



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿ'שַׁת לֵילָדִים

Parshat Bereishit

Who's Afraid of the Dark?

Do you remember your first day of school or kindergarten? Beginnings are not always easy. We usually have concerns and some fears, and we do not know exactly how we will manage and what will be. This Shabbat we start reading the first book in the Torah, which starts with the first story of the world- how was the world created? Today we look at the world and we see lots of things: people, houses, cars, trees, water, phones and more. But right after the creation of heaven and earth, in the beginning, things were not so well-organized. There was great confusion and deep darkness. Hard to imagine, isn't it? The first things that Hashem created after the sky (heaven) and the land (earth) was light. Doesn't that seem a bit strange? This has special meaning. Hashem began creating the world by creating light because he decided there will always be light. There will always be hope that things can be good. This will not be dependent on what will happen in the world. This is a very joyous and hopeful beginning for a brand-new world.

"וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי אוֹר"
(א', ג')

"God said,
'Let there
be light'
and there
was light."
(1,3)

Activity

"Adding Light"- Think of dark times in your life, and add light to them. (For example, if you hurt a friend, ask for forgiveness, etc.)

Something new happens every day

Do you remember how disorganized the world was? It's not disorganized like when we forget to straighten up our room. The world did not look like a place that was livable at all. But every day Hashem creates new things in the world. On the second day Hashem separates all of the water in the world into two: one part will be above the sky and the other will be below the sky (the clouds and the water). Can humans survive in water? Of course not! So on the third day Hashem gathers the water of the world in designated places, and land is revealed. On that land Hashem grows trees, fruit, and grass. On the fourth day Hashem creates the sun, moon, and stars, that tell us when each morning starts and when each night begins. We also use the sun and the moon to count days and years. On the fifth day Hashem creates all of the animals that live in the water and in the sky, and on the sixth day he creates the animals that live on land. Hashem creates all this in six days. But let's see what else happens on the sixth day...

"וַיֵּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִשְׂרָצוּ

הַיָּם שָׂרָץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה

וְעוֹף יַעֲוֹף עַל הָאָרֶץ"

(א', כ')

"God said, 'let the waters teem with swarming beings of living soul, and fowl that fly about over the earth'" (1,20)



What are you able to do in six days?

Activity

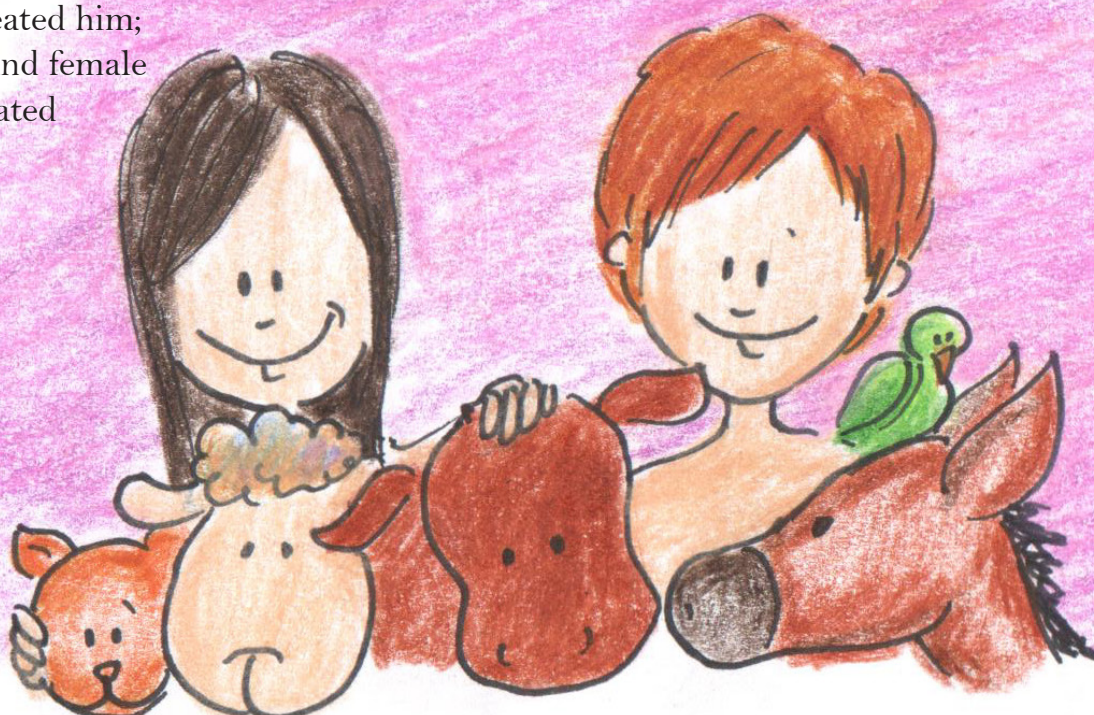
"What was created on each day" – one person does a charade of what was created on one of the days of creation, and everyone else needs to guess what day is being acted out.

Man and Woman (part I)

The world is almost complete. There is water, land, plants, the sun and moon, animals on the land, and in the sky and water. What is missing from the world? Humans are missing. On the sixth day, after creating all of the important things that need to be in the world to make it livable, Hashem creates humanity that is composed of both man and woman. Man and woman are created together at the same time, and the Torah explains that they are created in the image of Hashem. We do not know exactly what this means, but we will try to imagine that inside each person there is a piece of Hashem. Man and woman are created, and they receive an important job in the world. Hashem tells them that they are in charge of the animals in the world and that they need to multiply. They may eat from all the plants in the ground and the fruit of the trees, just like the animals (in the beginning nobody ate animals, not even animals themselves!). At the end of the sixth day Hashem finishes creating the world, and on the seventh day, Shabbat, he rests and does not create anything.

"And God created
Man in his image,
in the image of God
He created him;
male and female
he created
them"
(1,27)

"ויברא א-להים את האדם
בצלם א-להים ברא אתו
זכר ונקבה ברא אתם"
(א', כ"ז)



Do you like to be in charge?

Activity

"Let us rule" – organize all of the stuffed animals in the house, and tell them what to do...

Man and Woman (Part II)

In the second chapter, something strange happens. The Torah retells the story of the creation of the world, but this time everything is in reverse. The man is created first, and then Hashem creates the trees and rivers. Why is this story different than the one that we heard before in the first chapter? The Torah tells us about different ways that we can look at the world and the people in it. The man starts wandering around the world, and he does not find anyone who can be his partner and make him happy. Hashem creates the animals for him, but they do not fill the void that he feels. Hashem puts the man to sleep, removes a rib from his body (just like surgery), and uses the rib to create the woman. When the man wakes up he sees the woman. There is now a woman in the world to complete what the man was missing. In the first story about the creation of the world we learn about an orderly world, where there is a clear objective for each day of creation. In the second story about creation we hear about a world that is created as needed. The two stories together create the world that we live in, a world of rules and of divine supervision.



זאת הפעם עצם געצמי
ובשר גבשרי לזאת יקרא
אשה כי גאיס
לקחה זאת
(ב', כ"ג)

"This time
it is bone
of my
bones and
flesh of
my flesh.
This shall
be called
woman, for
from man
she was
taken" (2,23)



Do you know someone who had surgery?

Next week in Parshat Noach...

We will see what happens to the world that was just created.

Author: Dina Gavrieli
Illustrator: Anat Weiss
Graphics: Sharon Yungrais
Translator: Sara Friedman
Language editing: Rena Bar David

Shabbat Shalom!

www.pashut4kids.com
pashutps@gmail.com

 Pashut for kids



Parashat Bereishit