



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשֶׁה לילדים

Parshat Beshalach

Last Week in Parshat Bo:

After the harsh plague where all of the firstborn sons die, Bnei Israel is free!

Careful protection, anywhere and anytime

After being in Egypt for so many years, in a familiar place with houses and villages, Bnei Yisrael are free to leave and begin their journey in the desert. On one hand, there is nothing more wonderful than freedom, but on the other hand traveling through the desert is not easy. The weather conditions can be very harsh, during the day it can be very hot, and there are almost no trees to provide shade from the heat. At night it can be very cold, and there is nowhere to hide because everything is exposed. In addition there are a lot of wild animals that can attack them (like snakes and scorpions). Hashem watches over Bnei Yisrael in a miraculous way. Two pillars accompany Bnei Yisrael: the pillar of clouds and the pillar of fire. The clouds protect Bnei Yisrael from weather and wild animals, and the fire shows them the way. During Bnei Yisrael's entire journey through in the desert, the pillars of clouds and fire accompany them.



"לא יגיש עמוד הענן יום ועמוד האש לילה לפני העם" (י"ג, כ"ב)

"He would not remove the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night from before the people." (13,22)

Activity

"Pillar of fire" - One person closes his eyes, and another person leads him around the house without crashing into things and without falling. You can have a race between the people whose eyes are closed and their guides - who can get to a specific spot first?

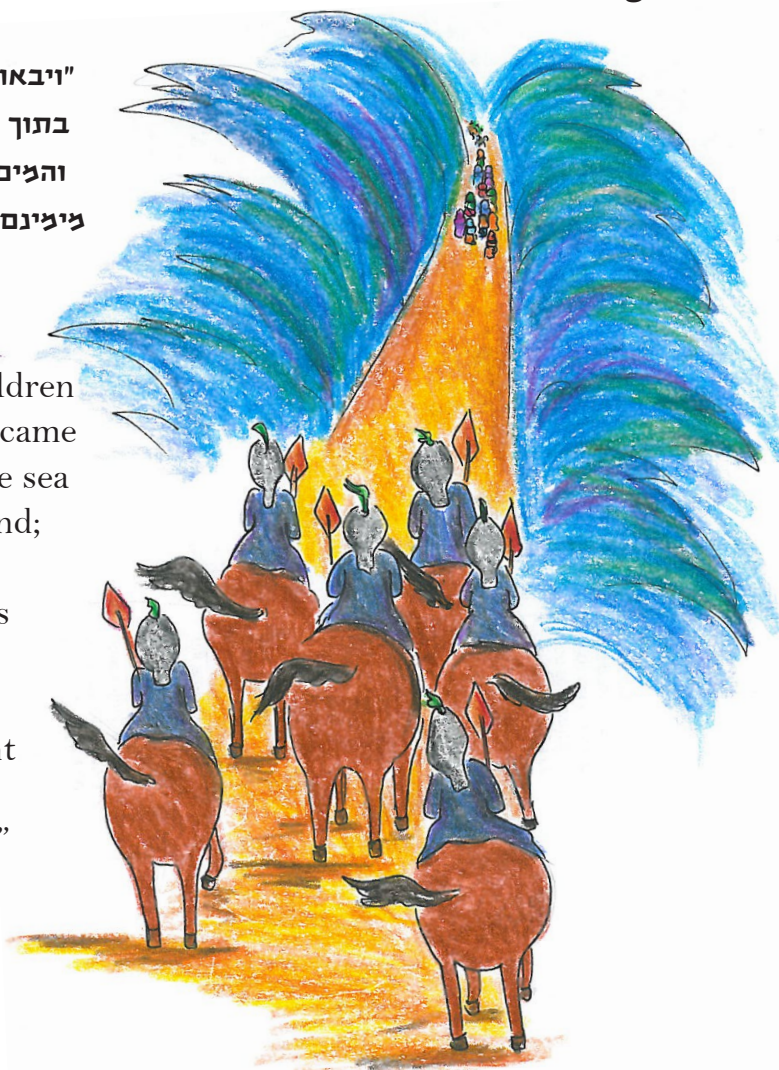
The Miracles Do Not Stop Coming...

Remember that Pharaoh agreed to free Bnei Yisrael? Well the story is not over yet... Pharaoh regrets freeing Bnei Yisrael, and decides to gather all of his soldiers and to chase after Bnei Yisrael. Pharaoh and his people come very quickly and are getting closer to Bnei Yisrael. Bnei Yisrael see them coming and are very scared. They do not know what to do! Pharaoh is chasing them, in front of them is a big sea, and they have nowhere to run! Bnei Yisrael cry to Hashem, and say to Moshe that it would have been better to just stay in Egypt because there they were safe, and now Pharaoh will kill them! Is Pharaoh successful? Hashem continues to do great miracles. The clouds

protect Bnei Yisrael and keep Pharaoh and his soldiers away from Bnei Yisrael so that the Egyptians cannot hurt them. In the meantime, Hashem tells Moshe to raise his staff and tilt it towards the water. And then a big miracle happens - the water splits, and now there is dry land in the middle of the sea! Bnei Yisrael are able to walk through the sea to the other side and flee from Pharaoh!

"ויבאו בני ישראל
בתוך הים ביבשה
והמים להם חוצה
צינים וגשאלם"
(י"ד, כ"ב)

"The Children
of Israel came
within the sea
on dry land;
and the
water was
a wall for
them, on
their right
and on
their left."
(14,22)



Have you ever decided on something and then changed your mind?

Activity

"Land - Sea" - A classic game for this Shabbat. (In case you don't know how to play - decide that one side of the house is the sea and the other side is land. One person tells everyone where to stand, either in the "sea" or on the "land" and everyone needs to run quickly from side to side. As the game continues, it gets faster and faster until everyone is confused...)

The Great Song

Bnei Yisrael enter the dry land inside the sea, and quickly cross to the other side. Pharaoh and his soldiers also enter into the sea and start to chase Bnei Yisrael. There is a lot of panic. When all of Bnei Yisrael come out of the sea and arrive at the other side, Hashem commands Moshe to tilt his hand towards the water once again. The water returns to normal, and the Egyptians drown in the sea. Bnei Yisrael are saved from Pharaoh and his soldiers forever. After Bnei Yisrael sees this great miracle, they begin to sing a song of praise to Hashem for the miracles that he did for them. This is the first time that Bnei Yisrael are able to stop, pay attention to the good that was done for them and to thank Hashem. Miriam, Moshe's sister, brought a drum with her when they left Egypt, and all the women follow her in singing and dancing. Therefore this Shabbat is also called Shabbat Shirah (Shabbat of Song), to remember how Bnei Yisrael sang to Hashem by the sea after it was split.

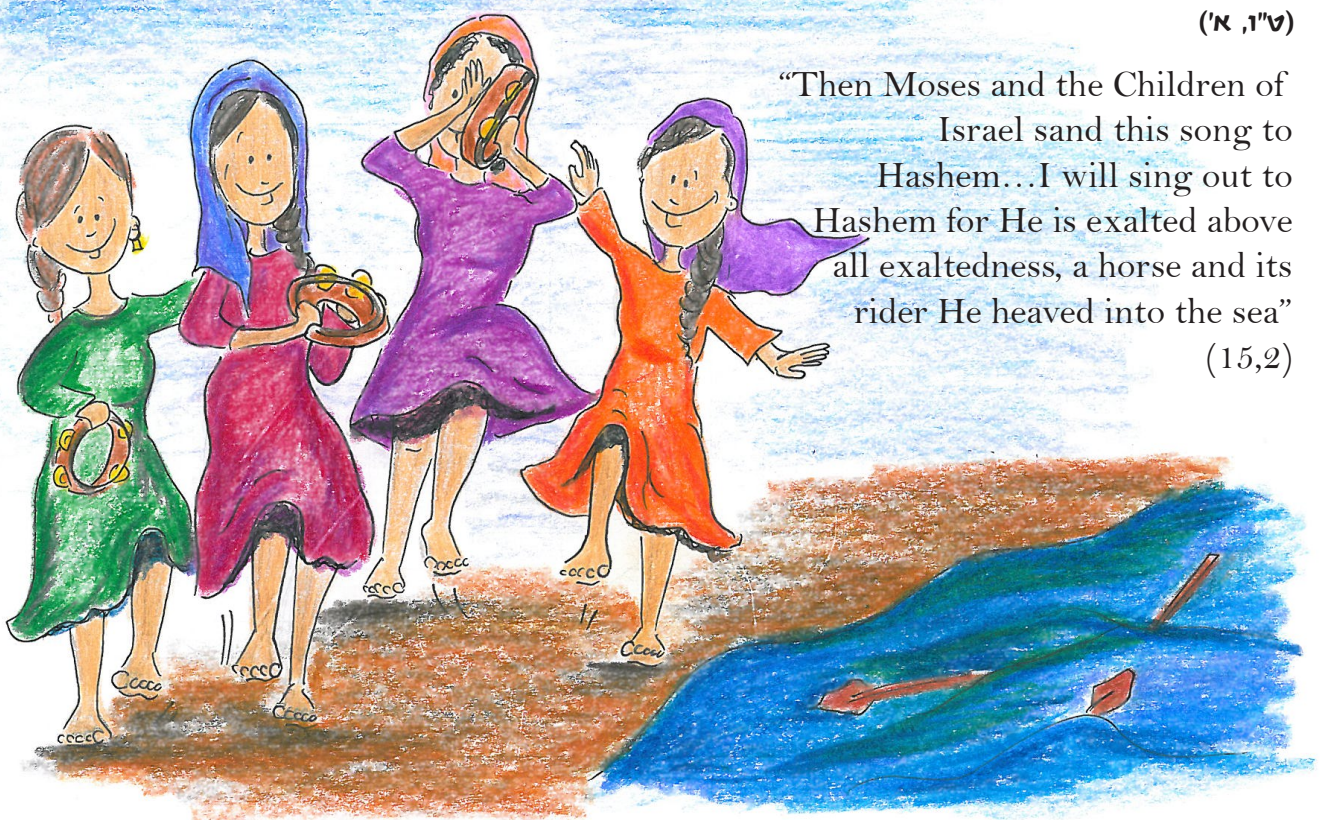
"אז ישיר גשה ובני ישראל את השירה הזאת לה'..."

אשירה לה' כי גאה גאה סוס ורכבו רגה בים"

(ט"ו, א')

"Then Moses and the Children of Israel sang this song to Hashem... I will sing out to Hashem for He is exalted above all exaltedness, a horse and its rider He heaved into the sea"

(15,2)



Do you also like to sing when you are happy?

Activity

"A song of praise" – Prepare a song of thanks for another family member for all the great things that he or she does.

Bread from Heaven

Remember how hard it is to be in the desert? In the desert it is also hard to find food. Bnei Yisrael complain that there is nothing to eat and in Egypt they had a lot of food. Hashem makes a miracle, and bread comes down from the sky! Every day the bread falls from heaven to the ground, and Bnei Yisrael must go out and collect it. Each family is instructed to collect just enough for everyone, not too little and not too much. Also they cannot leave any over for the next day. Every morning they will gather their food again, except on Shabbat. The bread will not fall from the heavens on Shabbat, so each family needs to collect double on Friday to have enough for Shabbat as well. Bnei Yisrael calls this bread manna. The whole time that Bnei Yisrael are in the desert, the manna falls from the sky each day.



"וַיִּקְרָאוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת שְׁמוֹ מַן
וְהוּא כְזֶרַע גֹּד לֶבֶן
וְטַעְמוֹ כַּצִּפִּיחַת
בִּדְבַשׁ"
(ט"ז, ל"א)

"The House
of Israel
called is manna,
and it was like
coriander seed, white,
and it tasted like a wafer
fried in honey."
(16,31)



What food would you want to fall from the sky?

Next Week In Parshat Yitro...

We attend a great and extremely important gathering!!!

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

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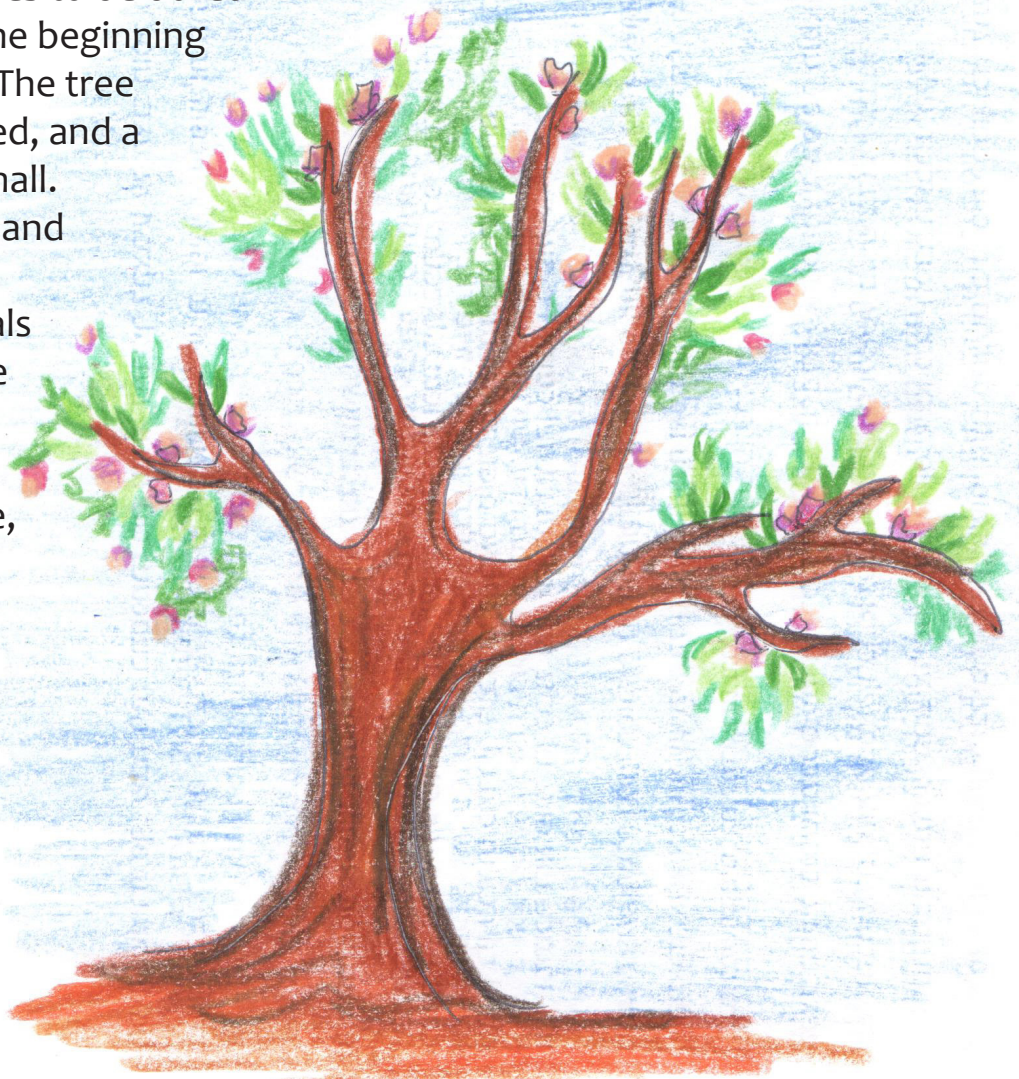
Parashat Beshalach

Tu' Bshvat

The Torah tells us that in times of war, a lot of things are destroyed: Houses, walls, playgrounds and more. But it warns us not to damage the trees. Why? Because trees are like people.

Really? How are people and trees alike??? There seem to be some similarities... First, if you stand next to a tree and raise your hands up to the sky, you can see that the tree is also holding its “arms” up to the sky... Man and trees are always striving to grow and flourish. A tree that does not grow will probably wither and never grow again. And what do we always say to children! “If you do not eat you will not grow”! We also aspire to grow, develop, and learn new things. No one likes to be bored...

Another similarity is the beginning of trees and humans. The tree starts from a small seed, and a person is born very small. Over time, both grow and develop and become independent individuals that make a difference in the world. In honor of Tu Beshvat, you should sit under a tree, enjoy the shade, and look at the world a little differently.



"כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה"

(דברים כ', י"ט)

"Is, then, the tree of
the field a man"
(Devarim 20, 19)



What is your favorite tree? Why?

Activity

How many different kinds of trees can you name (you can also add names of flowers)?