



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿ'שַׁח לילדים

Parshat Behar

Last week in Parshat Emor

We learned about how Bnei Yisrael celebrated the holidays in the times of the Mishkan.

Some things are beyond our control...

What do most kids look forward to all year? Summer vacation! After an entire year of school, we can't wait for a vacation. Do you know that the land gets a break too? Hashem commands Bnei Yisrael that once they settle in the Land of Israel they must give the land a one-year 'vacation' after each six years of work. The Torah calls this special year shemita. What is shemita? Farmers may not work their land for a full year (with some specific exceptions), and poor people can take the crops that grow throughout the land. Why did Hashem give us this mitzvah? The farmers work hard all year round so that there is food available. Why must they stop all of a sudden? Hashem teaches Bnei Yisrael who is the true owner of the land. It all belongs to Hashem. The crops

grow from the earth not only due the farmers' hard work, but thanks to Hashem's intervention.

We must pray to Hashem to provide us with food, a livelihood, and everything else that we need.



"ובשנה השביעית שבת שבתון יהיה

לארץ שבת לה' " (כ"ה, ד')

"But the seventh year shall be a complete rest

for the land,

a Sabbath

for Hashem"

(24,4)



Does the land like to rest or does it like to be worked all of the time?

Everyone eventually goes back home...

Do you remember where you were born? Where was the first house that you lived in? Many families move several times during their lifetimes. When Bnei Yisrael arrived in Israel after leaving Egypt, things worked differently. Each shevet (tribe) received a portion of the Land of Israel and each family received its own plot of land. Sometimes families had to give up their plot of

land and sell it in order to earn money and they had to go live elsewhere. Hashem commands Bnei Yisrael that once every fifty years, in the year that is called yovel, the shofar will be blown on Yom Kippur, and every family will return to its original home. Why does Hashem command this? Just like shemita, Hashem is teaching Bnei Yisrael that the property that we own is not entirely under our control. Only Hashem decides what and how much each person owns. Also, farmers may not work the land during yovel, which means that the land rests for two consecutive years once every fifty years: during shemita in the forty-ninth year and yovel in the fiftieth.

"יובל היא

שנת החמישים

שנה תהיה לכם

(ב"ה, י"א)

"It shall be
a Jubilee year
for you - this
fiftieth year"
(25,11)



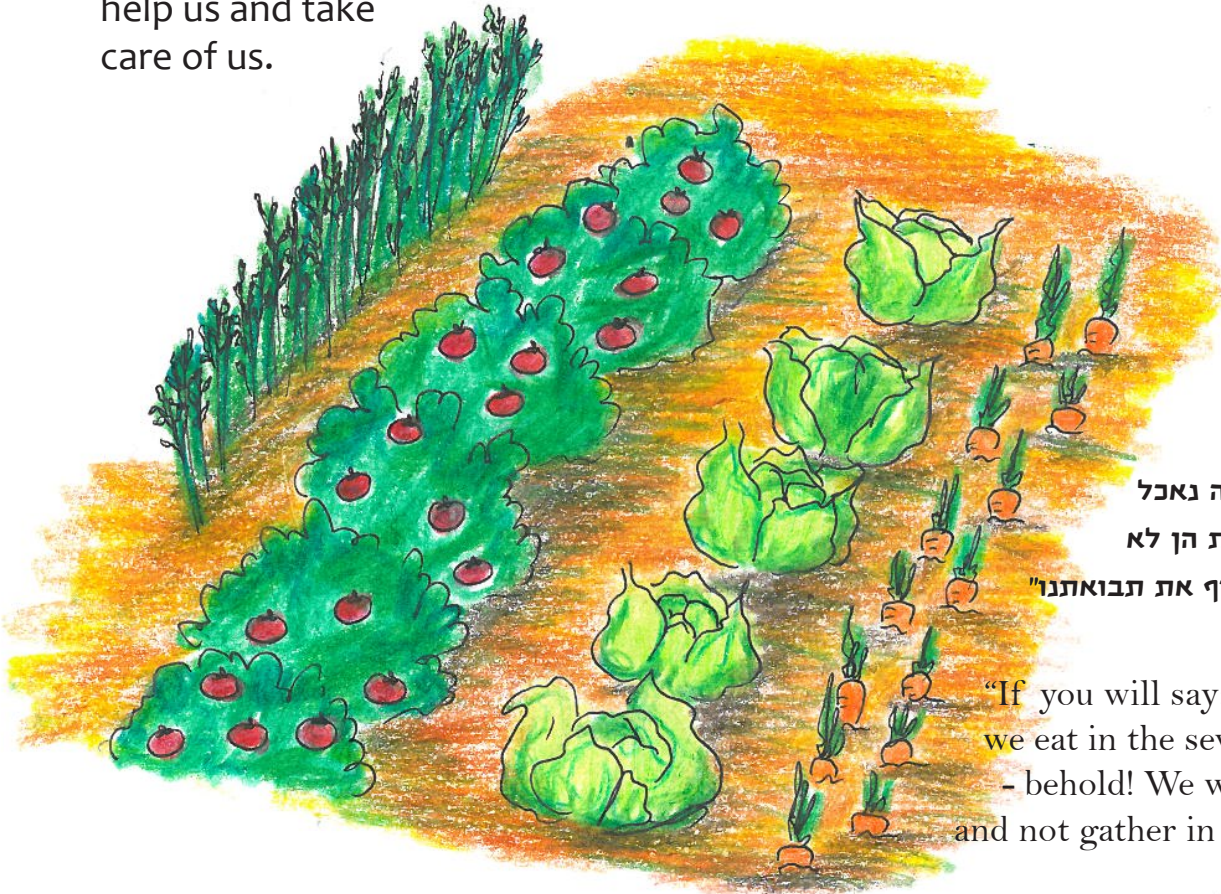
Do you like being at home?

Activity

"Everything back in place" - Bring games, clothing, and books to the living room, and have a contest to see who can put everything away the fastest. Everyone counts together from 1 to 50 as one person rushes to put everything away.

No work for a whole year? What will we eat?

What happens to your room if you do not clean it for a week? It is hard to find clothes that you want to wear and it takes time to find the games that you want to play. You might get annoyed more easily than usual because everything is a mess and you can't find your things. Imagine what would happen if you didn't clean your room for an entire year. It sounds like your parents' worst nightmare!!! Hashem commands Bnei Yisrael not to work the land during the year of shemita. Think about how stressful this could be for Bnei Yisrael. If they don't work the land and don't plant anything for a whole year, how much grain will they find in the field? What will everyone eat? How will they manage? Hashem promises Bnei Yisrael that before the year of shemita arrives, the land will be blessed in the sixth year so that it will produce enough crops for the seventh year as well. This is a lesson in faith that Hashem teaches Bnei Yisrael: to rely on Hashem and believe that he will help us and take care of us.



"וכי תאמרו מה נאכל

בשנה השביעית הן לא

נזרע ולא נאסף את תבואתנו"

(כ"ה, כ')

"If you will say: What will we eat in the seventh year?

- behold! We will not sow and not gather in our crops!"

(25,20)



Do you like to eat? What is your favorite food?

Activity

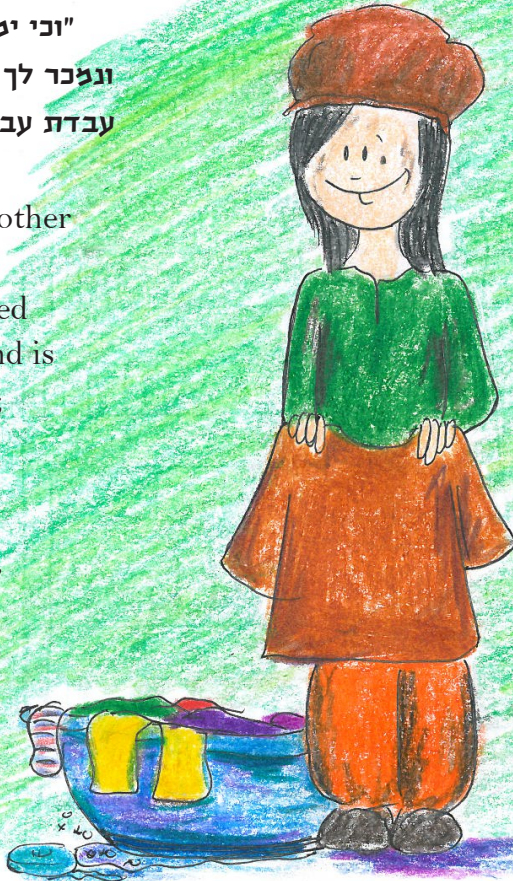
"Do you trust me?" - Stand in a circle. One person stands in the middle of the circle with his eyes closed, relaxes his body, and falls on one of the family members standing in the circle. Does he rely on them to catch him before he falls?

The land is not the only thing returned to its owner....

We learned that during the year of yovel, the homes and lands were returned to the families that originally lived in them. But in addition to that, all of the Jewish slaves were freed. Wait a minute, Bnei Yisrael were slaves in Egypt! They can't be slaves again! So it turns out that they can be slaves... Sometimes a person owes another person a lot of money, but can't afford to pay his debts. Long ago, the person who owed money would become a slave who lived and worked for his master (the person who had lent him the money).

"וכי יצוך אחיך ענין
ונגזר לך לא תעבד בו
עבדת עבד" (כ"ה, ל"ט)

"If your brother
becomes
impoverished
with you and is
sold to you;
you shall
not work
him with
slave labor"
25,39)



The money that the slave earned from working for his master was used to repay the debt. Hashem warns Bnei Yisrael that they must behave respectfully to the slaves, and they must not force their slaves do hard labor like the Egyptians did to them. When the year of yovel arrives, all of the slaves are freed and return to their homes even if they did not finish paying back their debt. Imagine how happy the slaves were to return to their homes and be free once again!

Activity

"I am the master". One member of the family is the master, and he tells everyone what to do (nice things, of course). How do you change masters? The servants have to get the master to say the words "yes" or "no". If the master says one of those words, someone else becomes the new master.

Next week in Parshat Bechukotai...

We will finish Sefer Vayika and learn about the importance of keeping the Mitzvot.

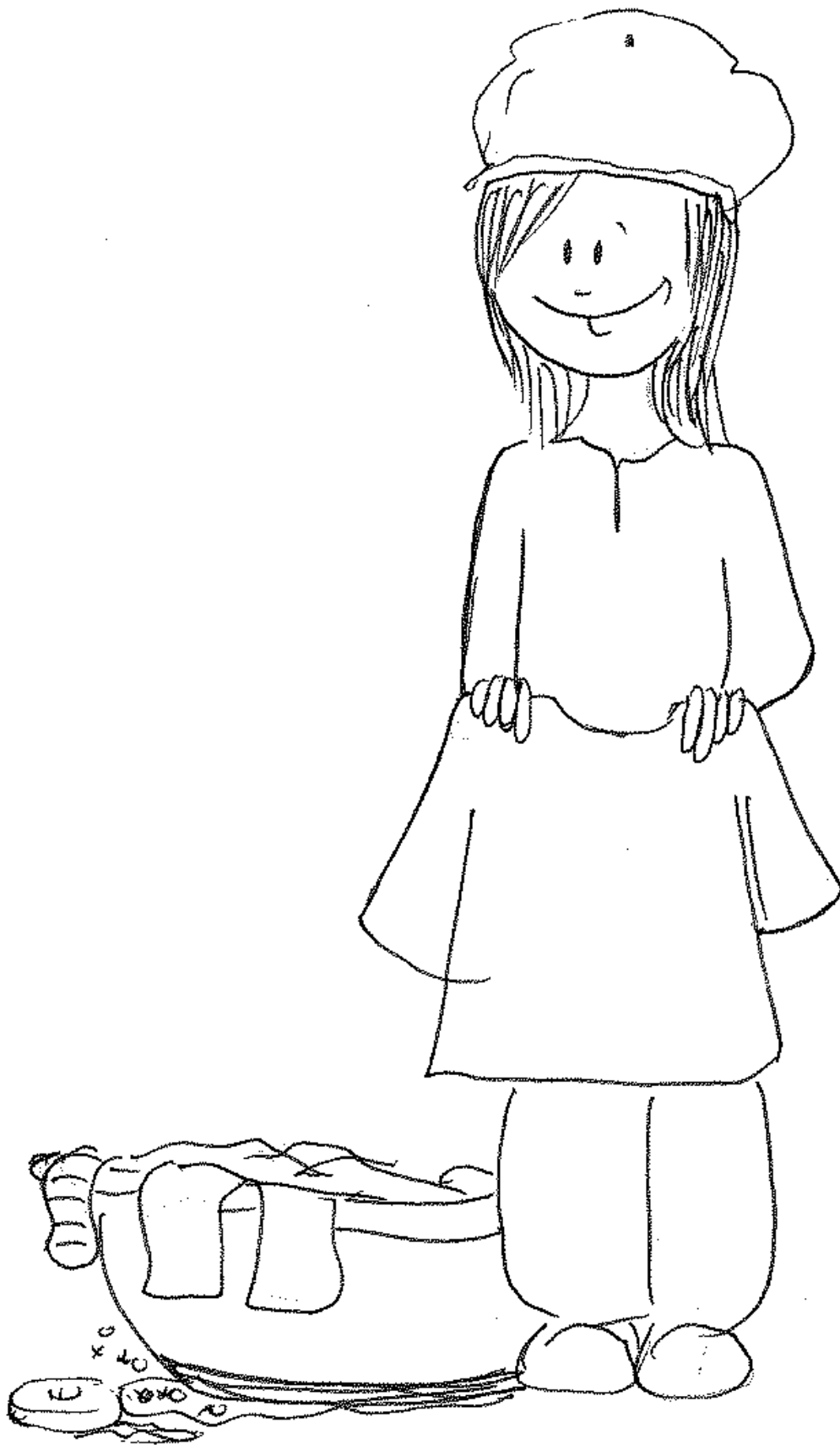
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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

Coloring page



Parashat Behar