



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](mailto:Youth@youngisrael.org)

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### **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.



## *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.
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>2 hours &amp; 40 min of programing!</b>	



## *KORACH REVIEW*

Korach, along with Dattan, Aviram, and 250 men from Shevet Reuven, challenged Moshe and Aharon's leadership. Moshe set the next day for a showdown, hoping that the rebels would reconsider their rebellion. After attempting to convince Korach to reconsider, Moshe attempted to sway Dattan and Aviram. Moshe's efforts were rebuffed. The next day Hashem instructed Moshe and the nation to separate themselves from the tents of Korach, Dattan, and Aviram. Moshe proclaimed that his and Aharon's leadership would be divinely confirmed through the way in which Korach and his followers would die. Korach, Dattan, and Aviram, along with their entire families were swallowed up by the earth, while the 250 men from Reuven were consumed by a heavenly fire. A rebellion broke out among the people, and Aharon had to intervene in order to stop the plague sent as a punishment against the people. 14,700 people perished in the plague. Aharon's appointment as Kohain Gadol is reconfirmed through the test of the staffs. Aharon's staff was the only staff that miraculously sprouted almonds. Aharon's staff is placed in the Holy of Holies. The duties of the Kohanim and Leviyim are stated along with a list of the Kohain's share in the nations produce and live stock. The Levite's share of the nation's produce and the gifts given by the Laviyim to the Kohanim are stated.

**LEADER TIP:** Bring in almonds as a special Parshat Korach treat!



# PARSHA QUESTIONS

1 What was קנח from?

[לוי]

2 Whose wife caused her husband to rebel and later be destroyed?

[קנח's wife]

3 Why was it bad for קנח to live near ראוּבֵן?

[Because they learned from his bad ways, and also rebelled against משה]

4 What proved that 'ה' chose משה and אהרן for their jobs?

[Everyone person offered a pan of קטורת to 'ה', and 'ה' killed all those who were fighting against משה and אהרן.]

5 How was קנח and his family killed?

[They were swallowed up by the earth.]

6 What happened to the 250 men who brought the קטורת?

[They were burned by a fire from שמים.]

7 What did 'ה' do with the stick of שֹׁבֵט (with אהרן's name on it)?

לֵי

[It grew leaves, flowers and almonds.]

8 How many presents are given to a

בן.

[24]

9. What is a פדיון הבן?

[A father must give money to a כהן instead of giving his first-born son to 'ה'.]

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** Korach and his men try to stop all of the leaders of Bnei Yisrael and try to replace them. In this activity, we will learn about what it feels like when we try to push our friends out of the way and take the stage for ourselves as the leader.

## **ACTIVITY: “Freeze and Justify”**

Using 2 or 3 kids, start them off acting out a scene, can be anything in the world from shopping at the supermarket to working out at a gym, or anything you can think of. Have one of the group leaders be the “freezer”, where when they see fit, call out “FREEZE!” and everyone in the scene must freeze immediately. Then someone else will come into the scene and tag out one of the current actors and take their places. Whatever position the previous actor was in, the new actor must take that exact pose and change the scene. For example: If an actor was frozen with both hands in the air while reaching for something on a top shelf, the next actor can start doing jumping jacks at the gym. Try to get the actors to move as much as possible so that when they get “frozen” they’re not just standing still.

## **“Try That on for Size”**

This is an association game, where two or more people go head to head at a time. Ask the group for some sort of motion. The first person starts with that very repetitive motion and then says what they are doing. They follow it up by saying, "Try that on for size." The second person does the exact same action, but says they are doing something completely different that make sense with the action. Then it goes back to the first person with the same action. This goes back and forth until one person cannot come up with something for that action. They are then eliminated and a new person comes and takes their place and a new action is chosen.

**DISCUSSION:** In this week’s parsha Korach comes along with a bunch of people and they all are trying to replace Moshe, Aharon, and the other leaders of Bnei Yisrael. As we know, Moshe and Aharon are great leaders and don’t need to be replaced. Korach thought he knew best and he thought he was beter and smarter than everyone when really he was not. We played games where our friends were doing something and we stopped them and replaced them with ourselves or our own ideas. We were doing it all together in a fun way, but Korach did not. Korach fought and argued trying to get himself in when really he didn’t belong in those positions. We should always try to be respectful to our friends and family when it comes to following leaders. We don’t always have to run the show, it’s ok. Sometimes the best leader is a follower.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever felt like you could do a better job than someone? Was it difficult to just stand by and watch?

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** It's human nature to want to do things our way. We don't like to be told what to do. Yet, in many situations, the wisdom of leadership and authority is necessary and beneficial to keep things organized and guide everyone along the proper path. In this week's Torah portion, Korach and his followers staged a rebellion against Moses' and Aaron's wise and benevolent leadership. God made it very clear that they were wrong, and wants us to learn from their mistake to appreciate the importance and benefit of having leaders.

## "STRIKING OUT"

*"Who made him king?"* thought Larry angrily, as he pounded his fist into his baseball glove. *"Who is he to boss us around?"*

The object of Larry's resentment was Robert Hall, captain of the Pinewood Eagles junior league baseball team. Larry didn't like the way Robert was always telling everyone - especially *him* - what to do. *Robert* always decided the batting order, *Robert* always told everyone what position to play. As far as Larry was concerned, all of this was unnecessary and unfair.

Why did they even need a captain in the first place? Even though most of the team was younger than Robert, and he did have a lot of baseball experience, they *weren't* babies, and were certainly capable of working these things out for themselves. And while true, the team had been successful lately and was in fact riding a five-game winning streak, Larry was sure it was much more *in spite of* Robert, than because of him.

He was lost in these thoughts when he heard someone shouting out his name. Robert again! "Hey Larry, move over to your left! The guy up at bat is a lefty, and he'll probably hit it that way."

Grudgingly, Larry shifted over a few steps as he stewed over the 'king's' latest decree, and dreamed of convincing everyone to 'go on strike' against the captain, until he let them just do things the way he wanted to.

It didn't take long for Larry's dream to come true, without him having to lift a finger, because right before the very next game, the guys got a message that Robert wouldn't be able to make it - he had been hit with the 24-hour flu that was going around. Larry felt bad that the guy was sick, but he was thrilled that now he and his teammates would finally be able to do it 'their way.'

The team assembled as usual before the game to decide the batting order. Everyone stood around just looking at each other for a while, since they were used to Robert telling them what to do. Larry spoke up, "Hey guys, today *we* get to decide - remember."

"All right!!" the boys shouted, excited about their new freedom. But smiles soon turned to frowns and then snarls as a big argument ensued. "Well, *I* should bat first, like usual," claimed Jerry.

"Why you? I'm a better hitter," countered Rick. Pretty soon nearly everyone had put in his two cents, and ten minutes later when the umpire called out "Play ball!" they still had no idea what they were doing. With no other choice they decided to just go in alphabetical order, and even that was not so simple since one of the kids who always spelled his name with a 'K' suddenly claimed the real spelling was with a 'C'!

Things were no better when the Eagles ran out to take their positions in the field. Three kids were fighting over who should play shortstop and nobody was willing to play right field. "What's da matter guys? Forgot where you're goin'?" teased the opposing batter, laughing at the chaotic scene in front of his eyes.

Larry cringed and shook his head. Maybe there was something to having a captain after all. Robert *did* seem to have a knack of knowing the best way to arrange things. As a last resort, the guys decided they would all just take turns, each guy playing a different position every inning. It was one long day on the playing field, and it was a disaster. They lost and lost big - 17 to 3.

As they packed up their equipment, Larry decided he was going to call Robert to see how he was feeling and when he was coming back. He realized that the captain wasn't merely bossing them around, but guiding them wisely. One day of leaderless 'freedom' that turned out to be chaos was quite enough for him.

## Discussion Questions:

Q. How did Larry feel at first about Robert's being in charge as team captain?

A. He felt like they didn't want or need anybody telling them what to do.

Q. How did he feel in the end?

A. He saw that having someone who knew what he was doing in charge helped everyone to play better and win.

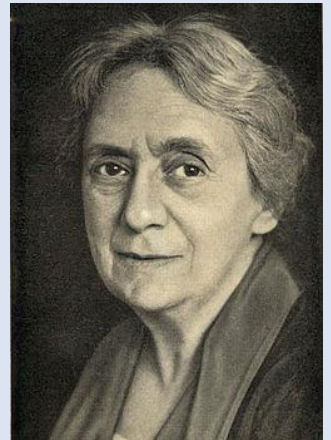
**LEADER TIP:** Who are your leaders? What makes them leaders? Do you know any not so good leaders? What makes them not so good?



# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Henrietta Szold

(December 21, 1860- February 13, 1945)



Henrietta Szold was a U.S. Jewish Zionist leader and founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America is an American Jewish volunteer women's organization. Founded in 1912, it is one of the largest international Jewish organizations, with 330,000 members in the United States. Hadassah fundraises for community programs and health initiatives in Israel, including the Hadassah Medical Center, a leading research hospital in Israel renowned for its inclusion of and treatment for all religions and races in Jerusalem. In the US, the organization advocates on behalf of women's rights, religious autonomy and US-Israel diplomacy. In Israel, Hadassah supports health education and research, women's initiatives, schools and programs for underprivileged youth. Henrietta Szold was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of Rabbi Benjamin Szold, who was the spiritual leader of Baltimore's Temple Oheb Shalom. She was the eldest of eight daughters.

**LEADER TIP:** In what ways can you make a difference? Can you visit the sick or elderly?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Tzitzit

### Putting on tzitzit (Tallit Katan):

Inspect the *tzitzit* every day and disentangle them. If they become shortened or torn, show them to a rabbi to ascertain whether they are still kosher.

Before putting on the *tallit katan*, say:

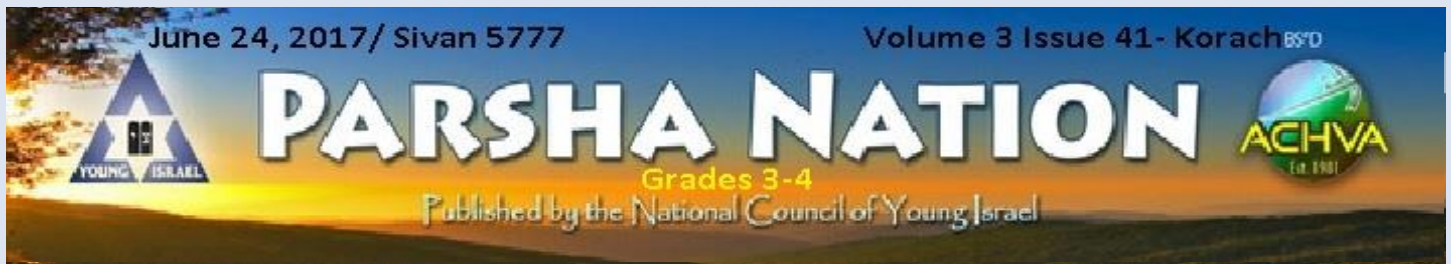
אֶתָּה  
אֵל  
מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם

בְּרוּךְ  
ה'  
הַיּוֹנָה

All men and boys are required to wear *tzitzit* to remind us of all the mitzvot. The numerical values of the letters that comprise the Hebrew word *tzitzit* add up to 600. Add the eight strings and five knots of each *tzitzit*, and the total is 613. Now you understand why it's customary to let the *tzitzit* hang out at the waist, in plain eyesight. Having a physical reminder of the 613 mitzvot, in turn, strengthens our mastery over the temptations of the heart.

Only garments with four (or more) corners require *tzitzit*, and few garments today (other than ponchos) are four-cornered, so we wear a special four-cornered *tallit* just so we can perform this mitzvah. During the morning prayers, men wear a *tallit gadol*—a larger version of the *tallit katan*. Traditionally, young boys begin wearing a *tallit katan* at the age of three. Technically, *tzitzit* is a daytime mitzvah, but the custom has become that we wear them at night as well.

**LEADER TIP:** What other ways can always remind ourselves to do the right thing?



## *KORACH REVIEW*

Korach, along with Dattan, Aviram, and 250 men from Shevet Reuven, challenged Moshe and Aharon's leadership. Moshe set the next day for a showdown, hoping that the rebels would reconsider their rebellion. After attempting to convince Korach to reconsider, Moshe attempted to sway Dattan and Aviram. Moshe's efforts were rebuffed. The next day Hashem instructed Moshe and the nation to separate themselves from the tents of Korach, Dattan, and Aviram. Moshe proclaimed that his and Aharon's leadership would be divinely confirmed through the way in which Korach and his followers would die. Korach, Dattan, and Aviram, along with their entire families were swallowed up by the earth, while the 250 men from Reuven were consumed by a heavenly fire. A rebellion broke out among the people, and Aharon had to intervene in order to stop the plague sent as a punishment against the people. 14,700 people perished in the plague. Aharon's appointment as Kohain Gadol is reconfirmed through the test of the staffs. Aharon's staff was the only staff that miraculously sprouted almonds. Aharon's staff is placed in the Holy of Holies. The duties of the Kohanim and Leviyim are stated along with a list of the Kohain's share in the nations produce and live stock. The Levite's share of the nation's produce and the gifts given by the Laviyim to the Kohanim are stated.

**LEADER TIP:** Bring in almonds as a special Parshat Korach treat!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

1. Why did Datan and Aviram join Korach?  
**16:1 - Because they were his neighbors.**
2. What motivated Korach to rebel?  
**16:1 - Korach was jealous that Elizafan ben Uziel was appointed as leader of the family of Kehat instead of himself.**
3. Did Moshe want to be the *kohen gadol*?  
**16-6 - Yes.**
4. What event did Korach not foresee?  
**16:7 - That his sons would repent.**
5. What lands are described in this week's Parsha as "flowing with milk and honey"?  
**16:12 - Egypt and Canaan.**
6. When did Moshe have the right to take a donkey from the Jewish community?  
**16:15 - When he travelled from Midian to Egypt.**
7. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?  
**16:19 - Korach went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.**
8. Before what age is a person not punished by the Heavenly Court for his sins?  
**16:27 - Twenty years old.**
9. What happens to one who rebels against the institution of *kehuna*? Who suffered such a fate?  
**17:5 - He is stricken with *tzara'at*, as was King Uziyahu (*Divrei HaYamim* II 26:16-19).**
10. Why *specifically* was incense used to stop the plague?  
**17:13 - Because the people were deprecating the incense offering, saying that it caused the death of two of Aharon's sons and also the death of 250 of Korach's followers. Therefore G-d demonstrated that the incense offering was able to avert death, and it is sin, not incense, which causes death.**
11. Why was Aharon's staff placed in the middle of the other 11 staffs?  
**17:21 - So people would not say that Aharon's staff bloomed because Moshe placed it closer to the *Shechina*.**
12. Aharon's staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?  
**17:25 - That only Aharon and his children were selected for the *kehuna*.**
13. Why are the 24 gifts for the *kohanim* taught in this week's *Parsha*?  
**18:8 - Since Korach claimed the *kehuna*, the Torah emphasizes Aharon's and his descendants' rights to *kehuna* by recording the gifts given to them.**
14. Who may eat the *kodshei kodashim* (most holy sacrifices) and where must they be eaten?  
**18:10 - Male *kohanim* may eat them and only in the *azara* (forecourt of the *Beit Hamikdash*).**
15. Why is G-d's covenant with the *kohanim* called "a covenant of salt"?  
**18:19 - Just as salt never spoils, so this covenant will never be rescinded.**

**LEADER TIP:** What was so bad about Korach trying to be the leader and help out?

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** Korach thought that he was the greatest leader and knew what was best. In reality, that was very much not the case. In this activity, we learn about using our own skills for good and not evil.

**ACTIVITY:** Game 1: Wah

Play the usual wah, EXCEPT, each kid needs to go around saying if they had a super power, what it would be. Tell the chanichim to then keep in mind that when they are passing the “force” around the circle, they are passing around their powers (you can have each kid do a different motion for his super power)

Game 2: How will YOU save the day?

**All different people have different talents and thought processes, so their “superpowers” come out in different ways. If you were stuck in any of these situations how would YOU save the day?**

- Place the “hypothetical situation” strips (that were cut before Shabbat), into a hat. In another hat, place the “object” strips.
- Have each kid pull out a “hypothetical situation” strip and an “object strip”
- They must then answer the question (it should be like a fun mad gab style game)

You are looking out your window and see your dad's car being stolen. At the same time, your mom is going into labor. You are stuck with only a \_\_\_\_\_. How do you save the day??

You are an Israeli soldier, and in a secluded desert area you see a kid stuck in an abandoned home; nearby, you have a wounded soldier. You are left with only a \_\_\_\_\_. How do you save the day??

**You are home alone in Sderot, and you know your little sibling is on their way home from school when the bomb alarm goes off.**

**You are stuck with only a \_\_\_\_\_. How do you save the day??**

You and a bunch of other people are stuck in an elevator with only a



\_\_\_\_\_.

How do you save the day??

**You are stranded on a deserted island with only a**

**\_\_\_\_\_. How do you save the day??**

Your best friend is stranded on the top of a cliff. You are stuck with only a\_\_\_\_\_.

**How do you save the day??**

You see a fire starting in the house right in front of yours. All you can find is a\_\_\_\_\_. How do you save the day?

Your friend is talking to a really boring teacher and they keep signaling to you that they want the conversation to end. All you have on you is a\_\_\_\_\_.

How do you save the day??

Your cat or dog is stuck in a tree and all you have on you is a\_\_\_\_\_.

How do you save the day??

\_\_\_\_\_

**Paperclip, Rock, Water bottle, Pen, Highway flare, Broken computer, Fire extinguisher, Banana**

**DISCUSSION:** It's important for everyone to recognize the gifts and "super powers" that Hashem gave them. Not everyone is great at everything. Some people are better at one thing and some people are better at another thing. It's important to focus on the things you're good at and make a difference using those things. Don't step on other peoples toes, let other people lead at things that they are strong in. Don't feel like you always need to be better. Life is about working together as a team. Sometimes the greatest leader is a follower. Korach thought he was the greatest and knew better than everyone. He had to be in charge and had to run the show. Well... we saw how it turned out for him and his crew!

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever felt like you could do a better job than someone? Was it difficult to just stand by and watch?

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## Discussion Questions :

Q. If Larry's team was doing well under Robert's leadership, why did Larry and his friends reject his authority?

A. It came from a feeling that many people have of not wanting to be under someone's authority, even when they see how it's good for them. People feel as if nobody should tell them what to do.

Q. Is this a positive or a negative trait?

A. On the positive side, it encourages a person to become independent and more competent, and it can be used to reject unqualified or unscrupulous 'leaders.' But on the other side it can make a person stubborn and contributes to the breakdown of order in a group or society, often leaving something far less desirable for everyone in its place.

Q. What types of authority can you think of that are beneficial, yet people sometimes tend to reject it?

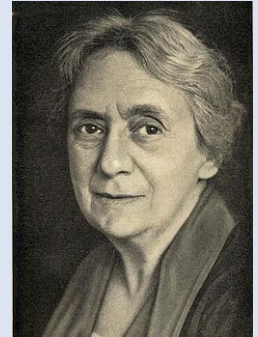
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(December 21, 1860- February 13, 1945)



Henrietta Szold was a U.S. Jewish Zionist leader and founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America is an American Jewish volunteer women's organization. Founded in 1912, it is one of the largest international Jewish organizations, with 330,000 members in the United States. Hadassah fundraises for community programs and health initiatives in Israel, including the Hadassah Medical Center, a leading research hospital in Israel renowned for its inclusion of and treatment for all religions and races in Jerusalem. In the US, the organization advocates on behalf of women's rights, religious autonomy and US-Israel diplomacy. In Israel, Hadassah supports health education and research, women's initiatives, schools and programs for underprivileged youth. Henrietta Szold was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of Rabbi Benjamin Szold, who was the spiritual leader of Baltimore's Temple Oheb Shalom. She was the eldest of eight daughters.

In 1877, she graduated from Western High School. For fifteen years she taught at Miss Adam's School and Oheb Shalom religious school, and gave Bible and history courses for adults. To further her own education, she attended public lectures at Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody Institute. Szold established the first American night school to provide English language instruction and vocational skills to Russian Jewish immigrants in Baltimore. Beginning in 1893, she worked for the Jewish Publication Society, a position she maintained for over two decades.

**LEADER TIP:** In what ways can you make a difference? Can you visit the sick or elderly?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Tzitzit

### Putting on tzitzit (Tallit Katan):

Inspect the *tzitzit* every day and disentangle them. If they become shortened or torn, show them to a rabbi to ascertain whether they are still kosher.

Before putting on the *tallit katan*, say:

אֶתָּה  
א-ל  
מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם

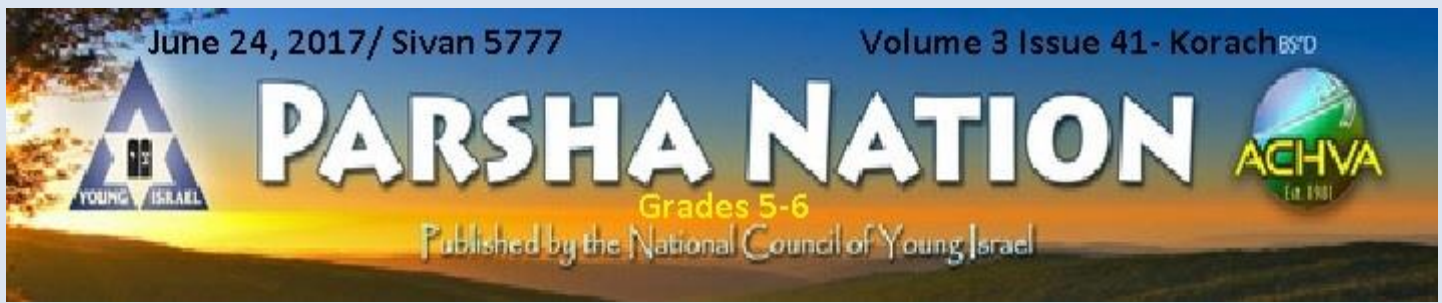
בְּרוּךְ  
ה'  
הַיּוֹנֵן

All men and boys are required to wear tzitzit to remind us of all the mitzvot. The numerical values of the letters that comprise the Hebrew word *tzitzit* add up to 600. Add the eight strings and five knots of each *tzitzit*, and the total is 613. Now you understand why it's customary to let the *tzitzit* hang out at the waist, in plain eyesight. Having a physical reminder of the 613 mitzvot, in turn, strengthens our mastery over the temptations of the heart.

Only garments with four (or more) corners require *tzitzit*, and few garments today (other than ponchos) are four-cornered, so we wear a special four-cornered *tallit* just so we can perform this mitzvah. During the morning prayers, men wear a *tallit gadol*—a larger version of the *tallit katan*. Traditionally, young boys begin wearing a *tallit katan* at the age of three. Technically, *tzitzit* is a daytime mitzvah, but the custom has become that we wear them at night as well. Our challenge is to make spirituality a part of daily reality. In seeing the Tzitzit, we have a tangible reminder of an incorporeal God. Seeing God in our lives is a progression – from recognizing his presence in mundane things like a garment, all the way to the spiritual realms ("heavenly throne"). In this way, Tzitzit has a meta-physical "fringe" benefit (pun intended), in helping to safeguard one from temptation. The Torah tells us: "And you will see them, and remember not to follow after your heart and eyes, that you stray after them." Tzitzit remind us that God is watching, and our actions should reflect that realization.

**LEADER TIP:** What other ways can always remind ourselves to do the right thing?





## *KORACH REVIEW*

Korach, along with Dattan, Aviram, and 250 men from Shevet Reuven, challenged Moshe and Aharon's leadership. Moshe set the next day for a showdown, hoping that the rebels would reconsider their rebellion. After attempting to convince Korach to reconsider, Moshe attempted to sway Dattan and Aviram. Moshe's efforts were rebuffed. The next day Hashem instructed Moshe and the nation to separate themselves from the tents of Korach, Dattan, and Aviram. Moshe proclaimed that his and Aharon's leadership would be divinely confirmed through the way in which Korach and his followers would die. Korach, Dattan, and Aviram, along with their entire families were swallowed up by the earth, while the 250 men from Reuven were consumed by a heavenly fire. A rebellion broke out among the people, and Aharon had to intervene in order to stop the plague sent as a punishment against the people. 14,700 people perished in the plague. Aharon's appointment as Kohain Gadol is reconfirmed through the test of the staffs. Aharon's staff was the only staff that miraculously sprouted almonds. Aharon's staff is placed in the Holy of Holies. The duties of the Kohanim and Leviyim are stated along with a list of the Kohain's share in the nation's produce and live stock. The Levite's share of the nation's produce and the gifts given by the Laviyim to the Kohanim are stated.

**LEADER TIP:** Bring in almonds as a special Parshat Korach treat!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

1. Why did Datan and Aviram join Korach?  
**16:1 - Because they were his neighbors.**
2. Why is Yaakov's name not mentioned in Korach's genealogy?  
**16:1 - Yaakov prayed that his name not be mentioned in connection with Korach's rebellion (*Bereishet* 49:6).**
3. What motivated Korach to rebel?  
**16:1 - Korach was jealous that Elizafan ben Uziel was appointed as leader of the family of Kehat instead of himself.**
4. What did Korach and company do when Moshe said that a *techelet* garment needs *tzizit*?  
**16:1 - They laughed.**
5. What warning did Moshe give the rebels regarding the offering of the incense?  
**16:6 - Only one person would survive.**
6. Did Moshe want to be the *kohen gadol*?  
**16:6 - Yes.**
7. What event did Korach not foresee?  
**16:7 - That his sons would repent.**
8. What does the phrase *rav lachem* mean in this week's Parsha? (Give two answers.)  
**16:7,3 - *Rav lachem* appears twice in this week's Parsha. It means "much more than enough greatness have you taken for yourself (16:3)" and "It is a great thing I have said to you (16:17)."**
9. What lands are described in this week's Parsha as "flowing with milk and honey"?  
**16:12 - Egypt and Canaan.**
10. When did Moshe have the right to take a donkey from the Jewish community?  
**16:15 - When he traveled from Midian to Egypt.**
11. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?  
**16:19 - Korach went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.**
12. What sin did Datan and Aviram have in common specifically with Goliath?  
**16:27 - They all blasphemed.**
13. Before what age is a person not punished by the Heavenly Court for his sins?  
**16:27 - Twenty years old.**
14. What happens to one who rebels against the institution of *kehuna*? Who suffered such a fate?  
**17:5 - He is stricken with *tzara'at*, as was King Uziyahu (*Divrei HaYamim* II 26:16-19).**
15. Why *specifically* was incense used to stop the plague?  
**17:13 - Because the people were deprecating the incense offering, saying that it caused the death of two of Aharon's**

**sons and also the death of 250 of Korach's followers.**

**Therefore G-d demonstrated that the incense offering was able to avert death, and it is sin, not incense, which causes death.**

**16.** Why was Aharon's staff placed in the middle of the other 11 staffs?

**17:21 - So people would not say that Aharon's staff bloomed because Moshe placed it closer to the *Shechina*.**

**17.** Aharon's staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?

**17:25 - That only Aharon and his children were selected for the *kehuna*.**

**18.** Why are the 24 gifts for the *kohanim* taught in this week's *Parsha*?

**18:8 - Since Korach claimed the *kehuna*, the Torah emphasizes Aharon's and his descendants' rights to *kehuna* by recording the gifts given to them.**

**19.** Who may eat the *kodshei kodashim* (most holy sacrifices) and where must they be eaten?

**18:10 - Male *kohanim* may eat them and only in the *azara* (forecourt of the *Beit Hamikdash*).**

**20.** Why is G-d's covenant with the *kohanim* called "a covenant of salt"?

**18:19 - Just as salt never spoils, so this covenant will never be rescinded.**

**LEADER TIP:** What was so bad about Korach trying to be the leader and help out?

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To learn about what makes a leader a leader. Korach tried very hard to lead the people but it didn't turn out too well for him. What does it take to be a leader? What separates the good leaders from the not so good ones?

## **ACTIVITY: "Leaders in Their Natural Habitats"**

Print out pictures of 10 different leaders as well as their respective "habitats". For example: Lebron James-basketball court, Theodor Herzl- map of Israel, Martin Luther King Jr.- Lincoln Memorial. Have the group sit down in a circle and ask them what makes a leader? Who are examples of leaders? Who is their leader? Then pass out the cut up pieces of the ten leaders and ten habitats and have them pair them all up. Have them discuss within their own small groups, or together as one big group, whether or not they think these people are leaders. Have people debate them out loud if there are arguments, or just announce to everyone why they think certain people are leaders or not. Once you finish your discussion about whether or not they are leaders (chances are it will be almost unanimous that everyone agrees that they are all leaders in one way or another), mix up the leaders and habitats (ex: Lebron James-Lincoln Memorial, MLKJ- basketball court, etc.) and ask the question again- Are these people leaders? Chances are people will start to laugh when they see certain pairings (for example is Rav Soleveitchik ended up in the NBA and Lebron James ended up in YU). But have them discuss if they still think in these scenarios that these leaders are still leaders? It will turn out that for the most part people will agree that these people who were leaders just a few seconds earlier are no longer the leaders they once were.

**DISCUSSION:** LeBron James is a leader on the basketball court, and Rav Soleveitchik is a leader in the YU/Jewish Modern Orthodox world, but if LeBron James was in YU and Rav Soloveichik was in the NBA, would they still be leaders? So often we hear and learn about leaders and what it is to be a "leader" and were always trying to copy what other "leaders" do. In reality, that's not how leaders are made. It's about following what you believe in and what you love and doing it because you know it's what you love and believe in. You don't need to be a leader in everything in the world, focus on what you love and make a difference for yourself first, before you can make a difference for the entire world. Korach got so caught up in being the greatest and running the show. He didn't recognize what his position was and he thought he had skills that he did not possess and thought he was more important than he really was. It's important to find your place and not necessarily be the head of everything. Sometimes being the best follower is being the best leader.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever felt like you could do a better job than someone? Was it difficult to just stand by and watch?

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** It's human nature to want to do things our way. We don't like to be told what to do. Yet, in many situations, the wisdom of leadership and authority is necessary and beneficial to keep things organized and guide everyone along the proper path. In this week's Torah portion, Korach and his followers staged a rebellion against Moses' and Aaron's wise and benevolent leadership. God made it very clear that they were wrong, and wants us to learn from their mistake to appreciate the importance and benefit of having leaders.

## "STRIKING OUT"

*"Who made him king?"* thought Larry angrily, as he pounded his fist into his baseball glove. *"Who is he to boss us around?"*

The object of Larry's resentment was Robert Hall, captain of the Pinewood Eagles junior league baseball team. Larry didn't like the way Robert was always telling everyone - especially *him* - what to do. *Robert* always decided the batting order, *Robert* always told everyone what position to play. As far as Larry was concerned, all of this was unnecessary and unfair.

Why did they even need a captain in the first place? Even though most of the team was younger than Robert, and he did have a lot of baseball experience, they *weren't* babies, and were certainly capable of working these things out for themselves. And while true, the team had been successful lately and was in fact riding a five-game winning streak, Larry was sure it was much more *in spite of* Robert, than because of him.

He was lost in these thoughts when he heard someone shouting out his name. Robert again! "Hey Larry, move over to your left! The guy up at bat is a lefty, and he'll probably hit it that way."

Grudgingly, Larry shifted over a few steps as he stewed over the 'king's' latest decree, and dreamed of convincing everyone to 'go on strike' against the captain, until he let them just do things the way he wanted to.

It didn't take long for Larry's dream to come true, without him having to lift a finger, because right before the very next game, the guys got a message that Robert wouldn't be able to make it - he had been hit with the 24-hour flu that was going around. Larry felt bad that the guy was sick, but he was thrilled that now he and his teammates would finally be able to do it 'their way.'

The team assembled as usual before the game to decide the batting order. Everyone stood around just looking at each other for a while, since they were used to Robert telling them what to do. Larry spoke up, "Hey guys, today *we* get to decide - remember."

"All right!!" the boys shouted, excited about their new freedom. But smiles soon turned to frowns and then snarls as a big argument ensued. "Well, *I* should bat first, like usual," claimed Jerry.



"Why you? I'm a better hitter," countered Rick. Pretty soon nearly everyone had put in his two cents, and ten minutes later when the umpire called out "Play ball!" they still had no idea what they were doing. With no other choice they decided to just go in alphabetical order, and even that was not so simple since one of the kids who always spelled his name with a 'K' suddenly claimed the real spelling was with a 'C'!

Things were no better when the Eagles ran out to take their positions in the field. Three kids were fighting over who should play shortstop and nobody was willing to play right field. "What's da matter guys? Forgot where you're goin'?" teased the opposing batter, laughing at the chaotic scene in front of his eyes.

Larry cringed and shook his head. Maybe there was something to having a captain after all. Robert *did* seem to have a knack of knowing the best way to arrange things. As a last resort, the guys decided they would all just take turns, each guy playing a different position every inning. It was one long day on the playing field, and it was a disaster. They lost and lost big - 17 to 3.

As they packed up their equipment, Larry decided he was going to call Robert to see how he was feeling and when he was coming back. He realized that the captain wasn't merely bossing them around, but guiding them wisely. One day of leaderless 'freedom' that turned out to be chaos was quite enough for him.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Q. Is the will of the majority a legitimate way to determine authority and appoint leaders?

A. For certain things it is ideal, such as those things which are merely matters of preference, and have no deeper ethical or value issues involved. However when it comes to values, the majority vote has little relevance, rather these things should be determined by wise leaders chosen for their exemplary character traits, and their deep understanding of the ethical roots of issues as they are revealed to us in the Torah, given to us by God. Even if such determinations are unpopular, we can be confident that nevertheless they are true, and will ultimately benefit everyone. Far better to be spiritually correct than to be 'politically correct.'

Q. How does a person's attitude to authority affect his relationship with God?

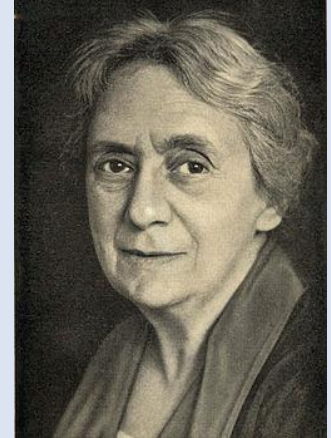
A. God loves us; He watches out for and takes good care of us - but He's also the boss. Part of a genuine and meaningful relationship with God is our ability to accept His authority and conduct our lives according to His will, even when it isn't easy or comfortable. Only one who is able to accept authority on principle will be able to fully tap into his relationship with God.

**LEADER TIP:** Who are your leaders? What makes them leaders? Do you know any not so good leaders? What makes them not so good?

# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Henrietta Szold

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**LEADER TIP:** In what ways can you make a difference? Can you visit the sick or elderly?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Tzitzit

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מלך  
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ברוך  
ה'  
הינו

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## This Week in Jewish History

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

### **Gilad Shalit's Capture**

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 2006, Shalit was captured by Hamas militants in a cross-border raid via underground tunnels near the Israeli border. Hamas held him captive for over five years, until his release on October 18th 2011 as part of a prisoner exchange deal. During his captivity, Hamas turned down requests from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to be allowed to visit Shalit, claiming that any such visit could betray his location. Multiple human rights organizations criticized this stance, claiming that the conditions of Shalit's confinement were contrary to international humanitarian law. The Red Cross insisted, "The Shalit family have the right under international humanitarian law to be in contact with their son". However, a mere 6 days after the capture a senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamad has directly contacted Shalit's parents and assured that their son was alive and was treated according to Islam's laws regarding prisoners of war, in other words, he had been given shelter, food and medical care. The United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict called for Shalit's release in its September 2009 report. In its May 27th 2011 Deauville Declaration, the G8 demanded Shalit's release. Shalit's capture has been deemed a kidnapping and abduction by many sources. He was not granted any visits from the Red Cross and was not allowed to communicate with family members (to which he is entitled as a captured soldier

under the Geneva Conventions), and a ransom, even if not of a monetary nature, was demanded for his return. The only contact between Shalit and the outside world after his capture and before his release were three letters, an audio tape, and a DVD that Israel received in return for releasing 20 female Palestinian prisoners.

Shalit was captured near the Kerem Shalom crossing in Israel, and held by Hamas as a hostage at an unknown location in the Gaza Strip. On October 18th 2011, he was released in a deal that secured his freedom after more than five years in isolation and captivity, in exchange for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners, including some convicted of multiple murders and carrying out terror attacks against Israeli civilians (according to Israeli government sources, the prisoners released were collectively responsible for 569 Israeli deaths. Hamas' previous demands of releasing of all female and underage Palestinians as well as Marwan Barghouti were not met.

Shalit was the first Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants since Nachshon Wachsman in 1994. Shalit, having a rank of Corporal in the IDF's Armor Corps at the time of his capture, was promoted to Staff Sergeant, Sergeant First Class, and then Sergeant Major on the eve of his release. Gilad is now an Israeli sports columnist.



### ***FIND...***

- **Korach**
- **Dattan**
- **Aviram**
- **Ketoret**
- **Rebellion**
- **Almonds**
- **Moshe**
- **Aharon**

### **STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- KORACH**

38th of the 54 sedras in the Torah, 5th of 10 in BaMidbar

Written on 184 lines in a Sefer Torah

13 Parshiyot; 7 open, 6 closed

95 p'sukim - ranks 39th (9th of 10 in Bamidbar)

1409 words - ranks 36th (9th)

5325 letters - ranks 35th (9th)

Above average (10th of the 54 sedras of the Torah) in words & letters per pasuk. In other words, Korach is a short sedra with longer than average p'sukim. But it's still one of the babies in Bamidbar in all three categories

### **MITZVOT**

Contains 9 mitzvot of the 613, 5 positive, 4 prohibitions

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

# HOW LONG IS THE KINNERET?

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!

- If you spell out consecutive numbers, you have to go up to one thousand until you would find the letter "a"
- Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better than men.
- Bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers were all invented by women.

For more info please feel free to contact us at [youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:youth@youngisrael.org)

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

### Parsha Points to Ponder...

Korach and his followers rebelled against Moshe. We know what Korach wanted. He wanted Moshe's position of leadership. What did Datan and Aviram and the other followers want? From the answers they gave Moshe when he asked to talk to them we may find a clue. When Moshe summoned them to come to him, their answer was: LO NA'ALEH, "...we will not go up." "Isn't it enough that you took us out of a land flowing with milk and honey", LAHAMITENU BAMIDBAR, "to cause us to die in the Wilderness?" They also added: HA'ENEY HA'ANASHIM HAHEM TENAKER, LO NA'ALEH "...if you gouge out the eyes of those men we will not go up." (Num. 16,12-14) What did they mean by saying they will not go up? What men were they talking about when they speak of gouging out eyes? If you put all of the statements together it seems to be comprehensible. This Portion follows the week before which told us about the spies who went to see the Land of Israel and came back with a discouraging and depressing report. It was then decreed by Hashem that this generation would not enter Israel but would die in the Wilderness. This seems to be what Datan and Aviram and the others were complaining about against Moshe. "You took us out of a good land and now we will perish in the Wilderness." "We refuse to 'go up' to that land because of what we heard about it." "Are you going to gouge out the eyes of the people who reported about what they saw and try to change the facts?" This was their protest against Moshe and in effect, it blinded them and disorientated their judgment.



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