



Kids Parsha Packet

פְּשׁוּט לִילָדִים

Parshat Bamidbar

Last week in Parshat Bechukatai

We finished the Book of Vayikra in which we learned about Hashem's commandments on Mount Sinai and how Bnei Yisrael received the mitzvot.

123456...

How high can you count? Have you ever counted how many toys or books you have? Many people like to count their things. Why? Because counting connects us to the things that are important to us. It shows that we are paying attention to what we own. Think of a stamp collector who has collected and

maintained a collection for many years. Over the years, the collector arranges and sorts the stamps in albums in order to enjoy looking at what he has collected. Hashem counts the Jewish people and all twelve shevatim (tribes) individually. This shows us how much Hashem loves the Jewish people. We are special to him, and he cares for us and watches over us all of the time. He divides Bnei Yisrael into different tribes and gives each tribe a special place and role within the nation.

"שאו את ראש כל עדת בני

ישראל לגשפחתם

לבית אבתם

(א, ב')

"Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers houses" (1,2)



Are all people identical or are there differences between them?

Activity

Count the toys that you have in the house - count each category separately (cars, dolls, etc.)

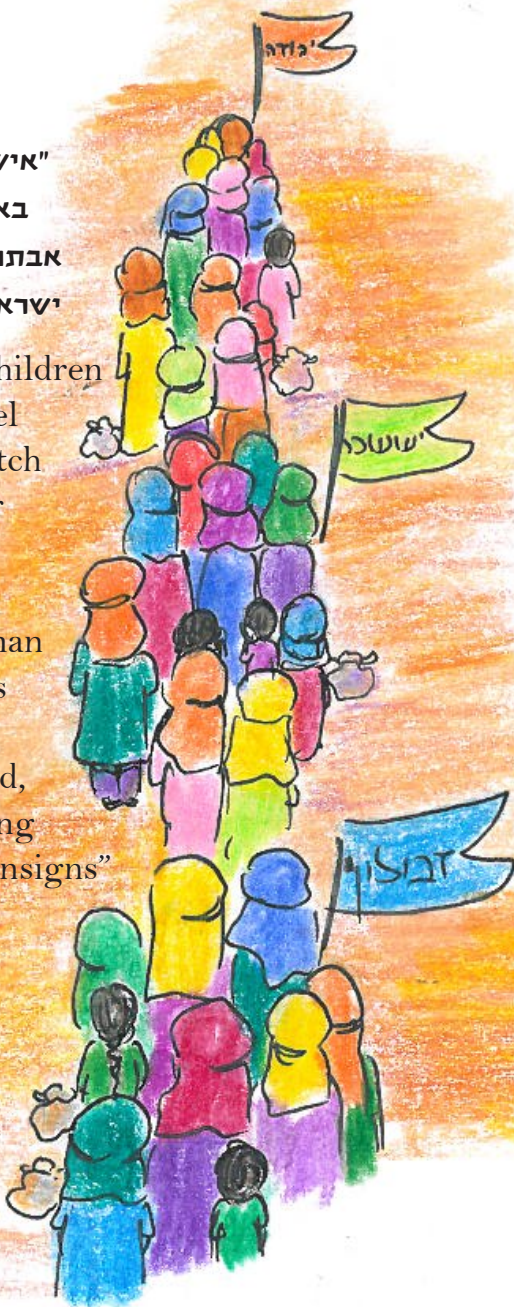
Let's get organized...

Do you remember that Bnei Yisrael wandered in the desert? In the desert there are no roads, paths, or crosswalks. It has mostly sand. There are also

no houses. Bnei Yisrael lived in tents that they pitched each time they stopped and took down each time they traveled. Hashem established a specific order for Bnei Yisrael that they followed when they pitched their tents or walked in the desert. The Mishkan was the heart of Bnei Yisrael and the home of Hashem. Bnei Yisrael was arranged in a specific order around it. The Mishkan had four sides and three tribes were placed together on each side. Each tribe had a special flag to mark its position. Why was this order so important? One reason was so that families stayed together and did not get lost. Also, the tribes had different responsibilities. Those that walked in the front and in the back made sure that no enemies were about to attack. The tribes that walked in the back were also responsible for gathering any objects that are dropped by the other tribes along the way.

"איש על דגלו
באתת לבית
אבתם יחנו בני
ישראל" (ב', ב')

"The Children
of Israel
shall pitch
by their
fathers
houses;
every man
with his
own
standard,
according
to the ensigns"
(2,2)



Do you have a permanent place to sit in kindergarten or school? Do you like it?

Activity

"The chair game": Set up all of the chairs in a square and assign a specific task for each chair (for example - the person on one chair has to laugh, the person on the second chair has to sing, the person on the third chair has to sleep, etc.). Sit on the chairs and complete the tasks assigned for each chair. Whoever gets confused stands in the middle and makes everyone laugh.

Who is the tribe of Levi?

Who was responsible for the Mishkan and the work done there? The Kohanim. The Kohanim are the descendants of Aharon and his sons and they are part of the tribe of Levi. Levi received a special status. Hashem counted them separately from the rest of Bnei Yisrael. The tribe of Levi, the Levites, also settled around the Mishkan, closer than the rest of Bnei Yisrael. Why? The Levites had many jobs inside the Mishkan and they were responsible for carrying the Mishkan and its vessels in the desert. Why were they chosen to work in the Mishkan? Why couldn't all of Bnei Yisrael have these responsibilities? In the book of Vayikra we learned that the Kohanim spent seven days learning how to work in the Mishkan. We also learned that the Kohanim had to be sure to remain pure at all times. This is not an easy task and someone has to take responsibility for it. Hashem chose the Levites, a tribe combined of Kohanim and Leviim, to be responsible for the Mishkan in the desert and later for the Beit Hamikdash in the Land of Israel. This was a very important job and it involved many responsibilities.

"הקרב את גטה
לוי והעבדת אתו
לפני אהרן הכהן
ושרתו אתו"
(ג', ו')



"Bring the tribe
of Levi near,
and set them
before Aaron
the priest, that
they may
minister unto
him"
(3,6)



Were you ever responsible for something? Were you able to carry out your assignment?

Redeeming the firstborn sons

Are you the firstborn in your family? The oldest child often has a special status in the house. Their parents rely on them for help. They can stay up late and like to tell their younger siblings what to do. Hashem wanted the firstborn sons to work in the Mishkan and take responsibility for it. However, when Bnei Yisrael created the Golden Calf (remember how in the Book of Shemot, Bnei Yisrael sinned by making a Golden Calf, dancing around it and saying that it was God?), the Levites were the only ones who did not sin or worship the Golden Calf. Hashem then decided that they would be responsible for the Mishkan instead of the firstborn sons. From then on and until today, every firstborn son has to be redeemed and “freed” from the former commitment that the firstborns had been given, by giving a specific amount of money to a Kohen. This action is called ‘Pidyon Haben’, redemption of the firstborn son. This applies to all firstborn sons that are not descended from the tribe of Levi.



"קח את הלויים
תחת כל בכור
בבני ישראל"
(ג', פ"ה)

"Take the
Levites
instead
of all the
first born
among
the
children
of
Israel"
(3,45)

Activity

"Because I'm the oldest": The oldest child tells everyone what to do (run, jump, etc.), but each instruction must end with the words "because I am the oldest". Otherwise, the next child in the family takes over and starts giving instructions instead.

Next week in Parshat Naso...

We will learn of an important job given to the Levites.

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids



Parashat Bamidbar

Yom Yerushalayim

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, the day that the State of Israel was established. In Israel, on Yom Ha'atzmaut people enjoy hiking, traveling, barbequing and spending time with family and friends. But the situation was not always so simple. After the establishment of the State of Israel, the War of Independence began. Israel was divided into several sections that were governed by Israel, Jordan, Syria or Egypt. Jerusalem, Israel's capital, was divided and Jews could not reach certain parts of the city. One of these places was the Kotel (the Western Wall), the site that reminds us of the Beit Hamikdash that was destroyed. Jerusalem was a divided city for nineteen years when another war broke out, the Six Day War. In only six days, the IDF soldiers managed to reach all of the places that were controlled by Israel's enemies. The brave soldiers reached the Kotel, a place where they had never been before. When the soldiers reached the Kotel, they wept and danced with excitement. Rabbi Goren blew the shofar. From then on, every year we celebrate the 28th day of Iyar as Yom Yerushalayim, the day that Jerusalem was unified.



Have you ever been to Jerusalem? What did you see there?

Activity

My Jerusalem – How many neighborhoods and sites in Jerusalem can you name?