



Kids Parsha packet

פֶּשַׁח לִילָדִים

Chag HaShavuot

After forty nine days of counting we reach the holiday of Shavout. Like Pesach, this holiday has many names, and each name comes to teach us something significant about the day. There is a tradition to learn Torah on the night of Shavout, so let us learn together.

Chag HaShavuot...

Are you waiting for summer vacation? If we called it "A different type of school" would you also be waiting for summer vacation? We have been in school learning for the whole year, we had tests and school work and now we are waiting for that special time - vacation! Do you realize that the holiday of Shavuot (literally meaning weeks) is called this because of the seven weeks Bnei Yisrael counted and not for the fiftieth day that they counted towards? It is a little strange, right? Of course the holiday has other names, and we will see them soon, but why would you name the holiday after something that has nothing to do with the holiday? It is not by accident that this is the most famous name of the holiday. Perhaps the holiday of Shavuot comes to teach us that sometimes the effort and the work that goes into preparing for a moment is what is truly important. Shavuot is an opportunity to make sure that we treat each other with respect, did we speak nicely to each other, and were we nice to the people around us. In other words, are we living our lives in a meaningful way or are we just waiting for fun and interesting things to happen?

"You shall count for yourself – from the morrow of the rest day, from the day when you bring the Omer of the waving – seven weeks, they shall be complete" (Vayikra 33,15)



"וספרתם לכם גִּזְרֵת
הַשַּׁבָּת יוֹם הַבִּיאָכֶם
אֶת עֵצֶר הַתְּנוּפָה שֶׁבַע
שַׁבָּתוֹת תִּגִּיעַת תִּהְיֶינָה"
(ויקרא כ"ג, טו)



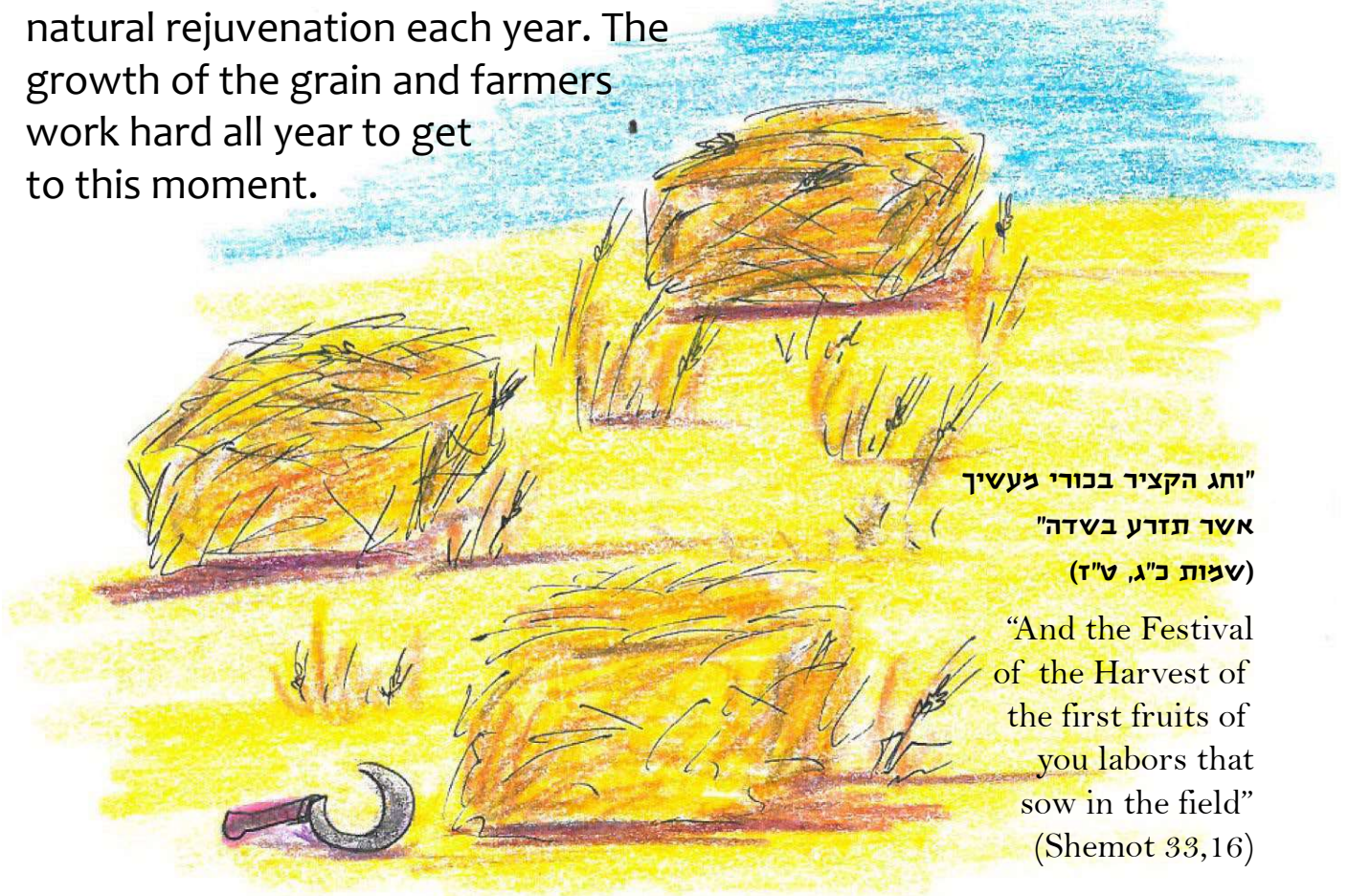
What is more important, the process and journey towards a certain event or the event itself that you waited for?

Activity

Think about moments in your life that you waited a long time to happen. Think about how you felt when the time finally came, and at the time after it was over.

Chag HaKatzir (Harvest)

What is harvest? In the beginning of the winter the farmers plant seeds in the ground and wait for rain. For the rest of the winter the rain comes and the crops grow. In the beginning of the spring and the summer the crops ripen, and then comes the stage of harvest. In the past they did not have sophisticated vehicles like tractors or combines, the farmers would harvest (cut the wheat) with special tools that help harvest in a better way (for example a sickle). When harvest period began the farmers and all the people were very happy. Why? What is so exciting about hard work in the field? Today we have supermarkets and bakeries where we can buy flour and baked bread, right? A long time ago they did not have these luxuries. The harvest period made everyone happy because they saw with their own eyes the amount of food that all the people and animals will have for the year. The Torah marks the harvest time as part of the holiday in order to emphasize the great happiness of natural rejuvenation each year. The growth of the grain and farmers work hard all year to get to this moment.



"וחג הקציר בכורי מעשיך

אשר תזרע בשדה"

(שמות כ"ג, ט"ז)

"And the Festival
of the Harvest of
the first fruits of
you labors that
sow in the field"
(Shemot 33,16)



Which Megillah do we read on this holiday? How is it connected to the holiday of harvesting?

Chag HaBikkurim

We celebrated the time of the harvest and we were happy with the abundance of crop, but before we eat we have to come to the Beit Hamikdash. Hashem commands Bnei Yisrael to bring Bikkurim to the Beit Bamikdash. Bikkurim are the first edible fruit that grow on a tree, which were tied with string around them. Why? Why can't we just eat them? Think about the experience that a farmer has when he sees his entire field filled with wheat. He can think that is just because of his smartness, his strength, and his work he is successful with abundant crop. This happens to all of us when we work hard on things we make, and then we are proud of the final result. The Bikkurim, the first grains brought to the Beit Hamikdash, come to teach us that we have grain thanks to Hashem. The farmer works the earth very hard, but he comes and thanks Hashem that he gave him all this grain. There is no need to bring all different types of fruit, rather only fruit Israel is praised with. When there was a Beit Hamikdash the Bikkurim were given as a present to the Kohanim. Today we do not have a Beit Hamikdash and therefore we do not fulfill the mitzvah of Bikkurim. Please G-d we will be worthy soon.

"The earliest of the first fruits of your land you shall bring to the House of Hashem"
(Shemot 34, 26)



"ראשית בכורי
אדמתך תביא
בית ה' א-להיך"
(שמות ל"ד, כ"ו)



If you were a farmer, what would you want to grow?

Activity

"Who is the firstborn?" - Look in your house and find what is most similar to bikkurim (people, games, clothing, utensils, etc.)

Chag Matan Torah (Giving of the Torah)

So far we have seen during the seven weeks of counting to the fiftieth day, there is a great celebration in nature for the harvest of grain, but we still do not understand what happens on day fifty. The Torah does not explicitly write the exact date of the fiftieth day (as opposed to the other holidays). In addition, besides for the agricultural aspect of the holiday, the bringing of bikkurim to the Beit Hamikdash, the Torah does not specify what else happened on this day (on Succot and Pesach we have reasons connected to going out of Egypt). Why? Why isn't it written in the Torah that the fiftieth day is the day of receiving the Torah? The day that Hashem revealed himself on Har Sinai and gave Moshe and Bnei Yisrael the luchot (tablets) and the Torah, and began the connection between Bnei Yisrael and Hashem? Why doesn't it specify such an important day? The Torah is a way of life, and every day is new, and every day each person can learn from it and develop new ideas. The deciders of Halacha at different time periods learn and teach new laws that are relevant to their time. If the Torah had written what day it was given, we could think that it was given only once and that right now we are remembering that time. The Torah comes to teach us that Torah learning and receiving the Torah were not a one-time event in the past, but rather it happens at every moment.

"ויקח ספר הברית ויקרא באזני העם

ויאמרו כל אשר דבר ה' נעשה ונשמע"

(שמות כ"ד, ז')

"He took the Book of the Covenant and read in earshot of the people, and they said, 'Everything that Hashem has said, we will do and we will obey'"
(Shemot 24,7)

Activity

"What date is it?" What dates do you remember (holidays, birthdays, etc.)

Chag Sameach!

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 Pashut for kids

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