



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides. I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

We inspire and mold future leaders. The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do. Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton 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.

Shabbat Shalom,.

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.



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

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.



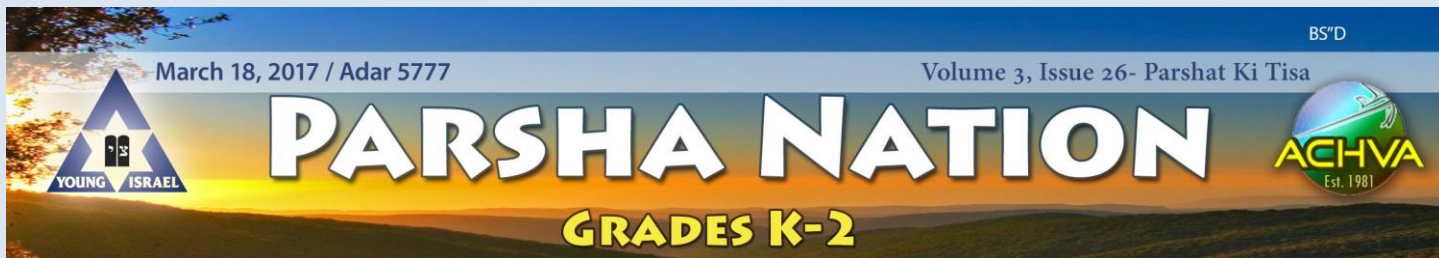
PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

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!	



KI TISA REVIEW

Hashem tells Moshe to take a count of the Jewish adult male population by collecting half a silver shekel from each individual. The collected silver was melted down, and was made into sockets for the beams of the Mishkan. Hashem told Moshe to make a copper washstand for the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use this faucet to wash their hands and feet before their service. Hashem tells Moshe the recipe for making holy "anointing oil." This oil, which was prepared with various scented herbs and fine spices, was used to anoint and sanctify the Mishkan, its vessels, and Aharon and his sons. The remainder of the oil was put aside, and was used to anoint kings and Kohen Gadols of future generations. Hashem also gave Moshe the formula for the incense which was offered twice-daily in the Mishkan. The duplication of the anointing oil or incense for personal use is prohibited. Hashem gave Betzalel wisdom, and appointed him to be the chief craftsman of the Mishkan and its contents. Hashem assigned Oholiav as his assistant. Hashem then told the Jewish people to observe Shabbat, the eternal sign between Him and Bnei Yisrael. After Hashem revealed Himself to the entire nation at Har Sinai and told them the Aseret HaDibrot, Moshe went up the mountain where he stayed for forty days. While there, he studied the Torah and received the luchot. The Jews miscalculated when Moshe was supposed to return, and when he didn't appear on the day when they anticipated him, they became impatient and demand of Aharon to make them a new god. Aharon cooperates, all along intending to postpone and buy time until Moshe's return, but despite his efforts, a Golden Calf emerged from the flames. The festivities and sacrifices started early the next morning. Moshe pleaded with an infuriated G-d to forgive the Jews' sin. Hashem agreed and sympathized from His plan to destroy the Jews. Moshe came down with the luchot, saw the idolatrous partying, and broke the luchot. Moshe recruits the Shevet of Levi to punish the main people who started it all. Three thousand idol worshippers were executed on that day. Moshe went back up to Har Sinai in an attempt to gain complete atonement for the sin. Hashem told Moshe to lead the Jews towards the Promised Land, but insisted that He wouldn't be leading them personally; instead an angel will be sent to lead them. Seeing Hashem's displeasure with the Jews, Moshe took his own tent and pitched it outside the camp of Bnei Yisrael. This tent became the center of study and spirituality until the Mishkan was established. Moshe asked Hashem to reconsider having an angel lead them. Hashem agreed to lead them Himself again. Moshe then requested that Hashem's presence never rest itself on any other nation other than the Jews and Hashem agreed. Hashem told Moshe to carve new luchot that Hashem would engrave the Aseret HaDibrot on. Hashem sealed a covenant with Moshe, assuring him again that His presence will only dwell with the Jews. Hashem told the Jewish people not to make idols, to observe the Shalosh Regalim, not to eat *chametz* on Pesach, to sanctify male firstborn humans and cattle, and not to cook meat together with milk. Moshe came down from Har Sinai with the second set of luchot, and beams of light were coming from his face. Aharon and the people were originally afraid of him. Moshe taught the people the Torah he studied on the mountain.

LEADER TIP: The Golden Calf makes its appearance in this week's Parsha. See what happens if you come late to groups. think the kids will make an idol group leader?

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 QUESTIONS

Questions

1. Why does the תורה talk about שבת right next to the building of the משכן?
2. What sin did the בני ישראל do when they thought משה should have been down from שמים?
3. Which שבט had nothing to do with the עגל?
4. Did the women join in the העגל חטא?
5. What was their reward?
6. What did משה do when he saw the העגל חטא?
7. Why did משה go up to שמים for another forty days?
8. Why did אהרן build the altar for the golden calf by himself?
9. How has the sin of the golden calf (העגל חטא) affected the Jewish people through out history?
10. How did Hashem show that He forgave the Jewish people?

Answers

1. One may not violate שבת to build the משכן
2. העגל חטא (golden calf)
3. לוי
4. No
5. Women have a מנהג not to work on חדש ראש and they didn't die in the מדבר.
6. He broke the לוחות.
7. To pray for forgiveness.
8. He hoped to delay the construction so that משה can return in the interim.
9. Whenever G-d punishes the Jewish people, part of that punishment comes as payment for the העגל חטא.
10. He agreed to let His שכינה dwell among them.

LEADER TIP: Have the kids answer the questions one at a time and see if any of the kids follow the previous wrong answers just like Bnei Yisrael and the Golden Calf.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about giving into peer pressure as well as “cleaning up the mess” before asking for forgiveness.

ACTIVITY: “This or That”

Have one of the group leaders give the kids a topic with 2 options (you can do 3 options if you have a lot of kids). For example: Vanilla or Chocolate, Coke or Pepsi, Swimming or hiking. Each option will be represented on a side of the room (if youd like, it can help to print out pages and place them on the floor). Have each of the kids pick their answer and stand in that section of the room (or on the paper). Then have a representative from each side present why they think their option is the better option. Each team can than have one rebuttle. If anyone wants to switch at any time they are more than welcome. Use “would you rather” questions as well so that there is room for people to make decisions. Meaning, people know whether they like chocolate or vanilla better or if they like Coke or Pepsi better. But for questions such as “Would you rather go back in time and meet your ancestors or go way into the future and meet your great grandchildren?” we can get a lot more deciding, debating, and switching going on. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or even have kids come up with their own ideas (with your guidance and making sure they’re appropriate), or there are tons of sites online with great “Would you Rather” questions.

DISCUSSION: When the Jewish people built the Golden Calf Moshe was on Har Sinai. Hashem notifies Moshe of the transgression of Bnei Yisrael and tells him to go down from the mountain to the people. He tells Moshe that He will destroy Bnei Yisrael. Moshe’s immediate reaction is to start praying that Hashem should forgive them. וַיַּחַל מֹשֶׁה “And Moshe pleaded before Hashem...”. (Ex. 32,11) The great commentator on the Torah, Ibn Ezra, says that Moshe did not pray at this particular time. He first went down to the people, destroyed the Golden Calf, and punished the perpetrators of the crime and only then went up again to plead before Hashem on behalf of the Jewish people. What was Ibn Ezra’s reason for this opinion? Rabbi Soloveitchik offers an answer to this question. Moshe could not pray for forgiveness while the Golden Calf still existed. How could Hashem forgive the people while they are in the midst of transgressing? He had to correct the situation and then ask for forgiveness. Hence Moshe went down from the mountain, destroyed the Golden Calf and punished the perpetrators of the crime. Only then did he ascend the mountain again and asked Hashem to forgive the Jewish people. If we hurt someone’s feelings or mistreat a friend, we cannot expect to be forgiven until we correct the situation we created. Only then can we expect to be pardoned.

LEADER TIP: How do you defeat peer pressure? Is it about you? Is it about the people around you? Is there such thing as good peer pressure or just bad?

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: In this week's Parsha, we learn the damage caused by jumping to conclusions. The Jewish people were riding high. Hashem had taken them out of the slavery of Egypt, and had given them the most precious gift imaginable, the Torah, on Har Sinai amidst great miracles. Yet only a short while later, when Moshe came down from the mountain with the luchot of the Aseret HaDibrot, he found the people doing something terrible. They were dancing around the image of a golden calf! It was almost as if they had forgotten about Moshe, and the Torah Hashem had just given them. How could this have possibly happened? Before he went up on the mountain, Moshe told the people that he would be coming down 40 days later. But when they got the calculation wrong and Moses didn't come when they expected, instead of reacting calmly and checking out the facts, the people quickly jumped to the conclusion that Moshe had died, or left them. Then they panicked, and built the Golden Calf as some sort of 'replacement' for Moshe. Whatever the situation, it always pays to stay calm and rational, think things through, and not jump to hasty conclusions, which are often incorrect.

"BIRTHDAY SURPRISE"

Claire Engel's birthday was coming up in less than a week, but she was in no mood to celebrate. How could she be when her three best friends had stabbed her in the back?

It started whenever she began dropping hints to them that she might want to get together with them on her birthday for pizza or something. The girls would all suddenly change the subject as if they couldn't give a care that one of their closest pals would be soon turning 11.

All three girls, Tammy, Ellen, and Jill were suddenly 'busy' that day, even though each one had plenty of time to rearrange her plans!

The final straw though, was when Claire walked home that day, and happened to notice her three friends across the street. She saw them whispering amongst themselves and glancing in her direction. When they saw her approaching, they all gave her a warm smile, and even giggled, but in Claire's eyes the damage had been done. Yes, there was no other explanation except that her friends had turned on her.

"If that's the way they want it, so be it." Claire excused herself and quickly walked home feeling miserable. She walked into the kitchen, and found her mom stirring a batch of her favorite tri-colored pasta on the stove.

"I wanted to make something nice for the soon-to-be birthday girl," she said with a smile. But when the girl hardly responded, Mrs. Engel knew something wasn't right. After a few gentle questions, Claire broke down and told her mom the whole story.

She said as far as she was concerned their friendship was through. Mrs. Engel looked at the girl reassuringly, "Well it certainly does sound strange," she admitted. "But if I were you, I wouldn't jump

to any conclusions, and do anything rash. These girls are your good friends. I'm sure there is more to it than meets the eye," she added with a strange twinkle in her eye.

Mother and daughter sat down to a nice lunch of pasta primavera, but Claire was more enraptured in the food for thought that her mother's words had set in motion. "Maybe Mom's right," she thought. "It makes no sense that my three best friends would suddenly forget about me. I'm not sure what's going on, but I guess I'll continue to act friendly, and see what happens."

It was the day of her birthday. The school day had finished, and Claire gathered her books, and headed home. "Oh, Mom's still at work," she thought as she unlocked the door.

Claire flipped on the light, getting ready to sit down to her homework, when she was startled by the sound of a roaring "SURPRISE - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!" There, all around her, stood Tammy, Ellen, and Jill, each holding a colorfully wrapped present. Eight other friends stood behind them, smiling ear-to-ear.

Claire's mom stood smiling by the kitchen doorway. "Your friends have been busy planning this for weeks," she said.

Claire had the best birthday of her life, and most of all felt glad that she hadn't jumped to any conclusions, and patiently waited for the good to come her way.

Discussion Questions:

Q. How did Claire feel at first when her friends didn't seem interested in her birthday?

A. She jumped to the conclusion that they had abandoned her, and didn't care.

Q. How did she feel after they threw her the surprise party?

A. She realized they had been planning this all along, and was glad that she had decided to wait and give them a chance, instead of accusing them.

LEADER TIP: Print out random pictures from the internet, newspaper, magazine, etc. Have the kids come up with a story about what they think is going on in the picture. Then afterwards see how close they are to the real story.

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel



Yad Eliezer is the largest Poverty Relief Agency in Israel. Yad Eliezer was founded in 1980 by Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel, both elementary schoolteachers, and named in memory of her father, Rabbi Eliezer Lipa Benzman. It all began in the Weisel family kitchen in Yerushalayim. The seeds of the organization were planted when Hadassah, a resident of Jerusalem's Kiryat Sanz neighborhood, found out that her neighbor's family was suffering from malnutrition, and sent her daughters door to door to collect food for them every week. As word got around, other families requested the same assistance, and she was soon sending all her daughters' classmates out to collect food, then filling colorful plastic shopping baskets for the weekly delivery. Other classes and other schools got involved, and Weisel's two-and-a-half room apartment became the collection point and packing area for monthly food boxes for 360 needy families – a figure that expanded to 1,800 needy families by 1995. After operating Yad Eliezer out of her apartment for 20 years, Weisel began soliciting overseas donations through the newly formed American Friends of Yad Eliezer to further expand the operation. Yad Eliezer is now headquartered in the Shmuel HaNavi neighborhood of Jerusalem under the directorship of the Weisels' son, Dov.

LEADER TIP: Are there ways you can help around your neighborhood? Start small. The smallest of things can be the biggest of deals.

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Lirushalayim

In this bracha, we ask Hashem to rebuild and restore Yerushalayim as well as bring the Jewish people and His *Shechinah* back to dwelling in our land. Yerushalayim is Hashem's home and our home. It is the place where we hope to one day soon build the Third Beit HaMikdash and be able to give *korbanot*. How did the name Yerushalayim come about? What is its source? The Midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 56:10) tells us that the name Jerusalem is a combination of two names. After Avraham offered Yitzchak as a *korban* to G-d, Avraham built a *mizbeach* and named the place "May G-d be Seen" (Yeira'eh), suggesting a place where Hashem's presence is felt and fear of Him exists. Malkizedek ruled over the city and called it Shalem, a place of peace and perfection. Hashem combined these two names, Yeira'eh and Shalem and called it Yerushalayim. This is the place where peace and perfection can be achieved by recognizing Hashem's presence. It is the place where righteousness can blossom to its fullest. This helps explain why this bracha begins with the word "and" which connects it to the previous bracha, Al HaTzadikim. The Gemara (Megillah 17b) teaches that the bracha for rebuilding Yerushalayim comes directly after Al HaTzadikim because Yerushalayim is where the tzaddikim will reach their full potential.

LEADER TIP: Have you ever been to Yerushalayim? What is your favorite part about it? What makes it so special?



PARSHA NATION



GRADES 3-4

KI TISA REVIEW

Hashem tells Moshe to take a count of the Jewish adult male population by collecting half a silver shekel from each individual. The collected silver was melted down, and was made into sockets for the beams of the Mishkan. Hashem told Moshe to make a copper washstand for the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use this faucet to wash their hands and feet before their service. Hashem tells Moshe the recipe for making holy "anointing oil." This oil, which was prepared with various scented herbs and fine spices, was used to anoint and sanctify the Mishkan, its vessels, and Aharon and his sons. The remainder of the oil was put aside, and was used to anoint kings and Kohen Gadols of future generations. Hashem also gave Moshe the formula for the incense which was offered twice-daily in the Mishkan. The duplication of the anointing oil or incense for personal use is prohibited. Hashem gave Betzalel wisdom, and appointed him to be the chief craftsman of the Mishkan and its contents. Hashem assigned Oholiav as his assistant. Hashem then told the Jewish people to observe Shabbat, the eternal sign between Him and Bnei Yisrael. After Hashem revealed Himself to the entire nation at Har Sinai and told them the Aseret HaDibrot, Moshe went up the mountain where he stayed for forty days. While there, he studied the Torah and received the luchot. The Jews miscalculated when Moshe was supposed to return, and when he didn't appear on the day when they anticipated him, they became impatient and demand of Aharon to make them a new god. Aharon cooperates, all along intending to postpone and buy time until Moshe's return, but despite his efforts, a Golden Calf emerged from the flames. The festivities and sacrifices started early the next morning. Moshe pleaded with an infuriated G-d to forgive the Jews' sin. Hashem agreed and sympathized from His plan to destroy the Jews. Moshe came down with the luchot, saw the idolatrous partying, and broke the luchot. Moshe recruits the Shevet of Levi to punish the main people who started it all. Three thousand idol worshippers were executed on that day. Moshe went back up to Har Sinai in an attempt to gain complete atonement for the sin. Hashem told Moshe to lead the Jews towards the Promised Land, but insisted that He wouldn't be leading them personally; instead an angel will be sent to lead them. Seeing Hashem's displeasure with the Jews, Moshe took his own tent and pitched it outside the camp of Bnei Yisrael. This tent became the center of study and spirituality until the Mishkan was established. Moshe asked Hashem to reconsider having an angel lead them. Hashem agreed to lead them Himself again. Moshe then requested that Hashem's presence never rest itself on any other nation other than the Jews and Hashem agreed. Hashem told Moshe to carve new luchot that Hashem would engrave the Aseret HaDibrot on. Hashem sealed a covenant with Moshe, assuring him again that His presence will only dwell with the Jews. Hashem told the Jewish people not to make idols, to observe the Shalosh Regalim, not to eat *chametz* on Pesach, to sanctify male firstborn humans and cattle, and not to cook meat together with milk. Moshe came down from Har Sinai with the second set of luchot, and beams of light were coming from his face. Aharon and the people were originally afraid of him. Moshe taught the people the Torah he studied on the mountain.

LEADER TIP: The Golden Calf makes its appearance in this week's Parsha. See what happens if you come late to groups, think the kids will make an idol group leader?

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 QUESTIONS

Questions

1. Who was put in charge of building the משכן?
2. Why does the תורה talk about שבת right next to the building of the משכן?
3. What sin did the בני ישראל do when they thought משה should have been down from שמים?
4. Which שבט had nothing to do with the עגל?
5. What did משה's face look like when he came down with the second לוחות?
6. Did the women join in the העגל חטא?
7. What was their reward?
8. What did משה do before he went down to the בני ישראל?
9. What did משה do when he saw the העגל חטא?
10. Why did משה go up to שמים for another forty days?
11. Why did אהרן build the altar for the golden calf by himself?
12. How has the sin of the golden calf (העגל חטא) affected the Jewish people through out history?
13. When was the last time he came down?
14. What did he have in his hands?
15. How did Hashem show that He forgave the Jewish people?

Answers

1. Betzalel
2. One may not violate שבת to build the משכן.
3. העגל חטא (golden calf)
4. לוי
5. His face was shining.
6. No
7. Women have a מנהג not to work on חדש ראש and they didn't die in the מדבר.
8. He davened to Hashem not to destroy the בני ישראל.
9. He broke the לוחות.
10. To pray for forgiveness.
11. He hoped to delay the construction so that משה can return in the interim.
12. Whenever G-d punishes the Jewish people, part of that punishment comes as payment for the העגל חטא.
13. the tenth of יום (כפור יום)
14. The second לוחות
15. He agreed to let His שכינה dwell among them.

LEADER TIP: Have the kids answer the questions one at a time and see if any of the kids follow the previous wrong answers just like Bnei Yisrael and the Golden Calf.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about giving into peer pressure as well as “cleaning up the mess” before asking for forgiveness.

ACTIVITY: “Indian Chief”

The kids sit in a circle. One kid leaves the room. Then the kids pick one kid to be the Indian chief or leader. The point of the game is that the Indian chief will start different hand motions (hand clapping, slapping your knees, snapping your fingers, drumming on the ground... etc), which all the kids will do in unison, and the Indian chief will keep switching the motions every so often. The kid who was outside has to try and guess which other kid is the Indian chief and leading the motions. The Indian chief and the kids have to try and make sure that it’s not obvious who the Indian chief is. If the kid picks correctly, then that kid must go outside and a new chief is chosen.

DISCUSSION: The idea behind this game is to teach the kids about peer pressure. Being in the middle, how does it feel that everyone around you isn’t only doing something than you, but is trying to get you to join them even though you already made your decision and have no initial interest in joining them? Is it hard to stay strong in your beliefs? When there’s a big group of people doing something, do you feel pressure to join them? Peer pressure is very difficult to overcome. When the Jewish people built the Golden Calf Moshe was on Har Sinai. Hashem notifies Moshe of the transgression of Bnei Yisrael and tells him to go down from the mountain to the people. He tells Moshe that He will destroy Bnei Yisrael. Moshe’s immediate reaction is to start praying that Hashem should forgive them. וַיִּחַל מֹשֶׁה “And Moshe pleaded before Hashem...”. (Ex. 32,11) The great commentator on the Torah, Ibn Ezra, says that Moshe did not pray at this particular time. He first went down to the people, destroyed the Golden Calf, and punished the perpetrators of the crime and only then went up again to plead before Hashem on behalf of the Jewish people. What was Ibn Ezra’s reason for this opinion? Rabbi Soloveitchik offers an answer to this question. Moshe could not pray for forgiveness while the Golden Calf still existed. How could Hashem forgive the people while they are in the midst of transgressing? He had to correct the situation and then ask for forgiveness. Hence Moshe went down from the mountain, destroyed the Golden Calf and punished the perpetrators of the crime. Only then did he ascend the mountain again and asked Hashem to forgive the Jewish people. If we hurt someone’s feelings or mistreat a friend, we cannot expect to be forgiven until we correct the situation we created. Only then can we expect to be pardoned.

LEADER TIP: How do you defeat peer pressure? Is it about you? Is it about the people around you? Is there such thing as good peer pressure or just bad?

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: In this week's Parsha, we learn the damage caused by jumping to conclusions. The Jewish people were riding high. Hashem had taken them out of the slavery of Egypt, and had given them the most precious gift imaginable, the Torah, on Har Sinai amidst great miracles. Yet only a short while later, when Moshe came down from the mountain with the luchot of the Aseret HaDibrot, he found the people doing something terrible. They were dancing around the image of a golden calf! It was almost as if they had forgotten about Moshe, and the Torah Hashem had just given them. How could this have possibly happened? Before he went up on the mountain, Moshe told the people that he would be coming down 40 days later. But when they got the calculation wrong and Moses didn't come when they expected, instead of reacting calmly and checking out the facts, the people quickly jumped to the conclusion that Moshe had died, or left them. Then they panicked, and built the Golden Calf as some sort of 'replacement' for Moshe. Whatever the situation, it always pays to stay calm and rational, think things through, and not jump to hasty conclusions, which are often incorrect.

"BIRTHDAY SURPRISE"

Claire Engel's birthday was coming up in less than a week, but she was in no mood to celebrate. How could she be when her three best friends had stabbed her in the back?

It started whenever she began dropping hints to them that she might want to get together with them on her birthday for pizza or something. The girls would all suddenly change the subject as if they couldn't give a care that one of their closest pals would be soon turning 11.

All three girls, Tammy, Ellen, and Jill were suddenly 'busy' that day, even though each one had plenty of time to rearrange her plans!

The final straw though, was when Claire walked home that day, and happened to notice her three friends across the street. She saw them whispering amongst themselves and glancing in her direction. When they saw her approaching, they all gave her a warm smile, and even giggled, but in Claire's eyes the damage had been done. Yes, there was no other explanation except that her friends had turned on her.

"If that's the way they want it, so be it." Claire excused herself and quickly walked home feeling miserable. She walked into the kitchen, and found her mom stirring a batch of her favorite tri-colored pasta on the stove.

"I wanted to make something nice for the soon-to-be birthday girl," she said with a smile. But when the girl hardly responded, Mrs. Engel knew something wasn't right. After a few gentle questions, Claire broke down and told her mom the whole story.

She said as far as she was concerned their friendship was through. Mrs. Engel looked at the girl reassuringly, "Well it certainly does sound strange," she admitted. "But if I were you, I wouldn't jump to any conclusions, and do anything rash. These girls are your good friends. I'm sure there is more to it than meets the eye," she added with a strange twinkle in her eye.

Mother and daughter sat down to a nice lunch of pasta primavera, but Claire was more enraptured in the food for thought that her mother's words had set in motion. "Maybe Mom's right," she thought. "It makes no sense that my three best friends would suddenly forget about me. I'm not sure what's going on, but I guess I'll continue to act friendly, and see what happens."

It was the day of her birthday. The school day had finished, and Claire gathered her books, and headed home. "Oh, Mom's still at work," she thought as she unlocked the door.

Claire flipped on the light, getting ready to sit down to her homework, when she was startled by the sound of a roaring "SURPRISE - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!" There, all around her, stood Tammy, Ellen, and Jill, each holding a colorfully wrapped present. Eight other friends stood behind them, smiling ear-to-ear.

Claire's mom stood smiling by the kitchen doorway. "Your friends have been busy planning this for weeks," she said.

Claire had the best birthday of her life, and most of all felt glad that she hadn't jumped to any conclusions, and patiently waited for the good to come her way.

Discussion Questions:

Q. What's wrong with jumping to conclusions?

A. Life and its various situations are often more complicated than they first seem. If we don't take the time to think before we react, we are likely to reach the wrong conclusion, and cause problems for ourselves and for others.

Q. How can a person avoid falling into this trap?

A. Just being aware that things aren't always like they first appear will help us to control our initial impulse to jump to a hasty conclusion. Once we have slowed ourselves down, we should start to calmly consider the facts, and think about alternative ways of viewing things. Often those few calm moments of consideration will open the door to a clear and correct understanding of the situation.

LEADER TIP: Print out random pictures from the internet, newspaper, magazine, etc. Have the kids come up with a story about what they think is going on in the picture. Then afterwards see how close they are to the real story.

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel



Yad Eliezer is the largest Poverty Relief Agency in Israel. Yad Eliezer was founded in 1980 by Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel, both elementary schoolteachers, and named in memory of her father, Rabbi Eliezer Lipa Benzman. It all began in the Weisel family kitchen in Yerushalayim. The seeds of the organization were planted when Hadassah, a resident of Jerusalem's Kiryat Sanz neighborhood, found out that her neighbor's family was suffering from malnutrition, and sent her daughters door to door to collect food for them every week. As word got around, other families requested the same assistance, and she was soon sending all her daughters' classmates out to collect food, then filling colorful plastic shopping baskets for the weekly delivery. Other classes and other schools got involved, and Weisel's two-and-a-half room apartment became the collection point and packing area for monthly food boxes for 360 needy families – a figure that expanded to 1,800 needy families by 1995. After operating Yad Eliezer out of her apartment for 20 years, Weisel began soliciting overseas donations through the newly formed American Friends of Yad Eliezer to further expand the operation. Yad Eliezer is now headquartered in the Shmuel HaNavi neighborhood of Jerusalem under the directorship of the Weisels' son, Dov. Yad Eliezer's honorable management and team of over 12,000 volunteers allows the organization to maintain limited overhead and administrative expenses. Indeed, over 96% of funds raised go directly to needy families. This achievement has earned Yad Eliezer the coveted "4-Star Exceptional" rating from Charity Navigator, which rates organizations based on how effectively and responsibly they utilize donations, and to what extent the charity is growing in terms of programs and services.

LEADER TIP: Are there ways you can help around your neighborhood? Start small. The smallest of things can be the biggest of deals.

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.

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Lirushalayim

Only two brachot of Shemoneh Esrei start with the letter vav, meaning “and” – the bracha of “V'lemanshinim”, against heretics, and this one, “V'Lirushalayim”. The bracha of “V'lemanshinim” was added later, but why should the prayer for rebuilding Yerushalayim start with “and?” In truth, it is connected to the bracha for the righteous, which comes before it. The Talmud in Megillah (17b) tells us that the righteous will be elevated with the rebuilding of Yerushalayim. The bracha ends that Hashem is the One Who builds Yerushalayim – not that He will build it but that it is something He always does. The return to Yerushalayim is an ongoing process and all of our ups and downs are part of the chain of events that will lead to its ultimate restoration. How did the name Yerushalayim come about? What is its source? The Midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 56:10) tells us that the name Jerusalem is a combination of two names. After Avraham offered Yitzchak as a *korban* to G-d, Avraham built a *mizbeach* and named the place “May G-d be Seen” (Yeira'eh), suggesting a place where Hashem's presence is felt and fear of Him exists. Malkizedek ruled over the city and called it Shalem, a place of peace and perfection. Hashem combined these two names, Yeira'eh and Shalem and called it Yerushalayim. This is the place where peace and perfection can be achieved by recognizing Hashem's presence. It is the place where righteousness can blossom to its fullest. This helps explain why this bracha begins with the word “and” which connects it to the previous bracha, Al HaTzadikim. The Gemara (Megillah 17b) teaches that the bracha for rebuilding Yerushalayim comes directly after Al HaTzadikim because Yerushalayim is where the tzaddikim will reach their full potential.

LEADER TIP: Have you ever been to Yerushalayim? What is your favorite part about it? What makes it so special?



KI TISA REVIEW

Hashem tells Moshe to take a count of the Jewish adult male population by collecting half a silver shekel from each individual. The collected silver was melted down, and was made into sockets for the beams of the Mishkan. Hashem told Moshe to make a copper washstand for the Mishkan. The Kohanim would use this faucet to wash their hands and feet before their service. Hashem tells Moshe the recipe for making holy "anointing oil." This oil, which was prepared with various scented herbs and fine spices, was used to anoint and sanctify the Mishkan, its vessels, and Aharon and his sons. The remainder of the oil was put aside, and was used to anoint kings and Kohen Gadols of future generations. Hashem also gave Moshe the formula for the incense which was offered twice-daily in the Mishkan. The duplication of the anointing oil or incense for personal use is prohibited. Hashem gave Betzalel wisdom, and appointed him to be the chief craftsman of the Mishkan and its contents. Hashem assigned Oholiav as his assistant. Hashem then told the Jewish people to observe Shabbat, the eternal sign between Him and Bnei Yisrael. After Hashem revealed Himself to the entire nation at Har Sinai and told them the Aseret HaDibrot, Moshe went up the mountain where he stayed for forty days. While there, he studied the Torah and received the luchot. The Jews miscalculated when Moshe was supposed to return, and when he didn't appear on the day when they anticipated him, they became impatient and demand of Aharon to make them a new god. Aharon cooperates, all along intending to postpone and buy time until Moshe's return, but despite his efforts, a Golden Calf emerged from the flames. The festivities and sacrifices started early the next morning. Moshe pleaded with an infuriated G-d to forgive the Jews' sin. Hashem agreed and sympathized from His plan to destroy the Jews. Moshe came down with the luchot, saw the idolatrous partying, and broke the luchot. Moshe recruits the Shevet of Levi to punish the main people who started it all. Three thousand idol worshippers were executed on that day. Moshe went back up to Har Sinai in an attempt to gain complete atonement for the sin. Hashem told Moshe to lead the Jews towards the Promised Land, but insisted that He wouldn't be leading them personally; instead an angel will be sent to lead them. Seeing Hashem's displeasure with the Jews, Moshe took his own tent and pitched it outside the camp of Bnei Yisrael. This tent became the center of study and spirituality until the Mishkan was established. Moshe asked Hashem to reconsider having an angel lead them. Hashem agreed to lead them Himself again. Moshe then requested that Hashem's presence never rest itself on any other nation other than the Jews and Hashem agreed. Hashem told Moshe to carve new luchot that Hashem would engrave the Aseret HaDibrot on. Hashem sealed a covenant with Moshe, assuring him again that His presence will only dwell with the Jews. Hashem told the Jewish people not to make idols, to observe the Shalosh Regalim, not to eat *chametz* on Pesach, to sanctify male firstborn humans and cattle, and not to cook meat together with milk. Moshe came down from Har Sinai with the second set of luchot, and beams of light were coming from his face. Aharon and the people were originally afraid of him. Moshe taught the people the Torah he studied on the mountain.

LEADER TIP: The Golden Calf makes its appearance in this week's Parsha. See what happens if you come late to groups, think the kids will make an idol group leader?

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. When was the **מחצית השקל** collected?
2. Who was put in charge of building the **משכן**?
3. Who helped him?
4. Why does the **תורה** talk about **שבת** right next to the building of the **משכן**?
5. What sin did the **בני ישראל** do when they thought **משה** should have been down from **שמים**?
6. Why did the **בני ישראל** think that that the forty days were up if **משה** didn't come down yet?
7. Which **שבט** had nothing to do with the **עגל**?
8. What did **משה's** face look like when he came down with the second **לוחות**?
9. Did the women join in the **העגל חטא**?
10. What was their reward?
11. How did **משה** count the **בני ישראל**?
12. What was the **כיוור** used for?
13. What did **משה** do before he went down to the **בני ישראל**?
14. What did **משה** do when he saw the **העגל חטא**?
15. Why did **משה** go up to **שמים** for another forty days?
16. Why did **אהרן** build the altar for the golden calf by himself?
17. How has the sin of the golden calf (**העגל חטא**) affected the Jewish people through out history?
18. When was the last time he came down?
19. What did he have in his hands?
20. How did Hashem show that He forgave the Jewish people?

Answers

1. **חדש אדר**
2. **בצלאל**
3. **אהליאב**
4. One may not violate **שבת** to build the **משכן**.
5. **העגל חטא** (golden calf)
6. The **בני ישראל** counted the first day that **משה** went up and hence they were off in their counting.
7. **לוי**.
8. His face was shining.
9. No
10. Women have a **מנהג** not to work on **ראש חדש** and they didn't die in the **מדבר**.
11. By collecting and counting the **מחצית השקל**
12. To wash their hands and feet before doing the **עבודה**.
13. He davened to Hashem not to destroy the **בני ישראל**.
14. He broke the **לוחות**.
15. To pray for forgiveness.
16. He hoped to delay the construction so that **משה** can return in the interim.
17. Whenever G-d punishes the Jewish people, part of that punishment comes as payment for the **העגל חטא**.
18. the tenth of **יום** (**כפור יום**)
19. The second **לוחות**
20. He agreed to let His **שכינה** dwell among them.

LEADER TIP: Have the kids answer the questions one at a time and see if any of the kids follow the previous wrong answers just like Bnei Yisrael and the Golden Calf.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about giving into peer pressure as well as “cleaning up the mess” before asking for forgiveness.

ACTIVITY: “BEST SONG EVER”

Set up the kids in one big circle and choose one kid to sit in the middle. Ask the room what the best song ever is. The kid in the middle picks his/her song and the rest of the group picks their own song (one song for the group) but make sure no one says their song out loud. The person in the middle is going to try and sing as loud and perform as dramatically as they can. They are going to try and get as many people on the outside of the circle as possible to stop singing the group song and join in with their song. The outside group is going to try and get the person in the middle to join in with their song. They can do whatever they have to do as long as they don't touch or get too uncomfortably close to the person in the middle (obviously the group leaders need to make sure it doesn't get out of control). The point of the game is to try and get as many people in the middle as possible. If the person in the middle gets people to join, they come into the middle of the circle and continue to sing the song trying to get as many people as possible into the middle. You can play a number of rounds of this, using different people in the middle every time. You can also try it with 2/3 people at a time as well.

DISCUSSION: The idea behind this game is to teach the kids about peer pressure. Being in the middle, how does it feel that everyone around you isn't only singing a different song than you, but is trying to get you to join them even though you already made your decision and have no initial interest in joining them? Is it hard to stay strong in your beliefs? When there's a big group of people doing something, do you feel pressure to join them? Peer pressure is very difficult to overcome. When the Jewish people built the Golden Calf Moshe was on Har Sinai. Hashem notifies Moshe of the transgression of Bnei Yisrael and tells him to go down from the mountain to the people. He tells Moshe that He will destroy Bnei Yisrael. Moshe's immediate reaction is to start praying that Hashem should forgive them. וַיִּחַל מֹשֶׁה “And Moshe pleaded before Hashem...”. (Ex. 32,11) The great commentator on the Torah, Ibn Ezra, says that Moshe did not pray at this particular time. He first went down to the people, destroyed the Golden Calf, and punished the perpetrators of the crime and only then went up again to plead before Hashem on behalf of the Jewish people. What was Ibn Ezra's reason for this opinion? Rabbi Soloveitchik offers an answer to this question. Moshe could not pray for forgiveness while the Golden Calf still existed. How could Hashem forgive the people while they

are in the midst of transgressing? He had to correct the situation and then ask for forgiveness. Hence Moshe went down from the mountain, destroyed the Golden Calf and punished the perpetrators of the crime. Only then did he ascend the mountain again and asked Hashem to forgive the Jewish people. If we hurt someone's feelings or mistreat a friend, we cannot expect to be forgiven until we correct the situation we created. Only then can we expect to be pardoned.

LEADER TIP: How do you defeat peer pressure? Is it about you? Is it about the people around you? Is there such thing as good peer pressure or just bad?

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: In this week's Parsha, we learn the damage caused by jumping to conclusions. The Jewish people were riding high. Hashem had taken them out of the slavery of Egypt, and had given them the most precious gift imaginable, the Torah, on Har Sinai amidst great miracles. Yet only a short while later, when Moshe came down from the mountain with the luchot of the Aseret HaDibrot, he found the people doing something terrible. They were dancing around the image of a golden calf! It was almost as if they had forgotten about Moshe, and the Torah Hashem had just given them. How could this have possibly happened? Before he went up on the mountain, Moshe told the people that he would be coming down 40 days later. But when they got the calculation wrong and Moses didn't come when they expected, instead of reacting calmly and checking out the facts, the people quickly jumped to the conclusion that Moshe had died, or left them. Then they panicked, and built the Golden Calf as some sort of 'replacement' for Moshe. Whatever the situation, it always pays to stay calm and rational, think things through, and not jump to hasty conclusions, which are often incorrect.

"BIRTHDAY SURPRISE"

Claire Engel's birthday was coming up in less than a week, but she was in no mood to celebrate. How could she be when her three best friends had stabbed her in the back?

It started whenever she began dropping hints to them that she might want to get together with them on her birthday for pizza or something. The girls would all suddenly change the subject as if they couldn't give a care that one of their closest pals would be soon turning 11.

All three girls, Tammy, Ellen, and Jill were suddenly 'busy' that day, even though each one had plenty of time to rearrange her plans!

The final straw though, was when Claire walked home that day, and happened to notice her three friends across the street. She saw them whispering amongst themselves and glancing in her direction. When they saw her approaching, they all gave her a warm smile, and even giggled, but in Claire's eyes the damage had been done. Yes, there was no other explanation except that her friends had turned on her.

"If that's the way they want it, so be it." Claire excused herself and quickly walked home feeling miserable. She walked into the kitchen, and found her mom stirring a batch of her favorite tri-colored pasta on the stove.

"I wanted to make something nice for the soon-to-be birthday girl," she said with a smile. But when the girl hardly responded, Mrs. Engel knew something wasn't right. After a few gentle questions, Claire broke down and told her mom the whole story.

She said as far as she was concerned their friendship was through. Mrs. Engel looked at the girl reassuringly, "Well it certainly does sound strange," she admitted. "But if I were you, I wouldn't jump

to any conclusions, and do anything rash. These girls are your good friends. I'm sure there is more to it than meets the eye," she added with a strange twinkle in her eye.

Mother and daughter sat down to a nice lunch of pasta primavera, but Claire was more enraptured in the food for thought that her mother's words had set in motion. "Maybe Mom's right," she thought. "It makes no sense that my three best friends would suddenly forget about me. I'm not sure what's going on, but I guess I'll continue to act friendly, and see what happens."

It was the day of her birthday. The school day had finished, and Claire gathered her books, and headed home. "Oh, Mom's still at work," she thought as she unlocked the door.

Claire flipped on the light, getting ready to sit down to her homework, when she was startled by the sound of a roaring "SURPRISE - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!" There, all around her, stood Tammy, Ellen, and Jill, each holding a colorfully wrapped present. Eight other friends stood behind them, smiling ear-to-ear.

Claire's mom stood smiling by the kitchen doorway. "Your friends have been busy planning this for weeks," she said.

Claire had the best birthday of her life, and most of all felt glad that she hadn't jumped to any conclusions, and patiently waited for the good to come her way.

Discussion Questions:

Q. Why do you think people tend to draw hasty conclusions about things?

A. There is a tendency within people to feel that they must respond immediately to every situation that comes their way. Even to pause for a few seconds when asked a complicated question feels uncomfortable. (Try it.) But this is a mistake, as the repercussions of responding inappropriately or reaching a false conclusion are often much more costly than the few seconds of discomfort to get something right. One mark of a wise man is that he thinks before he acts.

Q. Is it ever appropriate to be hasty?

A. Yes, but at its proper time. The first stage of any decision is to clearly think a situation through, carefully weigh the facts, and arrive at a conclusion about the proper action to take. This stage should never be rushed. However the second stage, where we put our plan into action, should be done confidently and without delay. At this stage hesitancy is counterproductive, and can reduce our level of effectiveness.

LEADER TIP: Print out random pictures from the internet, newspaper, magazine, etc. Have the kids come up with a story about what they think is going on in the picture. Then afterwards see how close they are to the real story.

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel



Yad Eliezer is the largest Poverty Relief Agency in Israel. Yad Eliezer was founded in 1980 by Rabbi Yaakov and Hadassah Weisel, both elementary schoolteachers, and named in memory of her father, Rabbi Eliezer Lipa Benzman. It all began in the Weisel family kitchen in Yerushalayim. The seeds of the organization were planted when Hadassah, a resident of Jerusalem's Kiryat Sanz neighborhood, found out that her neighbor's family was suffering from malnutrition, and sent her daughters door to door to collect food for them every week. As word got around, other families requested the same assistance, and she was soon sending all her daughters' classmates out to collect food, then filling colorful plastic shopping baskets for the weekly delivery. Other classes and other schools got involved, and Weisel's two-and-a-half room apartment became the collection point and packing area for monthly food boxes for 360 needy families – a figure that expanded to 1,800 needy families by 1995. After operating Yad Eliezer out of her apartment for 20 years, Weisel began soliciting overseas donations through the newly formed American Friends of Yad Eliezer to further expand the operation. Yad Eliezer is now headquartered in the Shmuel HaNavi neighborhood of Jerusalem under the directorship of the Weisels' son, Dov. Yad Eliezer's honorable management and team of over 12,000 volunteers allows the organization to maintain limited overhead and administrative expenses. Indeed, over 96% of funds raised go directly to needy families. This achievement has earned Yad Eliezer the coveted "4-Star Exceptional" rating from Charity Navigator, which rates organizations based on how effectively and responsibly they utilize donations, and to what extent the charity is growing in terms of programs and services. Yad Eliezer's goal is to help families deal with financial difficulties and to empower them to break through the cycle of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. Thanks to job training and other assistance, many families who were recipients of Yad Eliezer's food programs are now donors to Yad Eliezer. All this is made possible through the donations of caring individuals around the world.

LEADER TIP: Are there ways you can help around your neighborhood? Start small. The smallest of things can be the biggest of deals.

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Shemoneh Esrei: V'Lirushalayim

Only two brachot of Shemoneh Esrei start with the letter vav, meaning “and” – the bracha of “V'lemanshinim”, against heretics, and this one, “V'Lirushalayim”. The bracha of “V'lemanshinim” was added later, but why should the prayer for rebuilding Yerushalayim start with “and?” In truth, it is connected to the bracha for the righteous, which comes before it. The Talmud in Megillah (17b) tells us that the righteous will be elevated with the rebuilding of Yerushalayim. In Devarim 30:3, it says that Hashem will return the people from their captivity and have mercy on them, gathering them from all the nations where they have been exiled. The Talmud in Megillah (29a) explains that when Hashem exiled the Jews, He also exiled His *Shechinah* to an extent, which He will return with the nation. In this bracha, we ask that He return His *Shechinah* to Yerushalayim, showing us the mercy He has promised. We continue by asking that Hashem’s *Shechinah* dwell in Yerushalayim as He has said He would do. This is a reference to Zechariah 8:3, in which God says, “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem.” We ask that He rebuild the city soon, in our lifetimes, as an eternal construction. We don’t want Yerushalayim restored just so that we can have a beautiful place to live; we desire it as part of returning to the service of Hashem in our land. The bracha ends that Hashem is the One Who builds Yerushalayim – not that He will build it but that it is something He always does. The return to Yerushalayim is an ongoing process and all of our ups and downs are part of the chain of events that will lead to its ultimate restoration. How did the name Yerushalayim come about? What is its source? The Midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 56:10) tells us that the name Jerusalem is a combination of two names. After Avraham offered Yitzchak as a *korban* to G-d, Avraham built a *mizbeach* and named the place “May G-d be Seen” (Yeira’eh), suggesting a place where Hashem’s presence is felt and fear of Him exists. Malkizedek ruled over the city and called it Shalem, a place of peace and perfection. Hashem combined these two names, Yeira’eh and Shalem and called it Yerushalayim. This is the place where peace and perfection can be achieved by recognizing Hashem’s presence. It is the place where righteousness can blossom to its fullest. This helps explain why this bracha begins with the word “and” which connects it to the previous bracha, Al HaTzadikim. The Gemara (Megillah 17b) teaches that the bracha for rebuilding Yerushalayim comes directly after Al HaTzadikim because Yerushalayim is where the tzaddikim will reach their full potential.

LEADER TIP: Have you ever been to Yerushalayim? What is your favorite part about it? What makes it so special?



PARSHA NATION



Teen Minyan Kol Haniarim

This Week in Jewish History

March 1, 1920

The Battle of Tel Hai

Tel Hai was intermittently inhabited since 1905 and permanently settled as a border outpost in 1918 following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire. The area was subsequently subject to intermittent border adjustments among the British and the French. In 1919, the British relinquished the northern section of the upper Galilee containing Tel Hai, Metula, Hamrah, and Kfar Giladi to the French jurisdiction. In January 1920 two Tel Hai members were killed in an Arab attack, and on the 11th of Adar, 5680 (March 1, 1920), six more died when hundreds of Arabs attacked the settlement, among them the one-armed, Russian-Jewish independence fighter Joseph Trumpeldor, the guards' young commander. The city of Kiryat



Shemona, literally Town of the Eight was named after them. Tel Hai was abandoned, but the battles did not end for another few months, after which the settlers returned to rebuild their homes. In 1921, Tel Hai was resettled and in 1926 was absorbed into the kibbutz Kfar Giladi. Since then, Tel Hai has been a symbol of heroism. Each year, on the 11th of Adar, an official memorial ceremony is held for Trumpeldor and his comrades at the cemetery in nearby Kfar Giladi, where the young fighters were buried in a common grave. A statue of a roaring lion stands in the cemetery, sculpted by Avraham Melinkov in 1926, as an expression of their strength.

FIND...

- Betzalel
- Oholiav
- Golden Calf
- Luchot HaBrit
- Shekel
- Kiyor
- Forty Days
- Har Sinai

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- KI TISA

21st of 54 sedras;

9th of 11 in Shemot

Written on 245.17 lines in a Torah, rank 8th

14 Parshiot; 10 open, 4 closed

139 pesukim – ranks 10th, 1st in Shemot

2002 words – ranks 5th, 1st in Shemot

7424 letters – ranks 8th, 1st in Shemot

MITZVOT

Contains 9 mitzvot; 4 positive, 5 prohibitions

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHICH FRUIT IS THE LEADING SELLING FRUIT IN ISRAEL?

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!

- **Because of the isolated location and frigid climate, Antarctica, Greenland, Iceland, some of Polynesia and the Hawaiian Islands are believed to have no native ant species.**
- **Vikings used ravens to navigate. They brought ravens aboard their ships, then released them and sailed in the same direction to find land. The raven was so important to them that it became the symbol on their flag.**
- **70% of Americans either hate their jobs or are completely disengaged from them.**

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

Parsha Points to Ponder...

When the Jewish people built the Golden Calf Moshe was on Har Sinai. Hashem notifies Moshe of the transgression of Bnei Yisrael and tells him to go down from the mountain to the people. He tells Moshe that He will destroy Bnei Yisrael. Moshe's immediate reaction is to start praying that Hashem should forgive them. וַיִּתְחַנֵּן מֹשֶׁה "And Moshe pleaded before Hashem...". (Ex. 32,11) The great commentator on the Torah, Ibn Ezra, says that Moshe did not pray at this particular time. He first went down to the people, destroyed the Golden Calf, and punished the perpetrators of the crime and only then went up again to plead before Hashem on behalf of the Jewish people. What was Ibn Ezra's reason for this opinion? Rabbi Soloveitchik offers an answer to this question. Moshe could not pray for forgiveness while the Golden Calf still existed. How could Hashem forgive the people while they are in the midst of transgressing? He had to correct the situation and then ask for forgiveness. Hence Moshe went down from the mountain, destroyed the Golden Calf and punished the perpetrators of the crime. Only then did he ascend the mountain again and asked Hashem to forgive the Jewish people. If we hurt someone's feelings or mistreat a friend, we cannot expect to be forgiven until we correct the situation we created. Only then can we expect to be pardoned.

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

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!***