



# Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשׂה לילדים

## Parshat Chukat

### Last Week in Parshat Korach:

Korach and his followers complained about Moshe and Aharon and were punished.

### We don't know everything...

Have you ever visited a barn? There are cows there that eat hay and produce milk. What color are the cows? Most are white with black spots or something like that, right? In Parshat Chukat we learn about a cow that is red, and it is called the parah adumah (red heifer). The ashes of the parah adumah have a very important job: to purify people or objects that become impure because they have contact with death. There is something strange about the ashes of the parah adumah: the ashes purify impure people, but whoever touches the ashes of the parah adumah in order to purify others, becomes impure himself! How can something that purifies also create impurity? Many of our sages say that this question does not have an answer because it is a law that Hashem gave to Bnei Yisrael without an explanation.

This type of law is called a chok, a mitzvah that Hashem does not explain in the Torah why it is necessary, but even if we do not understand and do not know, we still need to keep the mitzvah. Today we do not have a Beit Hamikdash so we do not have the mitzvah of parah adumah.



"This is the statute of the Torah, which Hashem has commanded saying: speak to the Children of Israel, and they shall take to you a perfectly red cow" (19,2)

"זאת חקת התורה אשר

צוה ה' לאמר דבר אל בני

ישראל ויקחו אליך פרה אדמה" (י"ט, ב')



Do you do what your mother, father or teacher ask you to do without asking questions?

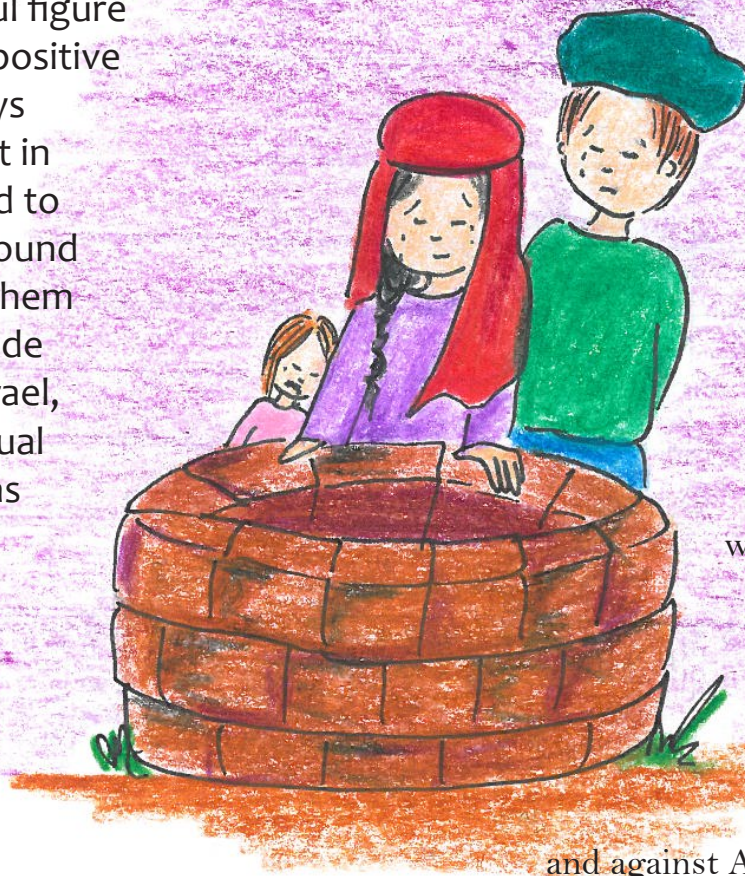


## Saying goodbye to Miriam and the well

Do you remember Moshe's sister, who watched over him when he was a baby in the basket in the Nile River? Her name was Miriam.

Miriam accompanied Bnei Yisrael while they were enslaved in Egypt. She brought a tambourine with her when they left Egypt, and after the Red Sea split and saved them, she played music, sang, and danced with all of the women. She was one of the three main leaders of Bnei Yisrael in the desert, together with Moshe and Aharon, and in this parsha we read about her death. After she died, the Torah tells us that Bnei Yisrael did not have water to drink. Why? Doesn't Hashem provide for all Bnei Yisrael's needs? Our sages explain that Miriam was responsible for an important gift that Bnei Yisrael received – the well. The well was a never-ending source of water and the water was constantly replenished. But after Miriam died the well dried up. Miriam was also a spiritual well for Bnei Yisrael.

She was a powerful figure and maintained a positive outlook. She always looked for the best in situations and tried to influence those around her. Of course Hashem continued to provide water for Bnei Yisrael, but Miriam's spiritual strength of will was lost forever. Their real thirst was their longing for Miriam's inspiration.



"ותגת שם

גרים ותקבר

שם [...]

ולא היה גים

לעדה ויקהלו

על גשה

ועל אהרן

(כ', א'-ב')

"Miriam died there and she was buried [...]

there was not water for the assembly, and they gathered together

against Moshe and against Aaron." (20,1-2)



How do you think that a person who is full of life behaves?

### Activity

"The Wishing Well" – Make a circle (using blocks, clothes, etc.). Each person puts something into the well and makes a wish, and then everyone else makes that wish come true by acting it out. For example, if someone wishes to be a king, everyone pretends to be his servants.



## What happens when we hit instead of speaking...

We saw that the well dried up after Miriam's death, and Bnei Yisrael had nothing to drink. Bnei Yisrael complained to Moshe that the entire nation would die in the desert. "Why did you take us out of Egypt?" they demanded of Moshe and Aharon. "We never reached a good land and we do not have any water to drink!" Hashem told Moshe to take his staff and gather all of Bnei Yisrael, and then he and Aharon should speak to a certain rock until water came out of that rock. What do you think? Can water come out of a rock? Moshe and Aharon gathered all of Bnei Yisrael, and then Moshe took his staff, hit the rock

and water began to flow from it. What a great miracle! A rock that you hit and water comes out! But Hashem reacted very differently. Hashem was furious at Moshe for not speaking to the rock as Hashem commanded had him, but hitting it instead. He gave Moshe and Aharon a very severe punishment. They would not be allowed to enter the Land of Israel with Bnei Yisrael.

"וַיִּרְם מֹשֶׁה אֶת יָדוֹ

וַיִּךְ אֶת הַסֵּלַע

בַּמִּטָּהוּ פַעֲמָיִם

וַיֵּצְאוּ מֵיָם רַבִּים"

(כ', י"א)



"Then Moshe raised his arm and struck the rock with his staff twice; abundant water came forth" (20,11)



Can you admit when something is difficult for you? Or do you prefer to keep it inside?

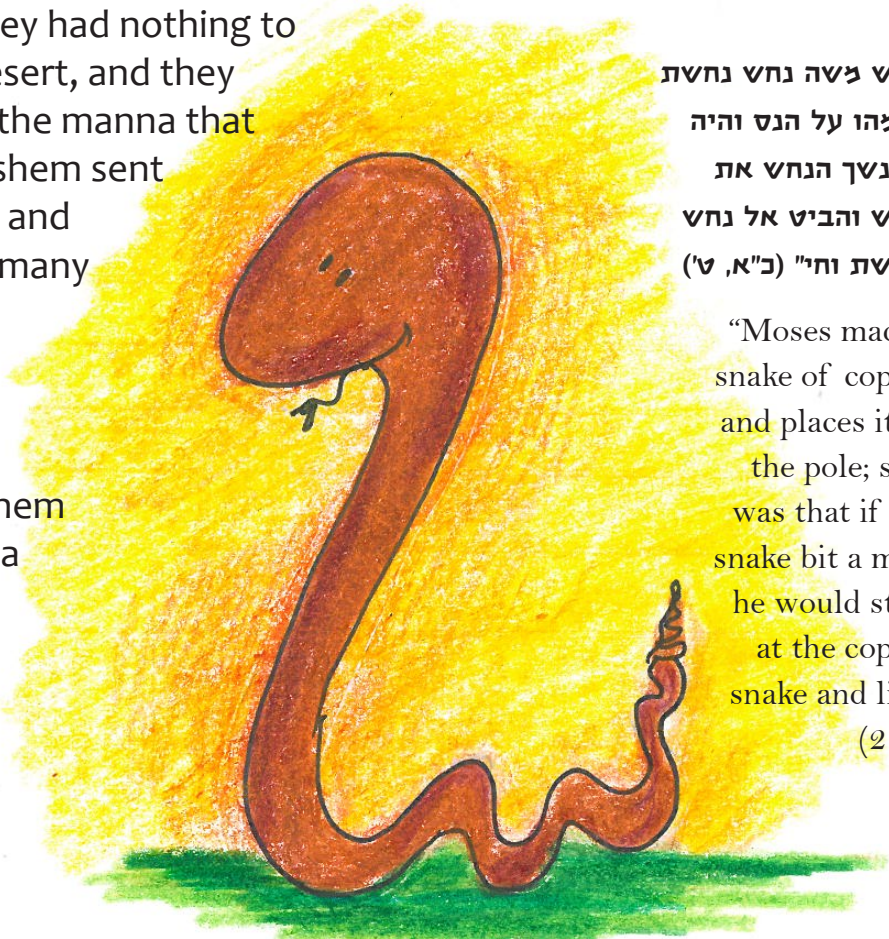
### Activity

Lower the Staff! – Hold a long stick on both ends while everyone else passes under the stick without touching it. The person who is holding the stick must keep it straight and lower it a little bit at a time.



## Some snakes can save lives...

Have you ever been in a bad mood, and complained or cried a lot? This happened to Bnei Yisrael many times while they were in the desert. Despite all of the great miracles that Hashem did for them in the desert (providing them with food, water, and more) it was hard for Bnei Yisrael to always see the good, and they complained several times. Hashem listened to their complaints and often gave them what they asked for, but this time Bnei Yisrael crossed the line. They complained that Hashem and Moshe took them out of Egypt to die in the desert, that they had nothing to eat or drink in the desert, and they were tired of eating the manna that fell from the sky. Hashem sent snakes that bit them and caused the death of many people. Bnei Yisrael understood their mistake and asked Moshe to stop the horrible plague. Hashem told Moshe to make a copper snake and place it up high like a flag, and whoever looked at the snake would be saved.



"ויעש משה נחש נחשת  
וישמהו על הנס והיה  
אם נשך הנחש את  
האיש והביט אל נחש  
הנחשת וחיה" (כ"א, ט')

"Moses made a snake of copper and places it on the pole; so it was that if the snake bit a man, he would stare at the copper snake and live" (21,9)

### Activity

"Always look up." Everyone stands in a circle and looks up. One person crawls around everyone's legs and tickles them. Whoever looks down becomes the tickler.

## Next week in Parshat Balak...

We will meet Balak, king of Moav, who tried to harm Bnei Yisrael, but was not very successful.

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# Shabbat Shalom!

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Coloring page



# Parashat Chukat