



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשֶׁה לילדים

Parshat Emor

Last Week in Parshat Kedoshim :

We learned about the work of the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur and about mitzvot that teach us how to interact with other people.

In a holy place you must be holy

Who makes sure that the house is neat and clean, that we get up in time for school, and that we have food to eat? Our parents, of course. In the Mishkan, the Kohanim are like the parents. They take care of the Mishkan. They keep it organized, prepare the special bread (Lechem Hapanim), sacrifice the korbanot on time and much more. In the book of Vayikra, the Torah talks a lot about impurity (tuma'a) and purity (tahara). Do you remember what we learned over the last few weeks? We talked about tzara'at on the body, clothing, houses, and utensils that make them impure, about pure and impure animals, and more. The Kohanim have to be careful to stay away from things that are impure. Do you remember why? The Mishkan is an important, holy place – it is the house of Hashem. The Kohanim must remain pure at all times so that they can work in the Mishkan. If they do become impure (intentionally or accidentally), they cannot work in the Mishkan until they become pure again.



"וְלֹא יַחֲלִילוּ אֶת קֹדְשֵׁי
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת אֲשֶׁר יִרְיֻצוּ לָהֶם"
(כ"ב, ט"ו)

"They shall not defile the holy things of the Children of Israel, which they set aside to HaShem."
(22,15)



Do you manage to stay clean when you eat? When you play in the playground?
When you color and paint?

Every holiday is unique

What does the weather have to do with food? In the past, people generally prepared their food by working in the field. The amount of rain that fell determined the amount of food that each person had for the year. When Pesach approached, they would start gathering grains from the fields. On Pesach they harvested barley, on Shavuot they harvested wheat, and on Succot, just before winter, they collected the rest of the grain, planted new seeds, and waited and hoped that rain would come. Hashem did not give us any holidays during the winter. It is hard to celebrate when you are worried about how much rain will fall and whether you will have enough food to eat. Today, it is hard to understand the connection between farming and the holidays because we have plenty of fresh food in the supermarkets all year round. But, besides for the well-known reasons for celebrating the holidays like leaving Egypt and receiving the Torah, the holidays are also scheduled so that Bnei Yisrael can celebrate the renewal of nature each year, as the flowers blossom and the grain grows.

“When you shall enter the Land that I give you and you reap it’s harvest, you shall bring the Omer of the first of your harvest to the Kohen.”
(23,10)



”כי תבאו אל הארץ
אשר אני נתן לכם
וקצרתם את קצירה
והבאתם את עמר
ראשית קצירכם
אל הכהן”
(כ”ג, י”)



What’s your favorite season? Why?

Activity

“The four seasons” – All the participants lie on their stomachs. One member of the family “draws” (using a finger) something related to one of the four seasons of the year on each person’s back. Everyone has to identify the picture and the season to which it belongs (for example – rain drops, flowers, rainbows, etc.).

Where will you be spending the holiday?

What did you do over Pesach vacation? Did you go on trips and visit family? Was there a lot of traffic on the road? Everyone looks for places to spend time with family, see beautiful sites, go swimming, barbecue, and more. During the time of the Mishkan, the holidays were family time too, but they was also time to go to the Mishkan and bring the special holiday sacrifices. Bnei Yisrael was commanded to go to the Mishkan three times a year – on each of the three holidays mentioned in the Torah: Pesach, Shavuot and Succot. Families from all over Israel, from north and south, came to Jerusalem by donkey and by foot to bring sacrifices. Today, we do not have the Bet Hamikdash and we do not have the mitzvah of going to Jerusalem on the holidays, but many people still visit the Kotel to daven, attend Birkat Kohanim (Blessing from the Kohanim), or simply to just be there. Imagine how much traffic there was on the roads to Jerusalem when the Beit Hamikdash was standing... We hope and pray to merit witnessing this in our times.



Would you prefer to walk to Jerusalem or to drive there?

Activity

“On the road to Jerusalem” – Set up chairs as if they were in a car. Appoint a driver and take turns hitching a ride to Jerusalem. Pretend to be different kinds of hitchhikers and act out the characters (try being an old grandmother, a soldier, a small boy that got lost , and anything else you can think of).

Allowed or not allowed?

How do you prepare for Shabbat? We help clean the house so that it will be neat and clean in honor of Shabbat. Mom and Dad prepare lots of tasty food on Friday because we cannot cook on Shabbat. We all shower and wear nice clothes. I'm sure you remember that there are things that we are not allowed to do on Shabbat, like cutting paper or coloring, because it is a special holy day. The different holidays (Pesach, Shavuot, Succot, and Rosh Hashana) are also special days. We prepare for them like we do for Shabbat, and certain types of work are forbidden on the holidays. However, there are some things that we are allowed to do on the holidays but not on Shabbat, like cooking. If we light a flame before the holiday and leave it burning, we are allowed to use the flame to light a stove or a bonfire to cook food.

But you have to remember not to extinguish the fire when you're finished cooking. What tastes better? Schnitzel that was on a hot plate for hours or fresh out of the frying pan?



"כל מלאכת עבודה לא תעשו"

(כ"ג, ח)

"You shall
do no
laborious
work"
(23,8)

Activity

"Cooking" - Take out all of the toy food and cooking equipment in the house and make a royal meal for the rest of the family. Bon appetite!

Next Week in Parshat Behar - Bechukotai...

We will see what happens every seven years in the Land of Israel and the importance of keeping the mitzvot...

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids



Parashat Emor

Yom Ha'atzmaut

We celebrate this year 71 years of Israel's existence.

Wait a minute, Israel has existed for many years, we heard about it all the way back in the times of Avraham Avinu, so how are we celebrating only 71 years? Israel truly has existed for many years, but Bnei Yisrael did not live in it for all those years. After the Beit Hamikdash was destroyed, they were spread throughout the world and only a few Jewish people remained in Israel. Throughout the years, Jews dreamt and hoped to live in Israel, but the governments that ruled over the land often did not let the Jews return. For many years, Israel was an abandoned country and it was very hard to live there. When the Jews started to return, they planted flowers and trees, built houses, and ensured that Israel would blossom and grow. Sixty eight years ago, David Ben Gurion announced that the State of Israel is the homeland for all Jews.

Therefore, every year we celebrate the birthday of our country, of our independence and control of our land.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut we say the Hallel prayer in order to thank Hashem for bringing us back to Israel after so many years, and that he gives us the strength to control Israel and to live there in safety and happiness.



Do you know the symbols of Israel?

Activity

"Happy Birthday to the country" Place a chair in the middle of the room, put on it a symbol of Israel, and raise the chair 71 times (or less...). Every time you raise the chair, say a birthday wish for the country! For example, "That our country should be clean", "that our country shall have happiness", etc.