
TERUMOT & MAASER – THINKING LIKE A FARMER

BASIC OUTLINE

As we continue our study of Seder Zeraim, all about farming and the foods we eat, let's get into the mindset of a farmer.

If I am a farmer in Israel and my crops and produce are ripe and ready for picking – what do I need to do? Do I just take them all!? There are 4 primary mitzvot to keep in mind (in order):

- 1) פאה – Pe'ah: (literally: corner) We leave the corner of our field for the poor¹
- 2) תרומה – Teruma: Teruma is a gift to the Kohen (often 1/50th or 2%)
- 3) מעשר ראשון – First Ma'aser: From the word for 10 (עשר), we give 10% of our crop to the Levi
- 4) מעשר שני/עני – Second Ma'aser, Poor Ma'aser: Taken from the remains after Teruma and Maaser Rishon, this is another 10% of your food:
 - a. During years 1, 2, 4 & 5 of the Shemittah Cycle: it must be eaten only in Jerusalem and nowhere else.
 - b. During years 3 & 6 of the Shemittah Cycle: it is given to the poor.

LEARNING MORE

To learn more about the mitzvot of Teruma and the various Maaserot, check out the Sefer Hachinuch which details all the mitzvot in the Torah. (Sefaria is always a good place to go: https://www.sefaria.org/Sefer_HaChinukh?lang=bi)

Pe'ah #216

Teruma #507

Maaser Rishon #395

Maaser Sheni #473

Maaser Ani #474

¹ How much of the corner? Look at our Birchot Hatorah to find out!

ACTIVITY PAGE

TERUMA AND MAASER IN OUR HOMES

Note: These are all possible activities you can choose to do. Each is designed to get a sense of what a farmer would be "giving away" for Teruma, Maaser, Pe'ah etc.

I. Sidewalk Maaser

- a. If you have some chalk: Go outside and walk along your sidewalk. Are there lines every few feet? Great!
- b. Every 10th line mark that square as a "Maaser Square"
- c. What happens on a Maaser Square? Use your imagination! Maybe you want to:
 - i. Put a reminder to stay safe?
 - ii. Draw a picture for people to look at as they walk past?

II. Pe'ah of a Room

- a. Just like farmers left a corner of their fields – can we mark the corner of a room for a mitzvah? Is there a corner that can be special for davening or learning?

III. How much is 10%?

- a. Do you have a big bag of something? Maybe rice? Maybe M&M's (or a bag of lollipops that you bought before Purim and now can't return due to current conditions)? How many pieces are in the bag? How much of that is 10%? (With permission from parents) Can you open the bag and separate 10% from the total?
 - i. Extra Credit (particularly for those who like math): Can you take Teruma, and Maaser Rishon, and Maaser Sheni? How much do you have left?

WHAT FOODS MIGHT NEED TERUMA OR MAASER?

Check the produce (fruits and vegetables) in your home. If any of them are from Israel – they might need Terumot and Maaserot! Anything grown outside of Israel doesn't have these mitzvot.