



# Kids Parsha Packet

פִּרְשַׁת לֵילָדִים

## Parshat Va'eria

Last Week in Parshat Shemot:

We learned about Bnei Yisrael in Egypt and about Pharaoh's harsh decrees...

### Hold on to Your Heart

Moshe was sad that he was not able to help Bnei Yisrael and ease the hard work that was forced upon them. He davens to Hashem to help him, and Hashem answers that Pharaoh will not easily allow Bnei Yisrael to leave. Why? Because Hashem hardens Pharaoh's heart. What does that mean? Even if Pharaoh wanted to let Bnei Yisrael leave, he will not do it. Deep inside, his heart will tell him not to free them and to continue his evil ways... Why?

Because Hashem wants to punish Pharaoh and Egypt for all of the bad things that they did to Bnei Yisrael, and to show them and the entire world that Hashem rules the world, not idols or anything else. Moshe and Aharon have a very difficult task. Bnei Yisrael expects them to free them, and every time that Moshe and Aharon approach Pharaoh, Bnei Yisrael hopes to hear good news. But Moshe and Aharon know that this will not happen so fast because Pharaoh's heart is hardened, and he will not free them easily... it will take time...



"ואני  
אקשה  
את לב  
פרעה"  
(ד', ג')

"And I shall  
harden Pharaoh's heart" (7,3)



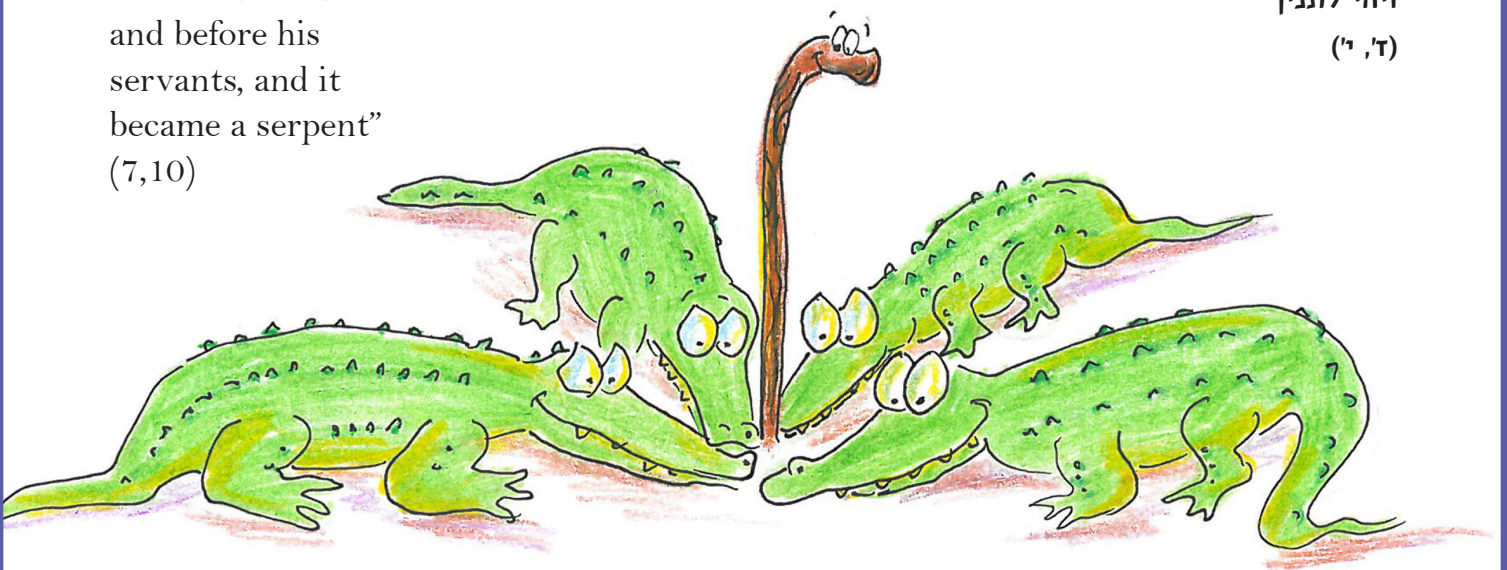
Do you think it hurts when your heart is hardened?

## What a Miracle!

Why do Moshe and Aharon do everything together? Can't Moshe speak to Pharaoh by himself? Moshe tells Hashem that it is difficult for him to speak and that he is not the right person to be a leader, so Hashem sends Aharon, his older brother, with him to help. Now they approach Pharaoh for the second time to show him a sign from Hashem. This is a special sign that shows Pharaoh that Hashem is able to do anything and that Pharaoh should allow Bnei Yisrael to leave Egypt. The first sign (miracle) is to turn Aharon's staff into a serpent. Aharon turns his staff into a serpent, but Pharaoh is not afraid. Instead, he asks his magicians (his advisors that preform magic) to turn their staffs into serpents. Amazing! They were also able to turn their staffs into serpents! And then an even bigger miracle happens: Aharon's staff (serpent) eats all of the staffs (serpents) of the magicians! How do you think Pharaoh reacted to this miracle? Does he agree to free Bnei Yisrael? He certainly does not! Remember that his heart is telling him not to let them leave?...

"Aaron cast  
down his staff  
before Pharaoh  
and before his  
servants, and it  
became a serpent"  
(7,10)

"ויסלך אהרן את גפרו  
לפני פרעה ולפני עבדיו  
ויהי לתנין"  
(ד', י')



Is it sometimes hard for you to say something? Do you ask your siblings or a friend for help?

**Activity**

One person acts out something without speaking, and someone else needs to explain what he is doing. Then ask the actor if the other person's explanation was correct.



## Who Likes the Color Red?

The first sign was not very successful, and Moshe comes to the Nile River early in the morning and meets Pharaoh there. Moshe asks Pharaoh to free Bnei Yisrael, but Pharaoh refuses again. Aharon takes his staff and touches the river, and at that moment the river turns to blood... The water in wells, streams, and pits and everywhere else all turns to blood. The Egyptians cannot drink the water, all the fish that were in the river die, and there is a horrible smell from the river. There is only one place in Egypt where the water stayed clean and clear. Do you know where? Where Bnei Yisrael lived! What a great miracle! Bnei Yisrael is not affected by this harsh plague. What do you say? Does Pharaoh agree to free Bnei Yisrael after all of the water turns to blood? Of course not! The magicians are able to do their “magic” again and turn water into blood, so Pharaoh is not convinced that he must fear Hashem and he refuses to allow Bnei Yisrael to leave.

“And all the water that was  
in the river turned to blood”  
(7,20)

“ויהפכו כל הים אשר ביאר

לדם”

(ד', כ')



Would you want to take a shower in blood?

### Activity

This is a good opportunity to make some red fruit juice for the family.



## Wake up in the morning and see frogs. Lots of frogs...

Moshe approaches Pharaoh once again and asks him to free Bnei Yisrael from Egypt, but Pharaoh still refuses. Aharon takes his staff once again and touches the river, and frogs begin to appear everywhere. Little frogs, big frogs, inside the house, inside the oven, in every room, and even on the beds... Would

you want to wake up in the morning to find frogs in your bed, and even on your pillow??? It is not pleasant at all to have frogs jumping everywhere. So after this happens, does Pharaoh agree to free Bnei Yisrael? Almost! Even though the magicians were able to do this “magic trick” too, Pharaoh asked Moshe and Aharon to make the frogs leave, and he tells them that if they do, he will allow them to leave Egypt. Moshe and Aharon daven to Hashem to end the plague, and it stops... But once the frogs are gone, Pharaoh refuses to free them and his heart gets even harder.

"ותעל

הצפרדע

ותכס את

ארץ מצרים

(ח', ב')

"I will  
smite all  
thy borders  
with frogs"  
(8,2)



### Activity

“Frog tag” – The person who is “it” holds a stick (not a big one that can hurt someone) and whoever he tags turns into a frog. The person who is tagged needs to jump like a frog and say “ribbit, ribbit”. The frog then becomes “it”, and when he tags the next person, he turns back into a person.

## Next Week In Parshat Bo...

We will see which other plagues Hashem brings to Egypt.

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# Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

Coloring page



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