



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 led by our Youth Services Coordinator, Sammy, 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.

National Council of Young Israel Department of Synagogue Services

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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.

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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! | |



BEREISHIT REVIEW

Hashem created the world in six days. On the first day Hashem made darkness and light. On the second day He made the heavens and the sky, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He created land and sea and brought up trees and plants from the earth. On the fourth day He created the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day Hashem created fish, birds and reptiles. On the sixth day, He created land-animals, and then the human being, Adam. Hashem stopped work on the seventh day, and sanctified it as a day of rest, Shabbat.

After Adam was created from the earth, Hashem placed him in Gan Eden. He allowed Adam to eat from any tree in the garden, with the exception of the Etz Hada'at, Tree of Knowledge. Adam named all the animals and birds, and Hashem decided that Adam needed a mate. So Hashem caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and formed a woman, Chava, from one of his ribs. The nachash, snake, at the time the wisest of all animals, sweet-talked Chava into eating from the fruit of the forbidden Etz Hada'at. Chava shared the fruit with Adam, and were given a new sense of knowledge and awareness, they were ashamed of their nakedness and clothed themselves. Hashem kicked them all out of Gan Eden and punished the nachash, Chava, and Adam, with various curses. Adam had to work for his food, Chava was given the pains of child birth, and the nachash has to now crawl on the ground instead of walking.

Chava gave birth to two sons, Kayin and Hevel. When Hevel's korban to Hashem was accepted, while Kayin's was rejected, Kayin murdered his brother in a jealous rage. Hashem punished Kayin, designating him to be a lifelong wanderer, but postponing his ultimate punishment for seven generations. The sixth generation descendent of Kayin was Lemech, who fathered several children -- seventh generation descendants of Kayin. Lemech accidentally killed his great-great-great-great-grandfather Kayin in a hunting accident. Adam and Chava gave birth to a third son, Shet.

The next three generations are reported ending with Noah, the tenth generation from Adam. At this point in time, the wickedness and immorality of the people on earth became so bad that Hashem regretted creating man. Hashem gave the world 120 years to clean up their act or be destroyed. Noah, on the other hand, was an exception.

LEADER TIP: It's the first parsha of the Torah! Get the kids excited about starting an entire new cycle!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. How many days did it take for Hashem to create the world?
2. What was special about the last day of creation?
3. Who was the first person created?
4. How did Hashem create Chava?
5. In what place were Adam and Chava living?
6. Who got to name all of the animals?
7. What tree were Adam and Chava not allowed to eat from?
8. Who convinced Chava to eat from the forbidden tree?
9. What happened as a punishment for the sin Adam, Chava, and the snake did?
10. What were Adam and Chava's sons names?

Answers

1. 7
2. Hashem created Shabbos
3. Adam
4. Took a rib from Adam and created her from that
5. Gan Eden
6. Adam
7. Etz Hada'at, the Tree of Knowledge
8. The snake
9. They got kicked out of Gan Eden. The snake had to crawl on the ground, Adam had to work for his food, and Chava had the pain of child birth.
10. Kayin, Hevel, and Shet

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids to imagine what the world would be like if there was nothing here. Ask them what they would make every day if they were to make the world.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: For the kids to learn about everything that Hashem made for us when He created the world.

ACTIVITY:

Before you start the game, ask the kids different questions about how things happen. For example: Where does your dinner come from? Where do your clothes come from? Who ties your shoes? Who cleans your clothes? Who teaches you in school? Most of their answers will either be their parents, siblings, teachers, or possibly even themselves. Then ask where things Hashem made came from. Where does the sun come from? Where do trees and flowers come from? Where did the ocean and sky come from? Then introduce Bereishit Bingo!

“Bereishit Bingo”

Prepare a bingo board with all of the different things that Hashem created. If possible, it would be great to use pictures of the different things. Call them out one by one and when someone has the thing you called have them put a marker on it. The first person with five in a row wins! You can make them need to finish the board if you'd like as well. Examples of things to put on the board: light, dark, sky, clouds, sun, moon, stars, trees, flowers, ocean, rain, different animals, Shabbat, the Torah, etc.

DISCUSSION: Talk to the kids about the story of creation and that every day Hashem made something different and that he rested on the seventh day. Talk to them about Shabbat and the importance of resting after working hard during the week. Shabbat is a time to forget about all of the work we have to do and spend time with our family. If it wasn't for Hashem, we wouldn't have anything in this world! We should thank Hashem for everything we have and everything we see. Tell them what was made on each day of creation and on that day of the week thank Hashem for what he made (ex: Hashem created the sky on day two so every Monday thank Hashem for the sky).

LEADER TIP: If you really want to get fancy, make seven different rounds, one for each day of creation and put things on the board that relate to things that were made on each day.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: This is a week of beginnings. We begin a new cycle of Torah readings, in which we learn about the beginning of the universe, the world, and everything in it. In this week's Torah portion, God reveals to us an important secret about beginnings. As each day of creation is described, we are told, "And it was evening, and it was morning..." Evening came first. In fact, even today, the Jewish calendar day is counted starting from the previous night. We can learn from this that it is the way of the world for darkness to precede light. In our lives that means that before we will experience the light of any worthwhile accomplishment, it is normal to pass through a period of darkness and difficulty. Knowing this secret gives us the power to persevere when things get tough, and rest assured that the light of dawn is right around the corner.

"DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT"

Terrible groaning noises were coming out of David Simmons' garage. Mark and Ray, two of Dave's buddies who were passing by, heard the strange sounds and went to peek into the garage window to make sure everything was okay.

Inside they saw their friend, David, his face flushed red and cheeks bulging, clumsily trying to blow into the mouthpiece of a shiny new saxophone. They knocked on the window to get the boy's attention. David put down the sax, and with an embarrassed smile walked over to the door and let them in.

"Hey, what's going on in here?" asked Mark with a wink. "From the sound of things we thought you had a sick cow in here or something!"

"Yeah," added Ray with a chuckle, "those noises could wake the dead!"

David blushed. "C'mon guys, give me a break. I'm practicing for the school jazz band. I always wanted to play the horn, so I started to take lessons last week."

His friends shrugged. "Well," said Ray, "judging by those sounds you're making, I'd say give it up now." The guys laughed and walked away.

Later that day, Mr. Howard, David's music teacher, arrived to give him his lesson. David was down in the dumps. "I don't think the horn's for me - I sound awful," David blurted out.

But to David's surprise, Mr. Howard just smiled. "Dave, do you like the way I play?"

"Sure, you're a real pro. You even cut a CD. But, *you* know how to play, *I*..."

Mr. Howard cut him off with a laugh. "What do you think - the first time I picked up a horn I was Louie Armstrong? I was so bad that my kid brother used to walk around with two pillows tied around his ears whenever I would practice!"

David laughed. "So what happened?"

"I paid my dues, that's what! To get anywhere worthwhile you've got to go through some muddy waters at first. Little by little though, if you stick to it, you begin to see the light. The problem with most people is that they just give up when things get tough. They don't realize that it's just part of getting there. But I didn't give up, and as you can see, or rather hear - I think it was worth it."

David took his teacher's words to heart and felt energized. He kept up his practice each day, in spite of his friends' taunting. And sure enough, little by little, it began to click. The sour notes turned sweet, and soon kids would come by when he practiced - not to tease David, but to listen and enjoy the fine music. Within a year, David *did* become the horn player for 'Dawning Light', the school jazz band.

One evening, after a performance, Ray came over to him with a sheepish grin. "I admit I was wrong about you, man. You're really good! How did you do it?"

David smiled. "Thanks for the compliment. I'll tell you the truth, the only way to reach the 'Dawning Light' was to be willing to walk through some darkness first."

In the car Alan said to his father, "You know Dad, some people put on an act; they really are not who they pretend to be. I'm lucky that I can be happy just being me."

Discussion Questions:

Q. How did David feel when his friends first made fun of the way he played?

A. He felt as if he should give up, since he wasn't very good.

Q. How did he feel after he spoke to his music teacher?

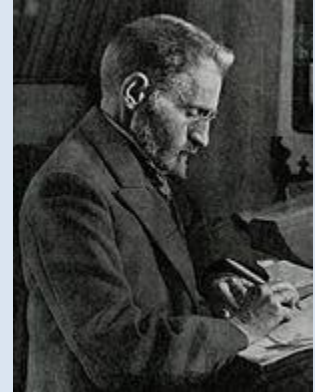
A. He felt better since he realized that even though it's hard at the beginning, if he kept trying he would get better - and he did!

LEADER TIP: With the start of a new year, what kind of things are you going to try harder to work through?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eliezer Ben Yehudah

(January 7, 1858- December 16, 1922)



Eliezer Ben Yehuda was born Lushki, Lithuania, where he received a traditional Jewish education. He presented the idea of the return to Zion and revival of the ancient Hebrew language as the spoken language of the Jewish people. It took Ben Yehuda many years of hard work to convince the skeptics that Hebrew could be made to live again. In his own newspapers, which he had begun to publish, he invented new Hebrew terms and words for daily use. His children were the first in modern times to speak Hebrew as their mother tongue. He composed five volumes of “The Dictionary of the Hebrew Language” and many textbooks to help teach people Hebrew. Today, Hebrew is the national language of Israel and connects Jews from all over the world all in thanks to Eliezer Ben Yehudah.

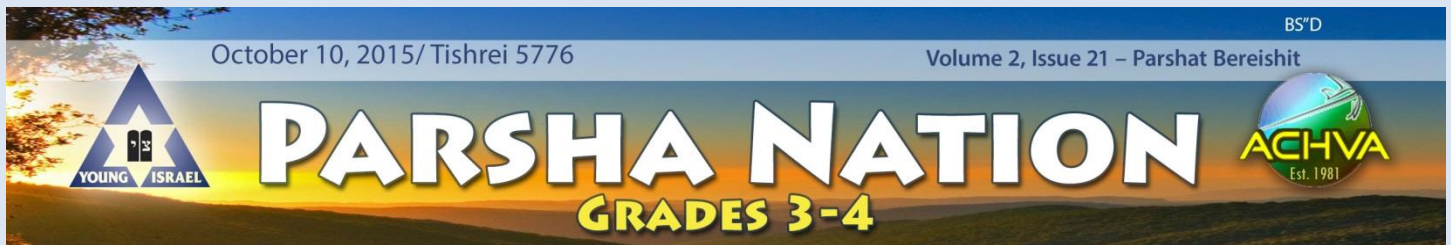
LEADER TIP: Try to talk only in Hebrew for as long as you can!

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Hallelukah Hallelu Kel Bikadsho

The Gemara (Arachin 13b) explains that in the Beit Hamikdash, the two parts of the cymbal were struck together by one person to make a sound. This sound was the loudest of all the sounds that came from the instruments. It traveled the furthest, and reminded even the farthest of people to give praise to Hashem. The clanging of the two parts represents the joining of the body and the neshama to praise Hashem. We must try to use everything we can to praise and thank Hashem, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally.

LEADER TIP: Teach the kids the song “Hallelukah”. There are plenty of versions!



BEREISHIT REVIEW

Hashem created the world in six days. On the first day Hashem made darkness and light. On the second day He made the heavens and the sky, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He created land and sea and brought up trees and plants from the earth. On the fourth day He created the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day Hashem created fish, birds and reptiles. On the sixth day, He created land-animals, and then the human being, Adam. Hashem stopped work on the seventh day, and sanctified it as a day of rest, Shabbat.

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Chava gave birth to two sons, Kayin and Hevel. When Hevel's korban to Hashem was accepted, while Kayin's was rejected, Kayin murdered his brother in a jealous rage. Hashem punished Kayin, designating him to be a lifelong wanderer, but postponing his ultimate punishment for seven generations. The sixth generation descendent of Kayin was Lemech, who fathered several children -- seventh generation descendants of Kayin. Lemech accidentally killed his great-great-great-grandfather Kayin in a hunting accident. Adam and Chava gave birth to a third son, Shet.

The next three generations are reported ending with Noach, the tenth generation from Adam. At this point in time, the wickedness and immorality of the people on earth became so bad that Hashem regretted creating man. Hashem gave the world 120 years to clean up their act or be destroyed. Noach, on the other hand, was an exception.

LEADER TIP: It's the first parsha of the Torah! Get the kids excited about starting an entire new cycle!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What was created on the first day?
2. What was created on the second day?
3. What was created on the third day?
4. What was created on the fourth day?
5. What was created on the fifth day?
6. What was created on the sixth day?
7. What was created on the seventh day?
8. How did Hashem create Chava?
9. Who got to name all of the animals?
10. In what place were Adam and Chava living?
11. What tree were Adam and Chava not allowed to eat from?
12. Who convinced Chava to eat from the forbidden tree?
13. What were the punishments of the snake?
14. What were the punishments of Adam and Chava?
15. What were Adam and Chava's son's names?

Answers

1. Light and Darkness
2. The heavens
3. Land, sea, trees and vegetation
4. Sun, moon, and stars
5. Birds and fish
6. Animals, Adam, and Chava
7. Shabbos
8. By taking a rib from Adam
9. Adam
10. Gan Eden
11. Etz Hada'at, the Tree of Knowledge
12. The nachash, snake
13. The nachash had arms and legs and could talk but Hashem punished him by taking away his speech, legs, and arms and he has to now crawl on the ground and now it's lower than all other animals. All the food snakes eat will taste like dust. He is also kicked out of Gan Eden.
14. They both are kicked out of Gan Eden and lose their eternal life. Adam must work hard to earn his food and living. Chava will experience great pain during child birth as well as raising children.
15. Kayin, Hevel, and Shet

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids to imagine what the world would be like if there was nothing here. Ask them what they would make every day if they were to make the world.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about the importance of sticking together and that separating or dividing ourselves from our community is detrimental.

ACTIVITY: “Back to Back Tag”

Play in a large area. One player is chosen to be "it." He remains "it" until he tags another player who then becomes "it." In this variation of tag, the players can be "safe" only when they stand back to back with another player. No two players may stand back to back for more than five seconds. A time limit is set, and whoever is "it" when the time limit expires, loses. Variation: Instead of only one "it," all of the players who are tagged remains "it" and can tag other players. The last player to remain untagged at the end of the game wins.

“Cat and Mouse”

Play in a circle. Two players are chosen. One to be the "Mouse" and the other to be the "Cat". All of the other players join hands in a circle. The cat stands outside the circle and the mouse inside. The cat must "catch" (tag) the mouse. The rest of the players help or hinder the cat by raising or lowering their arms. The cat and mouse can run in and out of the circle, under the other players' arms. When the mouse is caught (tagged), two other players are chosen.

DISCUSSION: In these two games, we saw the importance of sticking together and **not dividing**. In describing the creation of light on the first day Hashem says: “KI TOV,” ...it was good”. On the second day, when Hashem divided the waters, it does not say that it was good. Traditionally, the explanation given is that when there is a division, it is not good. Since on the second day there was such a division the Torah does not mention that it was good. The problem with this explanation is that there was also a division in the first day between light and darkness and we do find the words “that it was good.” There is a difference between these two divisions. In the first day the division was between two different things. One was light, the other was darkness. They can and should be separated. This division was good. The second day deals with a division between two things that are the same. This is not good. We can make a distinction between Jews and non-Jews since these two believe in two different religions. However, among Jews there should be no division since we are all Jews of the same faith even though we may interpret the religion differently. We are, nevertheless, all Jews and are responsible for each other and should live in peace with each other.

LEADER TIP: Were all about sticking together and not dividing. Make a secret group handshake to resemble your togetherness!

PARSHA STORY

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"DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT"

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"Hey, what's going on in here?" asked Mark with a wink. "From the sound of things we thought you had a sick cow in here or something!"

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"I paid my dues, that's what! To get anywhere worthwhile you've got to go through some muddy waters at first. Little by little though, if you stick to it, you begin to see the light. The problem with most people is that they just give up when things get tough. They don't realize that it's just part of getting there. But I didn't give up, and as you can see, or rather hear - I think it was worth it."

David took his teacher's words to heart and felt energized. He kept up his practice each day, in spite of his friends' taunting. And sure enough, little by little, it began to click. The sour notes turned sweet, and soon kids would come by when he practiced - not to tease David, but to listen and enjoy the fine music. Within a year, David *did* become the horn player for 'Dawning Light', the school jazz band.

One evening, after a performance, Ray came over to him with a sheepish grin. "I admit I was wrong about you, man. You're really good! How did you do it?"

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In the car Alan said to his father, "You know Dad, some people put on an act; they really are not who they pretend to be. I'm lucky that I can be happy just being me."

Discussion Questions:

Q. If things don't come easily when we try something new, do you think that this is a sign to quit?

A. Although it might feel frustrating, and tempt us to give up, difficult beginnings are part of the nature of life. In fact, when something is difficult, it makes your accomplishment even more meaningful and rewarding. So don't give up - look forward to the pleasure you'll receive once you overcome the difficulty.

Q. Do all beginnings have to be difficult, or is there an easy way to get around it?

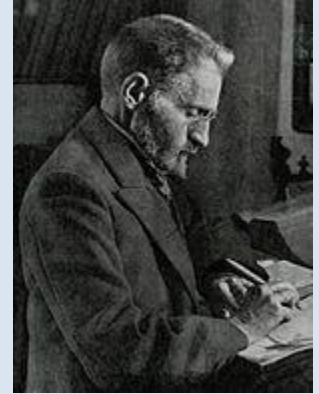
A. There is really no easy way. But there are some things we can do to take the sting out of difficult beginnings. One thing is to be aware that we will likely hit some snags at the outset of any project. This will prepare us and help us to keep going when they hit, since we know that soon things are likely to get better. We can also try to stay focused on our goal, keeping in mind why it's worth the pain. Doing that helps us get through all the ups and downs of getting there.

LEADER TIP: With the start of a new year, what kind of things are you going to try harder to work through?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eliezer Ben Yehudah

(January 7, 1858- December 16, 1922)



Eliezer Ben Yehuda was born Lushki, Lithuania, where he received a traditional Jewish education. The struggle for independence in the Southeast Europe countries made Ben Yehuda aware of the homelessness of the Jews and of the need to bring the Jewish people back to Israel. In 1879 Ben Yehuda published his first Hebrew article in Hashahar, the biggest Hebrew magazine of the time. He presented the idea of the return to Zion and revival of the ancient Hebrew language as the spoken language of the Jewish people. It took Ben Yehuda many years of persistent work to convince the skeptics that Hebrew could be made to live again. He was also bitterly attacked by religious factions in Jerusalem, who opposed the secular use of the holy tongue. In his own newspapers, which he had begun to publish, he invented new Hebrew terms and words for daily use. His children were the first in modern times to speak Hebrew as their mother tongue. He composed five volumes of “The Dictionary of the Hebrew Language” and many textbooks to help teach people Hebrew. Today, Hebrew is the national language of Israel and connects Jews from all over the world all in thanks to Eliezer Ben Yehudah.

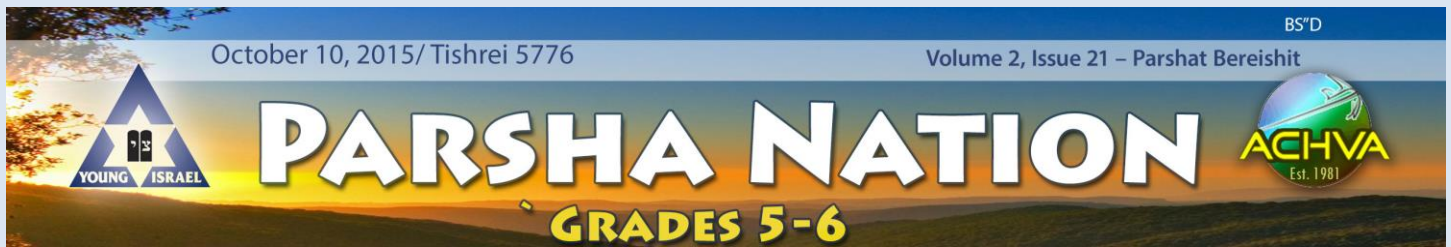
LEADER TIP: Try to talk only in Hebrew for as long as you can!

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Hallelukah Hallelu Kel Bikadsho

The Gemara (Arachin 13b) explains that in the Beit Hamikdash, the two parts of the cymbal were struck together by one person to make a sound. This sound was the loudest of all the sounds that came from the instruments. It traveled the furthest, and reminded even the farthest of people to give praise to Hashem. The clanging of the two parts represents the joining of the body and the neshama to praise Hashem. Rabbeinu Bachya teaches that the trumpets represent the moon. It is understood that the moon does not have its own light, but rather, it reflects the light it receives from the sun. Similarly, the body receives its “light” from another source—the neshama, which is the body’s praise. The sound made by the body in harmony with the neshama is the greatest praise of all.

LEADER TIP: Teach the kids the song “Hallelukah”. There are plenty of versions!



BEREISHIT REVIEW

Hashem created the world in six days. On the first day Hashem made darkness and light. On the second day He made the heavens and the sky, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He created land and sea and brought up trees and plants from the earth. On the fourth day He created the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day Hashem created fish, birds and reptiles. On the sixth day, He created land-animals, and then the human being, Adam. Hashem stopped work on the seventh day, and sanctified it as a day of rest, Shabbat.

After Adam was created from the earth, Hashem placed him in Gan Eden. He allowed Adam to eat from any tree in the garden, with the exception of the Etz Hada'at, Tree of Knowledge. Adam named all the animals and birds, and Hashem decided that Adam needed a mate. So Hashem caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and formed a woman, Chava, from one of his ribs. The nachash, snake, at the time the wisest of all animals, sweet-talked Chava into eating from the fruit of the forbidden Etz Hada'at. Chava shared the fruit with Adam, and were given a new sense of knowledge and awareness, they were ashamed of their nakedness and clothed themselves. Hashem kicked them all out of Gan Eden and punished the nachash, Chava, and Adam, with various curses. Adam had to work for his food, Chava was given the pains of child birth, and the nachash has to now crawl on the ground instead of walking.

Chava gave birth to two sons, Kayin and Hevel. When Hevel's korban to Hashem was accepted, while Kayin's was rejected, Kayin murdered his brother in a jealous rage. Hashem punished Kayin, designating him to be a lifelong wanderer, but postponing his ultimate punishment for seven generations. The sixth generation descendent of Kayin was Lemech, who fathered several children -- seventh generation descendants of Kayin. Lemech accidentally killed his great-great-great-great-grandfather Kayin in a hunting accident. Adam and Chava gave birth to a third son, Shet.

The next three generations are reported ending with Noach, the tenth generation from Adam. At this point in time, the wickedness and immorality of the people on earth became so bad that Hashem regretted creating man. Hashem gave the world 120 years to clean up their act or be destroyed. Noach, on the other hand, was an exception.

LEADER TIP: It's the first parsha of the Torah! Get the kids excited about starting an entire new cycle!

PARSHA QUESTIONS

1. Why does the Torah start with the account of Creation?
1:1 - So that when the nations accuse us of stealing *Eretz Canaan* from the Canaanites, we can respond that Hashem, as Creator, has the right to give the land to whomever He sees fit, and He gave *Eretz Canaan* to us.
2. What happened to the light that was created on the first day?
1:4 - Hashem saw that the wicked would be unworthy of it so He hid it for the righteous.
3. Why isn't the word "good" associated with the second day?
1:7 - Because the work with the water wasn't completed until the third day. Anything that is incomplete is not "good."
4. How were the trees supposed to taste?
1:11 - The wood was to have the taste of the fruit.
5. On which day were the sun and moon created?
1:14 - They were created on the first day and suspended in the firmament on the fourth day.
6. Hashem blessed the birds to be fruitful and to multiply. Why did He not do so with the beasts?
1:22 - He did not want the serpent, who was to be cursed, to receive a blessing.
7. In whose likeness was man fashioned?
1:26 - In the likeness of the angels.
8. What kind of food did Adam eat?
1:30 - Vegetation.
9. Why is "the sixth day" written with the definite article?
1:31 "The" in Hebrew is the letter *hey*, which has a numerical value of five. Hashem created the world on the condition that it will endure only if the Jewish People accept the Five Books of the Torah.
10. At the end of the sixth day what was the world still lacking?
2:2 - Rest.
11. Why was man made from dust gathered from the entire earth?
2:7 - So that wherever he might die, the earth would receive his body.
12. How is man superior to the animals?
2:7 - He was given understanding and speech.
13. Why was it not good that man be alone?
2:18 - If he were alone, he would appear to be a god; The creation of woman emphasized man's dependence.

14. Where do we learn that one must not add to a commandment from Hashem?
3:3 - From Chava. Hashem commanded not to eat from the tree but she added not to touch it. Because she added to the command she eventually came to transgress it.
15. What does it mean that Adam and Chava "knew that they were naked"?
3:7 - They had been given one commandment and they had stripped themselves of it.
16. Why did Hevel choose to be a shepherd?
4:2 - Since the ground had been cursed he refrained from cultivating it.
17. What was the marital practice of the generation who lived before the flood?
4:19 - They married two wives, one with whom to have children. The other one was given a potion which prevented her from bearing children.
18. What did Tuval-Cain invent?
4:22 - Murder weapons.
19. Why did Chanoch die at a young age?
5:22 - Though he was righteous, he was easily influenced; therefore Hashem took him before his time to protect him from sinning.
20. What was the sign that Shem was born with great propensity for righteousness?
5:32 - He was born already circumcised.

LEADER TIP: Ask the kids to imagine what the world would be like if there was nothing here. Ask them what they would make every day if they were to make the world.

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: To teach the kids about the importance of sticking together and that separating or dividing ourselves from our community is detrimental.

ACTIVITY: “All Together”

Ask the kids to each pair up and sit back to back on the floor. The partners should reach behind their backs to link arms with each other. When the leader says go, the partners should try and stand up without separating. You can also specify that the partners can't talk to make things harder.

“Red Rover”

The game is played between two lines of players, usually around thirty feet apart. The game starts when the first team calls a player out, using a line like "Red rover, red rover, send [name of player on opposite team] right over".

The immediate goal for the person called is to run to the other line and break the other team's chain (formed by the linking of hands). If the person called fails to break the chain, this player joins that team. However, if the player successfully breaks the chain, this player may select either of the two "links" broken by the successful run, and take them to join their team. The next team then calls out "Red rover" for a player on the other team, and play continues.

When only one player is left on a team, they also must try and break through a link. If they do not succeed, the opposing team wins. Otherwise, they are able to get a player back for their team.

DISCUSSION: In these two games, we saw the importance of sticking together and **not dividing**. In describing the creation of light on the first day Hashem says: “KI TOV,” ...it was good”. On the second day, when Hashem divided the waters, it does not say that it was good. Traditionally, the explanation given is that when there is a division, it is not good. Since on the second day there was such a division the Torah does not mention that it was good. The problem with this explanation is that there was also a division in the first day between light and darkness and we do find the words “that it was good.” There is a difference between these two divisions. In the first day the division was between two different things. One was light, the other was darkness. They can and should be separated. This division was good. The second day deals with a division between two things that are the same. This is not good. We can make a distinction between Jews and non-Jews since these two believe in two different religions. However, among Jews there should be no division since we are all Jews of the same faith even though we may interpret the religion differently. We are, nevertheless, all Jews and are responsible for each other and should live in peace with each other.

LEADER TIP: Were all about sticking together and not dividing. Make a secret group handshake to resemble your togetherness!

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: This is a week of beginnings. We begin a new cycle of Torah readings, in which we learn about the beginning of the universe, the world, and everything in it. In this week's Torah portion, God reveals to us an important secret about beginnings. As each day of creation is described, we are told, "And it was evening, and it was morning..." Evening came first. In fact, even today, the Jewish calendar day is counted starting from the previous night. We can learn from this that it is the way of the world for darkness to precede light. In our lives that means that before we will experience the light of any worthwhile accomplishment, it is normal to pass through a period of darkness and difficulty. Knowing this secret gives us the power to persevere when things get tough, and rest assured that the light of dawn is right around the corner.

"DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT"

Terrible groaning noises were coming out of David Simmons' garage. Mark and Ray, two of Dave's buddies who were passing by, heard the strange sounds and went to peek into the garage window to make sure everything was okay.

Inside they saw their friend, David, his face flushed red and cheeks bulging, clumsily trying to blow into the mouthpiece of a shiny new saxophone. They knocked on the window to get the boy's attention. David put down the sax, and with an embarrassed smile walked over to the door and let them in.

"Hey, what's going on in here?" asked Mark with a wink. "From the sound of things we thought you had a sick cow in here or something!"

"Yeah," added Ray with a chuckle, "those noises could wake the dead!"

David blushed. "C'mon guys, give me a break. I'm practicing for the school jazz band. I always wanted to play the horn, so I started to take lessons last week."

His friends shrugged. "Well," said Ray, "judging by those sounds you're making, I'd say give it up now." The guys laughed and walked away.

Later that day, Mr. Howard, David's music teacher, arrived to give him his lesson. David was down in the dumps. "I don't think the horn's for me - I sound awful," David blurted out.

But to David's surprise, Mr. Howard just smiled. "Dave, do you like the way I play?"

"Sure, you're a real pro. You even cut a CD. But, *you* know how to play, *I*..."

Mr. Howard cut him off with a laugh. "What do you think - the first time I picked up a horn I was Louie Armstrong? I was so bad that my kid brother used to walk around with two pillows tied around his ears whenever I would practice!"

David laughed. "So what happened?"

"I paid my dues, that's what! To get anywhere worthwhile you've got to go through some muddy waters at first. Little by little though, if you stick to it, you begin to see the light. The problem with most people is that they just give up when things get tough. They don't realize that it's just part of getting there. But I didn't give up, and as you can see, or rather hear - I think it was worth it."

David took his teacher's words to heart and felt energized. He kept up his practice each day, in spite of his friends' taunting. And sure enough, little by little, it began to click. The sour notes turned sweet, and soon kids would come by when he practiced - not to tease David, but to listen and enjoy the fine music. Within a year, David *did* become the horn player for 'Dawning Light', the school jazz band.

One evening, after a performance, Ray came over to him with a sheepish grin. "I admit I was wrong about you, man. You're really good! How did you do it?"

David smiled. "Thanks for the compliment. I'll tell you the truth, the only way to reach the 'Dawning Light' was to be willing to walk through some darkness first."

In the car Alan said to his father, "You know Dad, some people put on an act; they really are not who they pretend to be. I'm lucky that I can be happy just being me."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Q. What's the benefit of "paying one's dues" with difficult beginnings?

A. To accomplish anything worthwhile takes a lot of energy, determination, and serious effort. A primary tool to get things done is will-power. The "dues," the difficulties that we may encounter as we try to accomplish our goals, are great "will-power builders." They force us to affirm our will to keep going and push through even when things get tough. The strengthened will that these difficulties develop within us often makes the difference between reaching our goals or not.

Q. Who enjoys his accomplishments more: someone who had to struggle to get there, or someone to whom it came easily? Why?

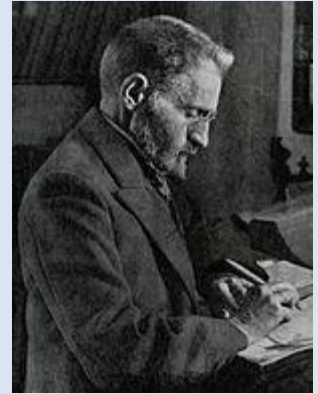
A. There is no comparison. It is inescapable human nature that the degree of effort that we put into attaining something parallels the amount of satisfaction we derive from it. Therefore the obstacles and struggles along the way, although perhaps not pleasant, are really blessings in disguise that will pay off in the future joy of overcoming them.

LEADER TIP: With the start of a new year, what kind of things are you going to try harder to work through?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eliezer Ben Yehudah

(January 7, 1858- December 16, 1922)



Eliezer Ben Yehuda was born Lushki, Lithuania, where he received a traditional Jewish education. The struggle for independence in the Southeast Europe countries made Ben Yehuda aware of the homelessness of the Jews and of the need to bring the Jewish people back to Israel. In 1879 Ben Yehuda published his first Hebrew article in Hashahar, the biggest Hebrew magazine of the time. He presented the idea of the return to Zion and revival of the ancient Hebrew language as the spoken language of the Jewish people. In 1881 Ben Yehudah moved to Palestine and lived in Yerushalayim. It took Ben Yehuda many years of persistent work to convince the skeptics that Hebrew could be made to live again. He was also bitterly attacked by religious factions in Jerusalem, who opposed the secular use of the holy tongue. He wanted a way to unite all the Jews from all over the world who were making Aliya and needed a common language they'd all be able to speak together. In his own newspapers, which he had begun to publish, he invented new Hebrew terms and words for daily use. His children were the first in modern times to speak Hebrew as their mother tongue. He composed five volumes of "The Dictionary of the Hebrew Language" and many textbooks to help teach people Hebrew. Today, Hebrew is the national language of Israel and connects Jews from all over the world all in thanks to Eliezer Ben Yehudah. Ben Yehuda's first wife, Dvora, died in 1891. His second wife, Heinda, a sister of Dvora, was the first woman to write stories on life in the new Palestine. Ben Yehuda suffered from poor health; at times he endured hunger and persecution; yet at the end he witnessed the triumph of his ideal.

LEADER TIP: Try to talk only in Hebrew for as long as you can!

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Hallelukah Hallelu Kel Bikadsho

This last mizmor of Tehillim includes the word praise, Halleluka, thirteen times. Siddur Ya'avetz teaches that this corresponds to Hashem's Thirteen Attributes of Mercy ("Hashem Hashem kel rachum..."). According to the sefer Tomer Devorah, the Thirteen Attributes of Divine Mercy causes an awareness of all Hashem has done, does, and will do for us and help us set the model for fulfilling the mitzvah of v'halachta bidrachav, "walking in Hashem's ways." Even when a person sins, Hashem still has patience with us until we do teshuvah. In emulating Hashem, therefore, we must try to help even those who hurt us. There are situations in which we have been hurt and humiliated. We are filled with anger against the person who hurt us and we think that he is wrong and we are right, in the same way that a person who sins is wrong, and Hashem is right. In such situations, the mitzvah of V'halachta bidrachav is our guide, and it leads us toward keeping our effort strong to help the other person to do good. Doing so is a segulah that will unlock Hashem's mercy and "illuminate the world."

LEADER TIP: Teach the kids the song "Hallelukah".
There are plenty of versions!

This Week in Jewish History

October 16, 1946- Hoshana Raba

The Hanging of Ten Nazi Leaders

On October 16, 1946, after 216 court sessions, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg delivered its verdicts sentencing the leaders of the Nazi party to death by hanging. Julius Streicher was one of the Nazis hung. Right before he was hung he screamed, 'Purim Fest 1946.' Streicher had been a Nazi since early in the movement's history. He was the editor and publisher of the anti-Semitic newspaper "Das Strummer." In May of 1924 Streicher wrote and published an article on Purim titled "Das Purimfest" (The Festival of Purim). In order to publish his cruel attack Streicher must have had a good deal of knowledge about Jewish thought and practice. However we can only speculate to what extent he was aware of the remarkable parallels between Haman and his own execution. However, they are indeed striking. There were ten Nazis hung, and there were ten sons of Haman hung.



If we examine the list of Haman's sons three letters are written smaller: the taf of Parshandata, the shin of Parmashta and the zayin of Vizata. Those three letters together form taf-shin-zayin, the last three numbers of the Jewish year 5707, which corresponds to the secular year 1946, the year that those ten Nazi criminals were executed. Equally uncanny is that the date of the execution (October 16, 1946) fell on "Hoshana Rabba" (21 Tishrei), the day on which G-d seals the verdicts of Rosh Hashana for the coming year. When we look toward the place of our original encounter with Haman and see the rise of a fanatic whose rhetoric rivals our most vicious enemies, we should remember that history most often repeats itself for those who fail to learn its lessons.

FIND...

- **Light**
- **Darkness**
- **Heavens**
- **Earth**
- **Animals**
- **Adam**
- **Chava**
- **Nachash**

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- BEREISHIT

First of the 54 sedras of the Torah - first of 12 sedras in B'reishit

22 Parshiyot; 10 open, 12 closed

146 p'sukim - ranks 8th (5th) - tied with Mikeitz

1931 words - ranks 8th (5th)

7235 letters - ranks 11th (5th)

One (positive) mitzva in B'reishit

The book of B'reishit has the most sedras, the most p'sukim, the most words, the most letters, the longest sedras in words and letters (but not p'sukim) shorter than average p'sukim, and the smallest number of mitzvot - 3.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS THE TORTAL LENGTH OF ISRAEL?

Email your answers to RABBIS@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!

- Einstein couldn't speak fluently when he was nine.
- Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.
- A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time: 1/100th of a second.
- Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th."

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

Parsha Points to Ponder...

Before creating man, the Torah tells us Hashem said: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים, "...let us make man...". (Gen. 1,26) This seems to be a dangerous and misleading statement. To whom was Hashem speaking? The impression is that there was someone or something else that existed with whom Hashem was consulting and who would help Him in creating man. Chazal saw this danger and they make an amazing statement. Rashi on this verse quotes their reaction and tells us that although the use of the plural may give heretics an opportunity to error, yet the verse "does not refrain from teaching proper conduct and the virtue of humbleness; that the greater should consult and take permission from the smaller". This virtue of not considering oneself so mighty and so much above everyone else is so highly essential, that the Torah did not hesitate to teach us this moral even though it could give heretics the potential likelihood to be misled in their eagerness to disprove our basic belief in monotheism. We can recognize how important is the virtue of humbleness and humility that the Torah was not concerned that someone may misunderstand its meaning and go astray. We are being taught that no individual is so brilliant that he need not take advice from others and can act alone. We can all learn from each other and must not feel so superior that we need not seek advice from others.

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