



Kids Parsha Packet

פִּרְשַׁת שְׁמוֹת לילדים

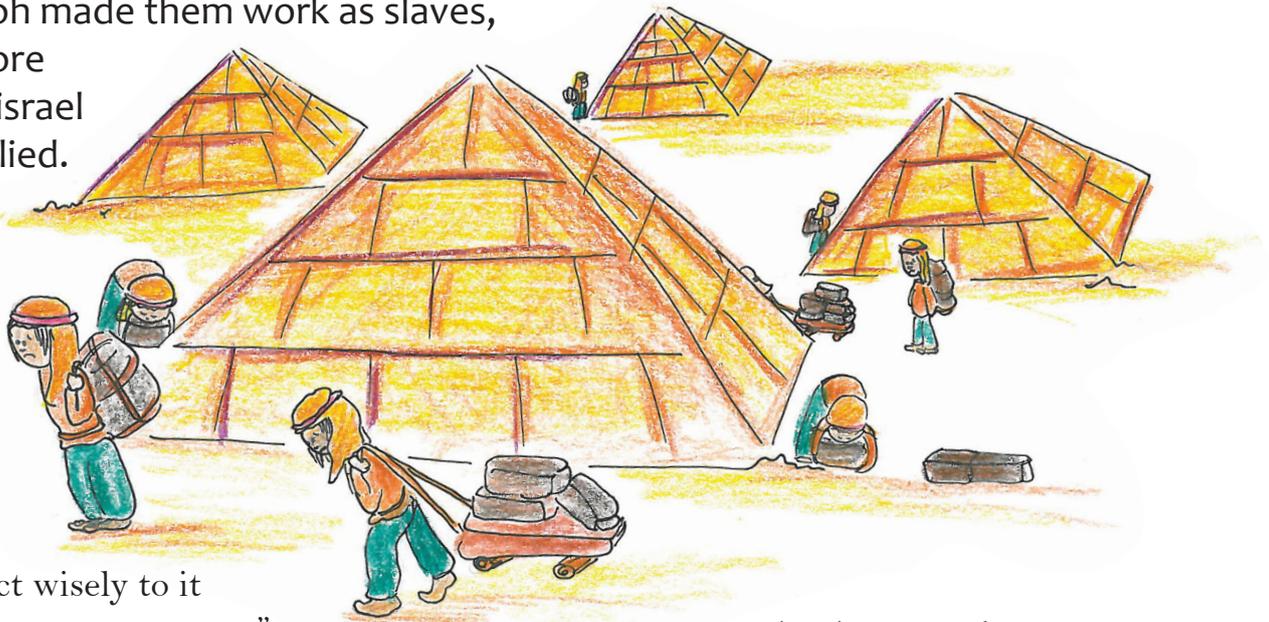
Parshat Shemot

Last Week in Parshat Vayechi:
Bnei Yisrael start their lives in Egypt.

A New King and New Laws

Remember Yosef, Yaakov, and all of Yaakov's sons? Yosef and Yaakov are no longer alive, and King Pharaoh that knew them is no longer alive either. In the meantime, Yaakov's family grows in Egypt and becomes a very large family that lives in the Goshen region, apart from the Egyptian people.

The new king, also called Pharaoh, does not know Yosef and how helpful he was to Egypt when there was a famine. He decides that Bnei Yisrael is dangerous to Egypt and that they need to be taken care of. What is he afraid of? He sees that Bnei Yisrael is increasing, and he is afraid that in the end they will fight against him and leave Egypt. To prevent this, he decided to pass laws that would stop their growth and make their lives more difficult. Pharaoh's first decree is that Bnei Yisrael will work "B'perach" (very hard), and officers will supervise them to ensure that they do the work and to make them suffer... What was the result? Did this help? Not really... The harder Pharaoh made them work as slaves, the more Bnei Yisrael multiplied.



"Come,
let us act wisely to it
lest it become numerous"

"הבה נתחכמה לו פן ירבה" (א', י')



Are you able to do very hard physical work (can you clean the house easily)???

The midwives to the rescue

Pharaoh makes another decree to stop Bnei Yisrael from growing. He calls two Jewish midwives to come to his palace. The names of the midwives are Shifra and Puah. Pharaoh commands the midwives that when they are called to help a Jewish woman give birth, they must check if a boy or girl is born. If a boy is born, they must kill him, and if it is a girl, she can live. What a harsh decree! Why did he require them to kill the boys? It is possible that Pharaoh wants there to be fewer Jewish boys that can become soldiers and fight against him when they grow up... Did the midwives do what he said? They certainly did not! They let the boys live! What a risk they took! Pharaoh hears that they are not following his orders, and he calls them to his palace. What will Pharaoh do to them? Pharaoh wants to know why they are not carrying out his orders. The midwives tell Pharaoh that they want to, but each time a Jewish woman starts to give birth, it happens so fast that there is not enough time for the midwives to get there and check to see if it is a boy or a girl. But of course this is not true, and the midwives save the babies from death.

"בילדכן את העבריות
וראיתן על האבנים
אם בן הוא
והגתן אתו
ואם בת הוא (היא)
וחיה"
(א', ט"ז)

"In your assisting the Hebrew women at childbirth, and you see on the birthstool; if it is a son, you are to kill him, and if it a daughter, she shall live"
(1,17)



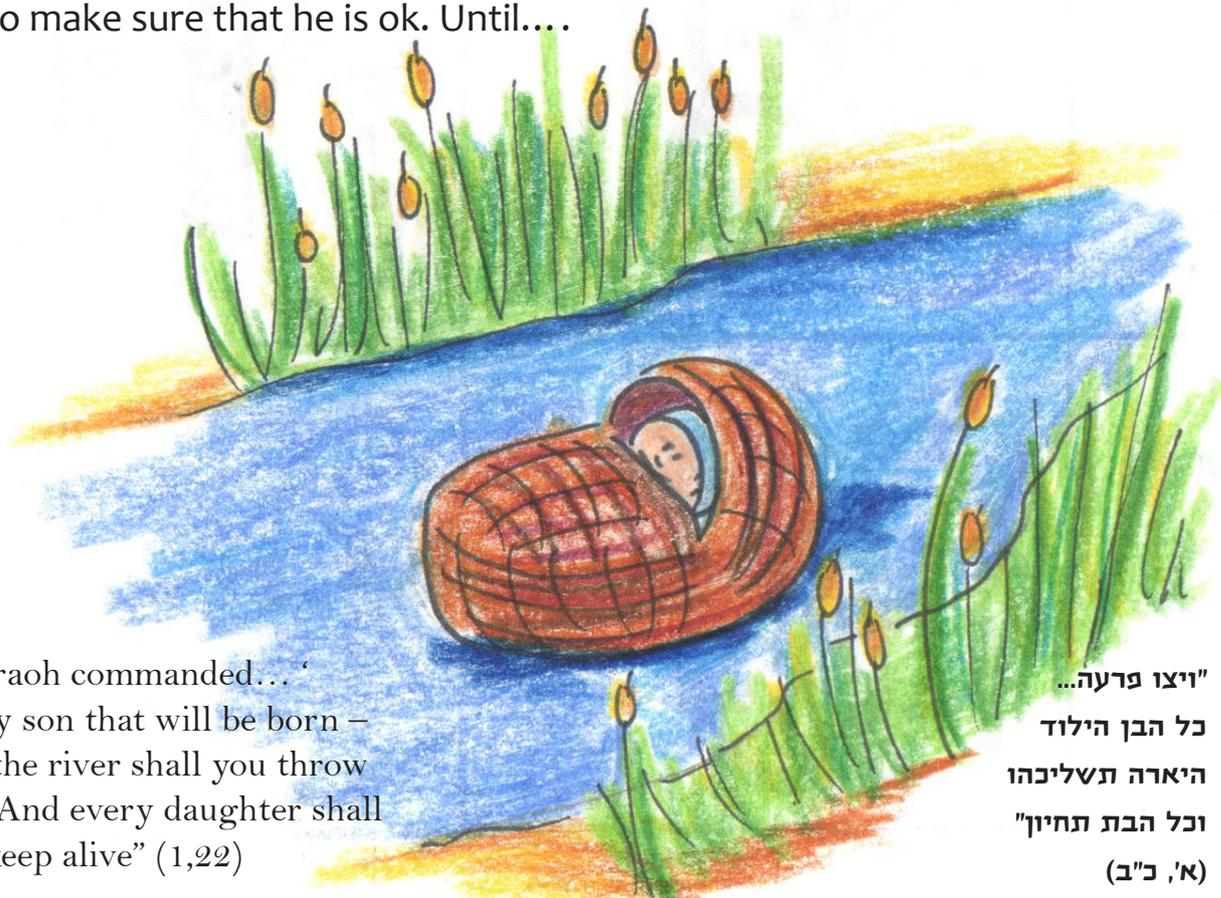
Would you dare not to listen to the king and not carry out his orders???

Activity

"Babies" - Bring the baby dolls into the living room, and take care of them as if they are real babies (give them a bottle, change their diapers, calm them when they cry, help them fall asleep...)

How to save a baby from the Egyptians?

Pharaoh understands that his attempt to get rid of the baby boys through the midwives has failed, so he makes another decree: every boy that is born in Egypt must be thrown into the Nile River (the large river in Egypt), and the girls can stay alive. Now the decree is not only for the midwives but for everyone! What a harsh decree! Think of how scared the families of Bnei Yisrael must have been. All people can think about is how to protect their newborn babies from the Egyptians... Listen closely to what happened in one family. A baby is born and brings great light into the home. For the next three months they are able to hide him inside the house. But afterwards it starts to get difficult. He must have started to make louder noises or to cry, and it became impossible to keep him hidden in the house. What do they do? The baby's mother prepares a basket that is fit to his size and is waterproof, places the baby inside the basket and puts him in the river. But it is dangerous! He could die! His older sister stands on the side the whole time, watching over him to make sure that he is ok. Until....



“Pharaoh commanded... ‘
Every son that will be born –
into the river shall you throw
him! And every daughter shall
you keep alive” (1,22)

“ויצו פרעה...
כל הבן הילוד
היארה תסליכהו
וכל הבת תחיון”
(א', כ"ב)



Did you ever go sailing in the sea?

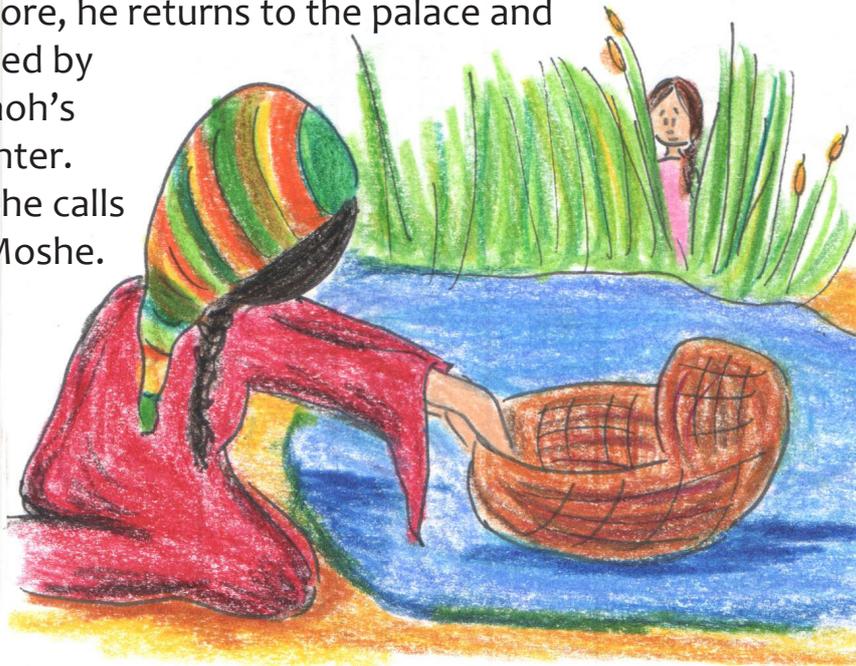
Activity

“Basket” – Look around the house for all different containers or toys that can be used as baskets, put a small doll inside each basket, and see which one is the most waterproof....

What will happen to the baby??

Suddenly, someone approaches the baby. And it is not just anyone- of all of the women in the world, comes the daughter of Pharaoh with her maids! Out of the corner of her eye she sees a basket that is hidden among the reeds of the Nile, and she reaches out and takes the basket. What does she find inside the basket? A crying baby! What will happen now? Will she throw him into the river? She is the daughter of King Pharaoh. She must know what her father has decreed. But she doesn't! Not only does she not throw him into the Nile, she tries to feed him! The baby refuses to eat and continues to cry. And then the baby's sister arrives, the sister that stood on the side the whole time and saw what happened. She approaches Pharaoh's daughter and offers to take the baby to a woman from Bnei Yisrael who can nurse him and take care of him. Pharaoh's daughter agrees and the sister brings a woman that is able to nurse the baby. Who does she bring? Of course – the baby's own mother! After the baby grows up and does not need to be nursed anymore, he returns to the palace and

is raised by Pharaoh's daughter. And she calls him Moshe.



"וַתֵּרָא אֶת הַתְּבָה בַּתּוֹךְ
הַסּוּף וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת
אִמָּתָהּ וַתִּקַּח" (ב', ה')

"She saw the basket among the reeds and she sent her maidservant and she took it" (2,5)

Activity

"Reach out your hand" - Place several items on the carpet, slowly step away from it, and check each time if you can still reach it by stretching out your hand (then you can add things that can help you reach it, like a broom).

Next Week In Parshat Va'eria...

We will see what strange things are about to happen in Egypt...

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Shabbat Shalom!

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