



Kids Parsha Packet

פָּרָשַׁת לֵילָדִים

Parshat Acharei Mot

Last week in Parshat Metzora:

During the time of the Mishkan, Bnei Yisrael strictly observed the laws of purity and impurity.

How do you enter the holiest place in the world?

In the Mishkan (and later in the Beit Hamikdash), there was a very important place called the Kodesh Hakodashim (the Holy of Holies). Do you remember what was kept there? The holy ark was there. Inside the ark were the tablets, and the Cherubim were placed on top of the ark. Hashem spoke with Moshe from inside of the Kodesh Hakodashim. This was the place where Hashem's divine presence resided in the Mishkan. Picture the office of a very important person, like a school principal or the president. Would you enter the office without knocking or without asking for permission? Can we just walk into an important place whenever we like and wearing whatever we want? The Kodesh Hakodashim is the most important place in the Mishkan. Hashem

tells Moshe to teach Aharon that he is the only person allowed to enter the Kodesh Hakodashim, and only at a specific time, in a specific way, and wearing specific clothes.

"וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר אֶל אַהֲרֹן
אַחֲרֶיךָ וְאֵל יֵבֹא בְּכָל עֵת אֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ
מִבֵּית לַפָּרֹכֶת" (ט"ז, ב')

"And Hashem said to Moses: Speak to Aaron, your brother—he may not come at all times into the Sanctuary, within the curtain" (16, 2)



Do you like when other people tell you what to do? When is it ok and when is it not? Why?

The special work done in the Kodesh Hakodashim

After Aharon learned all about bringing sacrifices in the Mishkan, he learns something new. He learns about the special work that the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest, must do in order to enter the Kodesh Hakodashim. The Kohen Gadol does not enter wearing the clothes that he wears for his regular work in the Mishkan. He goes in wearing all white, like all of the other Kohanim. After he changes his clothes, he takes two goats and draws a lottery. The lottery determines which of the goats will be sacrificed to Hashem and which will go to Azazel. The goat that will be sacrificed to Hashem atones for all of the bad deeds done by Bnei Yisrael during the past year. In order to enter the Kodesh Hakodashim, the Kohen carries burning coals and incense on a large shovel and creates a kind of a cloud. Then he leaves the shovel outside of the Kodesh Hakodashim. Do you remember when we last talked about a cloud? A cloud came down and rested on Har Sinai when we received the Torah, and rested on the Mishkan once it was constructed. Hashem appears to Bnei Yisrael in a cloud.

"Aaron shall place lots upon the two he-goats: one lot "to Hashem" and one lot "to Azazel" (16, 8)

"ונתן אהרן על שני השעירים
גרלות גורל אחד לה' וגורל
אחד לעזאזל" (ט"ז, ח')

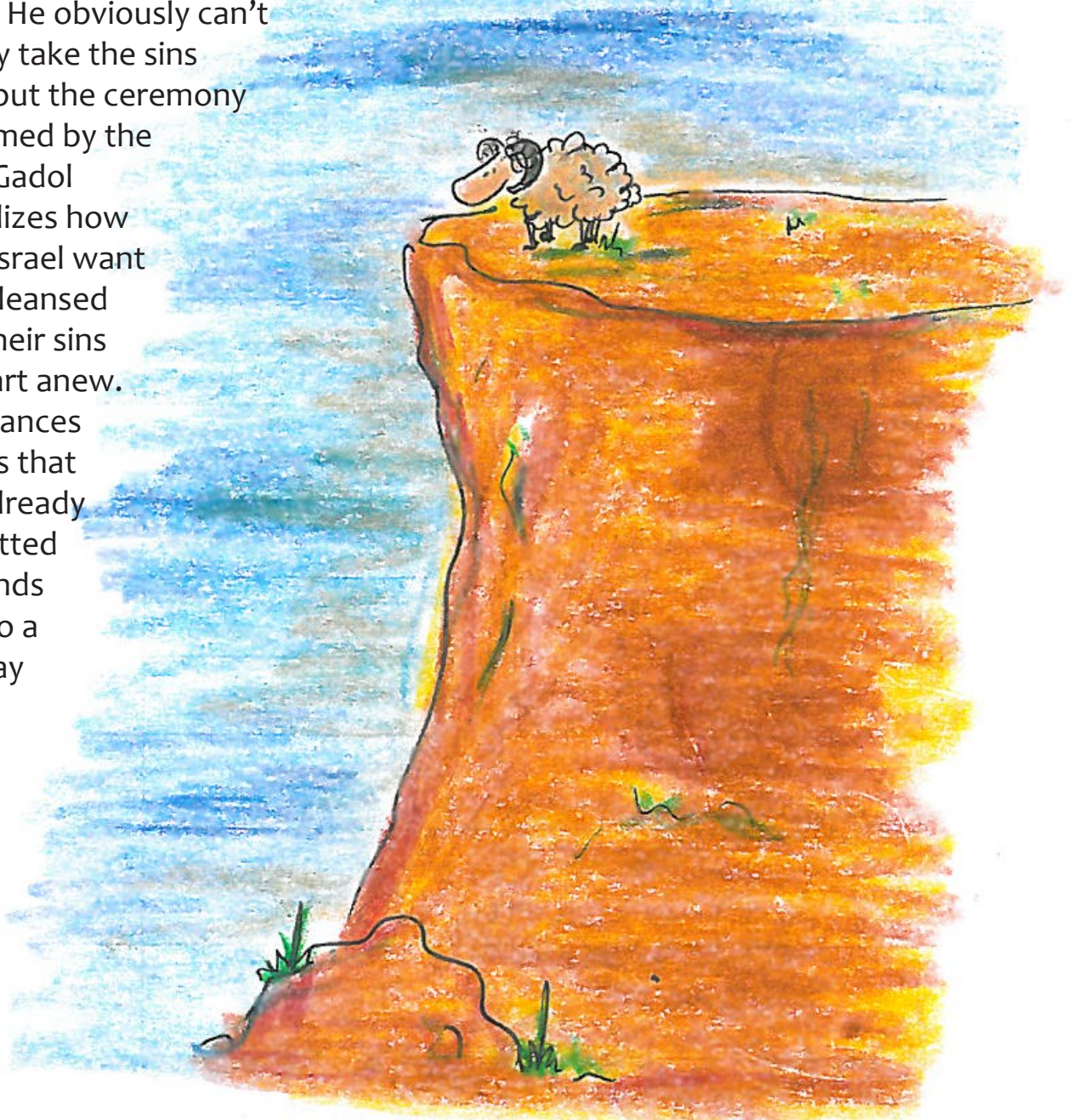


Activity

"Lottery" – One person shuts his eyes. Two people stand on either side of him without letting the first person know who they are. The first person decides which of the two people will be the king and which will be the servant. Then the servant does whatever the king asks, like making him laugh, bringing him water, giving him a massage, and more.

Where does the second goat go?

After the Kohen Gadol sacrifices one goat to Hashem, he stands by the second goat – the one chosen for Azazel. He places his hands on the goat and confesses the sins that Bnei Yisrael did during the past year. What does confession mean? The Kohen Gadol says out loud that Bnei Yisrael did bad things, and transfers these bad deeds to the goat. Then, the goat “carries” all of these sins into the desert, where they remain far away from the people who committed them. Does the goat actually take the sins with him? He is just a goat! He obviously can’t actually take the sins away, but the ceremony performed by the Kohel Gadol symbolizes how Bnei Yisrael want to be cleansed from their sins and start anew. He distances the sins that were already committed and sends them to a far-away place.



"וּנְשָׂא הַשְּׂעִיר עָלָיו אֶת כָּל עֲוֹנוֹתֵם אֶל אֶרֶץ גִּזְרָה" (ט"ז, כ"ב)

"The he-goat will bear upon itself all their iniquities to a cut land" (16, 22)



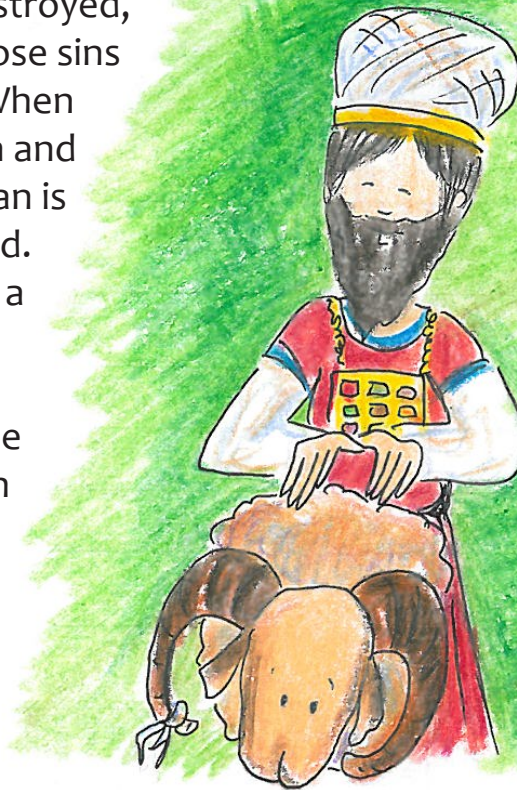
Have you ever done something wrong that you wish you could send to Azazel?

When can the Kohen Gadol enter the Kodesh Hakodashim?

The Kohen Gadol enters the Kodesh Hakodashim on the most important day of the year. What day is that? It's a day when everyone fasts and prays. It is Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur was the day that the Kohen Gadol worked in the Mishkan and in the Kodesh Hakodashim in order to atone for all of the bad things that Bnei Yisrael did over the past year so that they can start anew. Why was this done in the Mishkan? When Bnei Yisrael misbehave, the Mishkan is affected and becomes impure.

The Mishkan is not destroyed, but the impurity of those sins affects the Mishkan. When Bnei Yisrael is forgiven and start anew, the Mishkan is purified and is renewed.

Today we do not have a Beit Hamikdash and therefore we describe the avoda (work) done by the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur in our prayers. We hope and pray to see the Beit Hamikdash again soon.



וַיִּכַּפֵּר אֶת עֲקֹדַשׁ הַקֹּדֶשׁ
וְאֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְאֶת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
יִכַּפֵּר וְעַל הַכֹּהֲנִים
וְעַל כָּל עַם הַקֹּהֵל יִכַּפֵּר
(ט"ז, ל"ג)

"He shall bring atonement upon the Holy of Holies, and he shall bring atonement upon Tent of Meeting and the Mizbe'ach; and upon the Kohanim and upon the people of the congregation shall he bring atonement."
(16, 33)



Do you think that it is important to start anew? Why?

Activity

"A New Page" – Since one cannot color on Shabbat, "draw" on the back of your friend all sort of things. The one whose back is being drawn on needs to guess what the other person is drawing. When you start a new drawing, you need to "erase" the previous drawing and in this way he "starts" a new page.

Next week in Parshat Kedoshim...

We will learn about the Mitzvot concerning how people relate to one another.

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

Sefirat Ha'Omer

From the second night of Pesach until the day before Shavout we count each day during the seven week period of Sefirat Ha'omer (counting of the omer). What is Sefirat Ha'omer? When we had a Beit Hamikdash in Jerusalem, on the first day of chol hamoed Pesach the Kohen sacrificed the Korban Omer, made of barley. After sacrificing the korban everyone was allowed to eat from the new harvest of barley, the new grain that grew over the winter. From that day on everyone counted until they reached the fiftieth day, Chag Shavout. On the holiday of Shavout the Kohen sacrificed the korban known as "Shte HaLechem" (The Two Loaves), and after that everyone was allowed to eat from the new harvest of wheat. In the time of the Beit Hamikdash the renewal of nature and the growth of the fields, were very important to daily life.

Today we do not have a Beit Hamikdash and we do not sacrifice korbanot.

So what do we do? Each night we count how many days have passed since Pesach, which reminds us how many days until Chag Matan Torah (The holiday of receiving the Torah), Shavout.

"וספרתם לכם געזרת השבת, גיום הביאכם את
עזר התנופה - שבע שבתות תגיית תהינה"
(ויקרא כ"ג, ט"ו)

"You shall count for yourselves- from the morrow of the rest day, from the day when you bring the omer of the weaving - seven weeks, they shall be complete." (23,15)



Is it hard or easy to remember to count sefirat ha'omer every night?

Activity

"Let's Count" We stand in a circle, and each person counts the next number. After each number, the person says how many times an activity needs to be done based on that number (hop on one foot 5 times, do six push ups, hold your breath 7 times, etc.)



Parashat Achrei Mot