



Kids Parsha Packet

פָּרָשַׁת לִילָדִים

Parshat Korach

Last Week in Parsha Shelach:

Bnei Yisrael received a harsh punishment - they will wander in the desert for forty years and will not enter the Land of Israel.

Why you and not me?

A mother and father buy the younger brother a nice watch, but don't buy one for the older brother. The older brother complains to his parents, "Why did he get a present and I didn't? I am older than him, I deserve something too!" His mother tells him that we can't always get everything that we want. We read about a similar argument in this week's parsha. Korach is Moshe and Aharon's cousin. He gathered representatives from the tribe of Reuven and the leaders of the other tribes and together they complained about Moshe and Aharon. They had several complaints. Why were only Moshe and Aharon chosen to be the important leaders? Aren't all of the Levites special and holy? Why can only the sons of Aharon bring sacrifices?

We all want to take part in this job, including the tribe of Reuven – the oldest brother!

Korach and his followers are unwilling to accept the fact that Hashem chose a single leader. They think that Moshe and Aharon feel that they are better than everyone else and deserve everything.

"It is much for you! For the entire assembly – all of them – are holy and Hashem is among them, so why do you exalt yourselves over the congregation of Hashem" (16,3)

"רַב לָכֵם כִּי כָל
הָעֵדָה כֻּלָּם קִדְשִׁים
וּבְתוֹכָם ה' וַעֲדוּעַ
תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל קֹהֶל
ה'!" (ט"ז, ג')



Do you complain often or are you happy with what you have?

We are not coming!

If you called your mother (or teacher) to come and help you and she ignored your request, how would you feel? When Moshe heard the complaints of Korach and his followers, he tried to calm them down and told them they had no reason to complain. First of all, they were chosen to work in the Mishkan because they are part of the tribe of Levi, while the rest of Bnei Yisrael do not have this opportunity, and therefore there is no reason for them to ask to be Kohanim as well. Second, Hashem chose Moshe and Aharon for these jobs. There is no reason to complain about Moshe and Aharon because this was Hashem's decision. Moshe wanted to speak to Datan and Aviram, the representatives of the tribe of Reuven, in order to understand their complaints, but they refused to speak to Moshe.

They claimed that Moshe took them out of Egypt, and was now keeping them in the desert instead of bringing them to the land that Hashem had promised. They complained that Moshe was condescending towards them. Until this point, Moshe tried to address the complaints in a peaceful way, but now he became angry at their behavior.



"וישלח משה לקרא לדתן ולאבירם"

בני אליאב ויאמרו לא נעלה"

(ט"ז, י"ב)

"Moses sent forth to summon Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they said, 'shall we not go up'" (16,12)



Do you get angry easily? What makes you angry?

Activity

"Turn Around" - Stand in pairs, back to back. The goal is to make the other person turn around to face you. You can talk, tickle, make signs on the other person's back, but you may not hurt anyone.

Beware – An earthquake!

Moshe instructed Korach and his followers to come to the entrance of the Ohel Moed (the Mishkan) in the morning, and each of them should bring a “machta”, a special large shovel used to carry coals to the Mishkan. Moshe told Korach that he and his followers should each bring a machta, light a fire, put incense on it, and bring it to the entrance of the Ohel Moed. There Hashem would announce who was worthy to work in the Mishkan. Korach gathered many people and Moshe warned them to stay away from Korach, Datan, Aviram, and the rest of Korach’s followers because Hashem was going to punish them. Moshe explained to everyone that he did not chose to be their leader, Hashem chose him to be his messenger and to lead the nation. Moshe gave the people a sign. He announced that if what he said was true, the earth would open up and swallow all of the complainers. And that is exactly what happened. The earth miraculously opened up and swallowed the complainers, their families, and even all of their possessions.



“ותפתח הארץ את פיה ותבלע אתם ואת בתיהם” (ט”ז, ל”ב)

“The earth opened it mouth and swallowed them and their households” (16, 32)



Have you ever felt an earthquake?

Activity

“Beware- earthquake!” – Build tall towers out of blocks and other toys, and see what happens if you jump near them and make the ground shake...

Who did Hashem Choose?

The miracle of the earth swallowing Korach and his followers showed Bnei Yisrael that Hashem chose Moshe to be the leader, and that it was not his own decision. Now Hashem wanted to strengthen the status of Aharon and to show Bnei Yisrael that he and his sons were chosen to be the Kohanim in charge of the Mishkan. Moshe invited the leader of each tribe to bring his staff to the Mishkan, to write his name on his staff, and to place it at the entrance to Ohel Moed. Aharon placed his staff there as well, with his name written on it. Moshe announced that Hashem will miraculously choose the staff that belonged to the person who should be the Kohen. The next day

Moshe came to the entrance to Ohel Moed and discovered that Aharon's staff had blossomed. Hashem told Moshe to keep Aharon's staff in order to prove to anyone from future generations who might complain, that Hashem chose Aharon and his sons to be Kohanim in the Mishkan.



וַיְהִי בַּבֹּחֶרֶת וַיָּבֹא גִשָּׁה אֶל אֹהֶל

הָעֵדוּת וְהִנֵּה פָּרַח גִּשָּׁה אַהֲרֹן לְבֵית לֵוִי" (י"ז, כ"ג)

"It was the next day, Moses came to the Tent of the Testimony and behold! the staff of Aaron of the house of Levi had blossomed" (17,23)

Activity

"Only one is chosen" – Hold an item (a ball or a shoe, etc.) and whoever is holding the item needs to catch everyone else. When he catches everyone, the item is passed to the first person that was caught. The goal is to always pass the item to someone else.

Next week in Parshat Chukat...

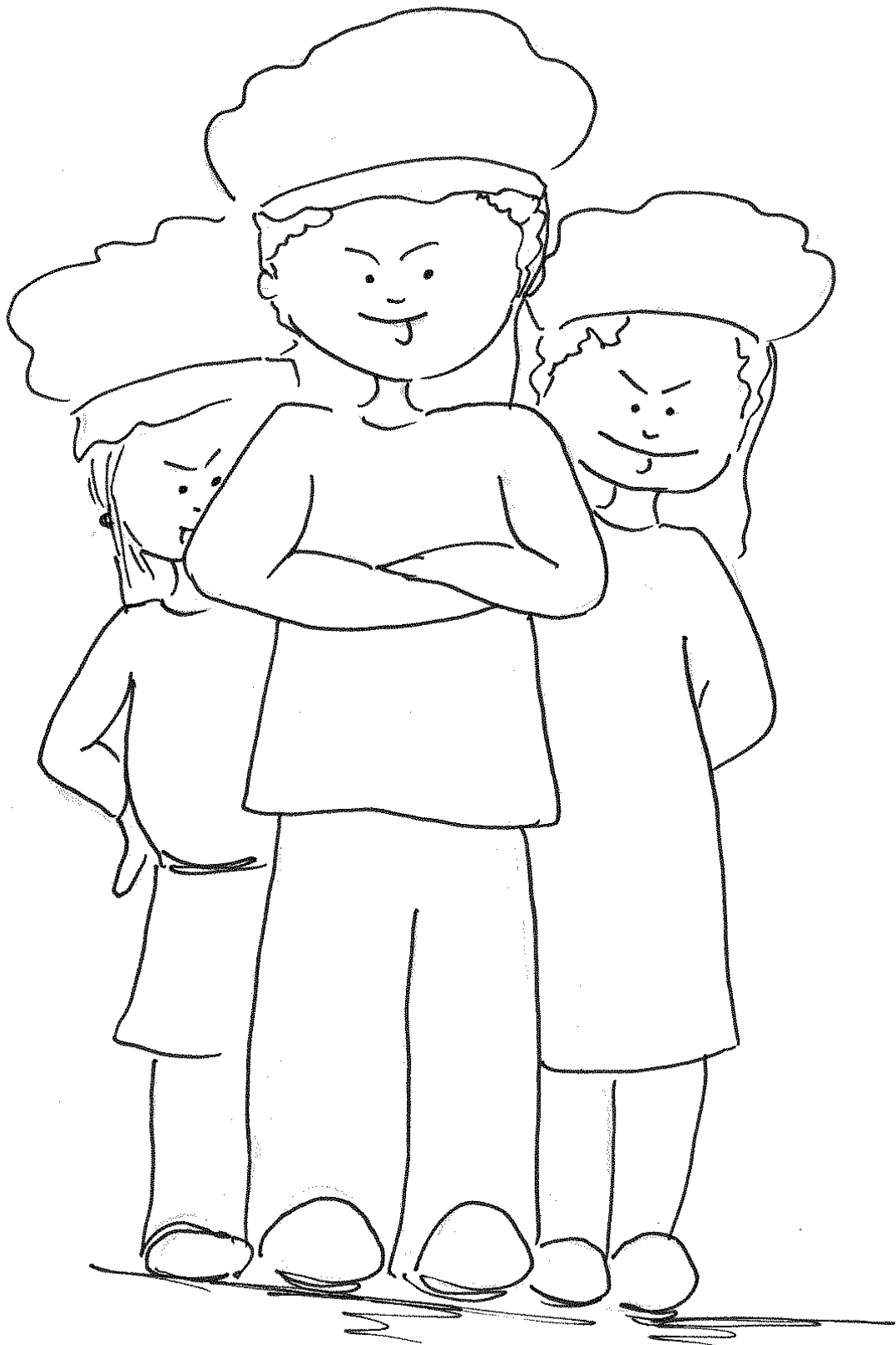
Moshe receives a very harsh punishment ...

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Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids



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