of the Mikdash.
 Further, the fulfillment of this mitzvah facilitates many others.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT BASIC COLOR IS USED FOR POSTAL MAIL SENT OUT BY THE IDF TO SOLDIERS AND RESERVISTS?

Email your answers to YOUTH@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!

- Despite a population of over a billion, China has only about 200 family names.
- On average, 2 newborns will be given to the wrong parents every day.
- In the U.S, Frisbees outsell footballs, baseballs and basketballs combined.
- The human body is comprised of 80% water.
- It is believed that Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

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

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

Parsha Points to Ponder...

The construction of the Mishkan and the various items that are to be included in it are described in great detail. One of the items is **הָאֲרֹן**, or the Ark. The Torah calls this ark **אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת**, "...the ark of testimony..." (Ex. 25, 22) Why is the Ark given this name? The Torah itself answers this question. It gives two reasons. First, Moshe was told: **וְנָתַתָּ אֶל הָאֲרֹן אֶת הָעֵדוּת**, "You shall place in the Ark the Testimony..." (Ex. 25, 16) The tablets of stone, containing the Ten Commandments, were to be placed in the Ark. These tablets serve as the testimony that our people stood at Mt. Sinai and heard Hashem proclaiming the commandments by which we Jews have lived for centuries. This is one reason why the Ark was given the designation **הָעֵדוּת** or "testimony". The Torah gives us another reason. **וְנִפְגַּשְׁתִּי לָךְ שָׁם**, "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the Ark cover..." (Ex. 25, 22) The Ark is thus being designated as the meeting place between Hashem and Moshe who represents the Jewish people. This is another explanation why the Ark was called **הָעֵדוּת** or "testimony". The name is so designated to remind us of a past event and to emphasize our closeness to Hashem. Interestingly, the three major Jewish holidays are also called in the Torah **מוֹעֲדִים** and in singular **מוֹעֵד** or "testimony". The word **הָעֵדוּת** and **מוֹעֵד** stem from the same root, **עָד**, meaning "testimony". We celebrate these holidays to remind us or to testify to the fact that Hashem took us out of Egypt. On each of these holidays, when the Temple stood in Yerushalayim, the Jews were instructed to journey to the Temple and to appear before Hashem. The holidays serve the same purpose as the Ark. They testify about events of the past and demonstrate our closeness to Hashem.

Since 1981



BRYCE CANYON, UTAH

ACHVA

EAST - WEST - ALASKA/HAWAII - ISRAEL

***Once-in-a-lifetime Summer Tours
for Modern Orthodox High School Students***

***www.youngisrael.org/achva
or call 212-929-1525 ext. 181***

***Amazing Summer Programs for post-8th to post-11th graders starting at \$3,650 up to \$9,250.
For itineraries, dates and prices, see our web site. Experience matters: our 34th year! Sign up
online today!***