



Kids Parsha Packet

פָּשׁוּט לִילְדִים

Parshat Balak

Last Week in Parshat Chukat

We said goodbye to Miriam and Aharon, and learned about the difficulties that Bnei Yisrael faced in the desert.

Just don't let that happen to us

Have you ever met a king? How do you picture one? Probably as a big and important person that everyone is afraid of, right? In our parsha we meet a king that is scared himself. This king's name is Balak Ben Tzipor, and he is the king of a nation called Moav. What was he afraid of? He was afraid of Bnei Yisrael. He saw how they fought against the Emori nation, and how they won and conquered their land. Now he was afraid that they would attack Moav and conquer their land as well. He was not the only one that was afraid, his entire nation was afraid too! So they decided to do something to protect themselves. When Bnei Yisrael were afraid of their enemies or of anything else, what did they do? They usually prayed to Hashem to help them and save them! The people of Moav did not serve Hashem or believe in him. When they were in trouble they turned to magicians and idol worshipers. They believed that magicians and idols would help them. Balak sent messengers to a magician named Bilaam Ben Baor. He wanted Bilaam to come and curse Bnei Yisrael for him.



"ויגר מואב מפני

העם מאד כי

רב הוא"

(כ"ב, ג')

"Moab was very frightened of the people, because it was formidable" (22,3)

Activity

"The scary game" – Hide under a blanket, and take turns being the scary person. Make noises, jump out at people and tickle everyone.

I do what Hashem tells me to do

Do you know the difference between a blessing and a curse?

King Balak sent messengers to Bilaam because he believed that all of Bilaam's blessings and curses came true. A curse is speaking not nicely about other people, and saying things that can hurt them. The messengers reached Bilaam and asked him to come with them to Balak to curse Bnei Yisrael. They said that "Bnei Yisrael are going to take over us all. We must defend ourselves!" Do you think that Bilaam went with them? Bilaam told the messengers to stay with him overnight, and during the night he would decide if he would go with them, based on what Hashem told him to do. Hashem revealed himself to Bilaam and told him not to go and curse Bnei Yisrael because Bnei Yisrael were a blessed nation. In the morning Bilaam told the messengers that he would not join them because Hashem did not allow it. The messengers returned to Balak and told him that Bilaam refused to come. Balak sent messengers to Bilaam once again, and asked him to come to him and curse the nation. Balak promised Bilaam lots of honor and money if he would come.

"וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל שָׂרֵי בָלָק
לֵכוּ אֶל אֲרָצְכֶם כִּי גֵאֵן
ה' לַתֵּנִי לַהֲלֹךְ עִמָּכֶם"
(כ"ב, י"ג)

"And said to the
officers of Balak,
'Go to your land,
for Hashem
refuses to allow
me to go with
you" (22,13)



How would you feel if the king invited you to his palace?

Activity

"Convincing game" - Ask one another to do all different things. Try to convince each other to do what you ask (for example, if you asked for a cup of water you could say "It's good exercise to walk, perhaps you are also thirsty and also want a drink, it is a mitzvah, etc.)

Since when do donkeys speak?!

Would you like to get paid? Bilaam refused the money that King Balak offered, and explained to Balak that even if he gave him a house filled with gold and silver he could not do something against Hashem's will. The messengers spent another night at Bilaam's house, and Hashem appeared to Bilaam again. This time Hashem said that he could go to Balak with the messengers, but he could only say exactly what Hashem commanded him to say. Bilaam got up early in the morning and prepared his donkey for the journey to Balak. On the way, Hashem sent an angel to Bilaam, but he did not see it. His donkey did see the angel, though. The donkey was afraid of the angel and moved off the path. Bilaam hit the donkey because it was going the wrong way. They continued to walk, and the donkey saw the angel again. The donkey moved to the side and pressed Bilaam's foot against the wall so Bilaam hit the donkey again. The third time the donkey saw the angel there was no way to get around it so the

donkey sat down and Bilaam hit the donkey once again. Hashem made a miracle and the donkey began to speak to Bilaam and to complain that he was hitting it. Bilaam finally saw the angel of Hashem, and understood that the donkey was protecting him. The angel of Hashem warned Bilaam to say only what Hashem commanded him to say.

"וַיִּפְתַּח ה' אֶת פִּי
הָאֲתוֹן וְתָאֵר
לְבָלָעַם
(כ"ב, כ"ח)"

"Hashem
opened the
mouth of
the she-
donkey and
she
said to
Balaam"
(22,28)



What would the world be like if animals spoke?

Activity

"Talking animals"- Act out different animals, and imagine what they would say if they could speak (for example, a horse might say "all of this hair is annoying, I wish someone would cut it...")

Oops, I didn't mean it...

After the messenger's requests and the journey with the donkey, Bilaam finally reached King Balak. Balak could not wait for Bilaam to start cursing Bnei Yisrael. Bilaam instructed Balak to build seven alters, and to prepare seven cows and seven rams as well. Then Bilaam waited for Hashem to reveal himself. And when Hashem revealed himself and Bilaam started to speak, do you know what happened? Bilaam tried to curse Bnei Yisrael, but Hashem put blessings in his mouth instead. Balak was horrified! He brought Bilaam to curse Bnei Yisrael and he blessed them instead. Bilaam explained to Balak that it was out of his control and that this was what Hashem wanted him to say. Balak did not give up and convinced Bilaam to try again. They build alters again and brought sacrifices, and Bilaam waited again for Hashem to reveal himself. When Hashem revealed himself to Bilaam he began to speak again. Did curses come out of his mouth? NO! He blessed them again! The same thing happened three times. Bilaam blessed Bnei Yisrael instead of cursing them, and in the end he even cursed the enemies of Bnei Yisrael.

"גֵּיהַ טָבוּ אֵהְלִיךָ יַעֲקֹב

בְּשֹׁכְנֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל"

(כ"ד, ה')

"How goodly are
your tents,
O Jacob, your
dwelling places,
O Israel"
(24,5)



Have you ever wanted to laugh but ended up crying instead? Or the other way around?

Next week in Parshat Pinchas...

We will see how Hashem organized the living areas of Bnei Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael...

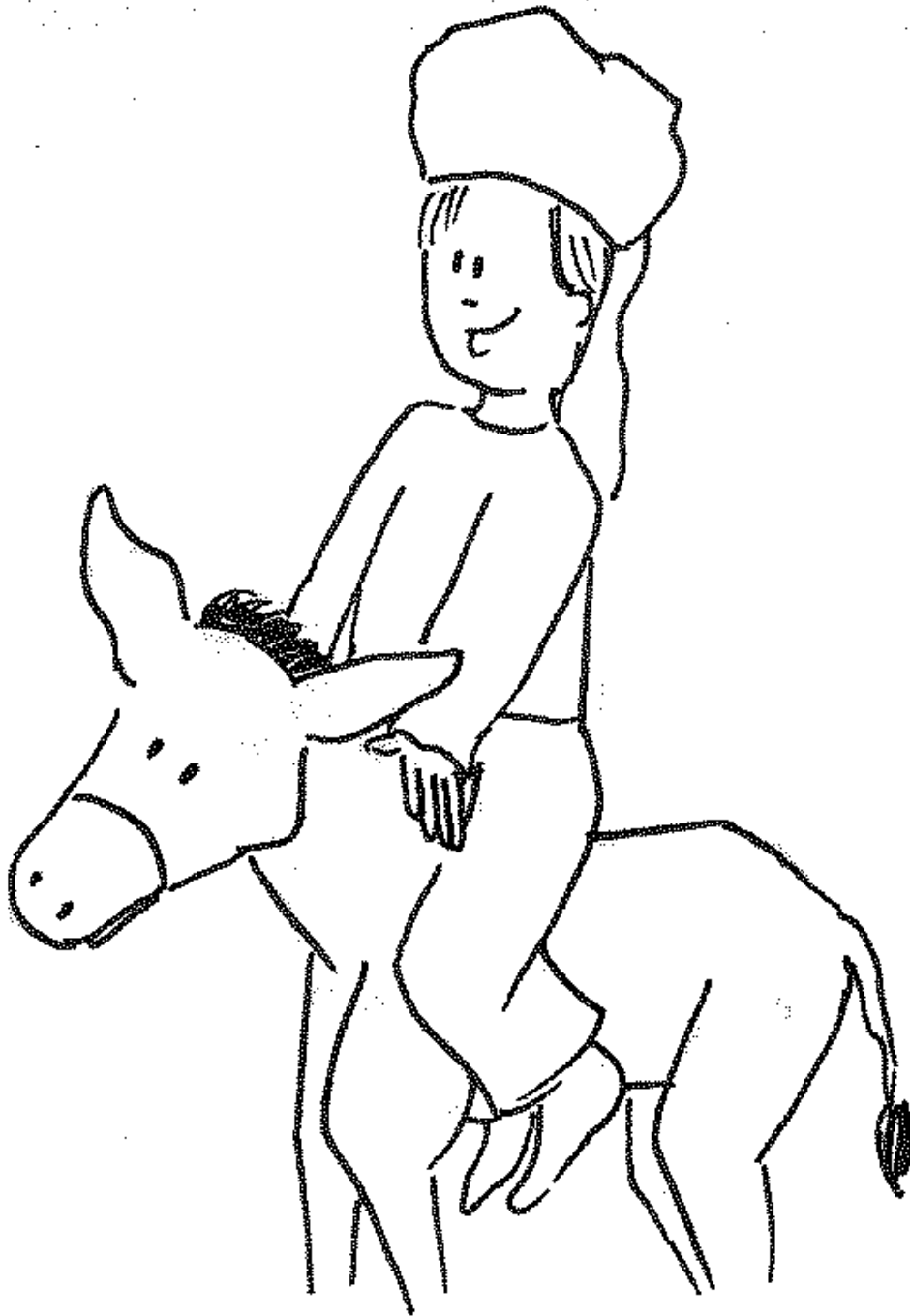
Author: Dina Gavrieli
Illustrator: Anat Weiss
Graphics: Sharon Yungreis
Translator: Sara Friedman
Language editing: Rena Bar David

Shabbat Shalom!

www.pashut4kids.com
pashutps@gmail.com

 Pashut for kids

Coloring page



Parashat Balak