



SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET

PARASHAT VAETCHANAN



Our Parasha this week is very special as it contains many important passages, including the Ten Commandments and the Shema. As our Parasha opens, Moshe pleads with Hashem to please allow him to enter the land of Israel. Moshe begs Hashem to forgive him for his sin, of hitting the rock instead of speaking to it. However, Hashem will not change his mind. Not only will Moshe not enter the land of Israel, but he will not be buried in Israel either. Seeing that he has no chance in changing Hashem's mind, Moshe goes on to explain all of the laws and Mitzvot to the Jewish people. He begins with one of the most important laws. Do you know that you are not allowed to add or subtract from a Mitzvah? Let's say you really love performing the Mitzvah of wearing Tzitzit. You might decide that to make this Mitzvah extra special, you will add a coloured piece of string to the Tzitzit. You may think that by doing this, you are beautifying the Mitzvah. But no, no, no. Doing such a thing is not allowed. If Hashem wanted the Tzitzit to have a coloured string, he would have commanded us to place a coloured string on our Tzitzit in the first place. So you see, you love performing a Mitzvah, you cannot add to, subtract from or change a Mitzvah in any way!



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The Jewish people that Moshe is talking to now, were not physically present at Mount Sinai when we received the Torah. It was their parents who physically received the Torah. These people, like us, were only at spiritually at Mount Sinai. Even though these people weren't physically present, Moshe stresses the importance of these Jewish people teaching the Mitzvot and the Ten Commandments to their children. Not only do they need to teach their children, but they must make sure their children teach their children, who teach their children! Moshe repeats the Ten Commandments and makes sure to instill them into the hearts and minds of everyone present.

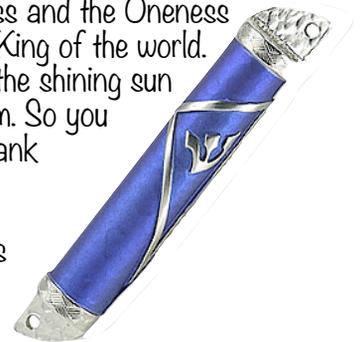


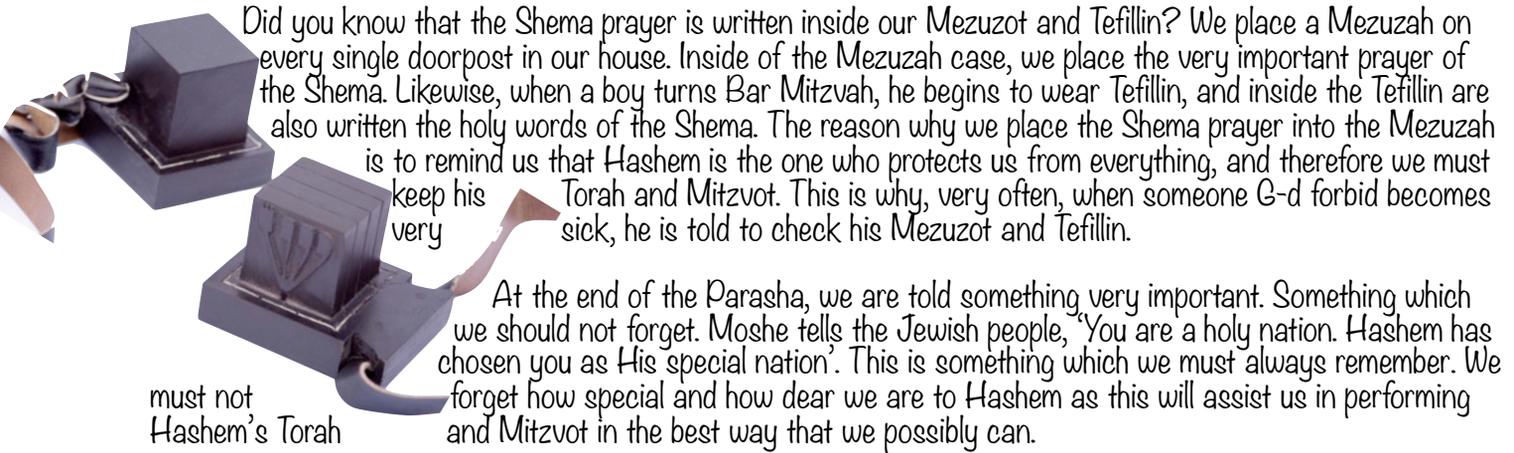
1. I am the Lord, your G-d who took you out of Egypt.
2. You shall have no other G-d's before Me.
3. Do not say Hashem's name in vain.
4. Honour the Shabbat day and keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not be a false witness.
10. Don't be jealous.

Before he passes away, Moshe wants to make sure that each and every Jewish person understands the importance of fulfilling Hashem's Torah and Mitzvot. From the time the Jewish people left Egypt, until the Jewish people would enter Israel, Hashem took care of the Jewish people's every need in a very revealed way. However, now that the Jewish people are going to be entering Israel, they will need to learn to work the land and fend for themselves. Of course Hashem will still be providing the Jewish people with everything they need, however, he will be helping them in a concealed way. Since Hashem's assistance and helping hand will not be as visible in Israel, as it had been in the desert, Moshe provides the Jewish people with a prayer which they can say every single day, which will remind them of Hashem, His Torah and His commandments. This prayer is called the Shema.

We say the Shema three times a day! Once in the morning, once in the evening and one before we go to bed at night. The Shema is a very important prayer. It explains to us that everything and everyone in this world, only exists because of Hashem. The world is Hashem's little ball, which He hold's in the palm of His hands. In everything we do and in everything we see, we must acknowledge and recognise the greatness and the Oneness of Hashem. We must understand that there is only One Hashem, and He is the ruler and the King of the world. When we say the Shema, we acknowledge that it is Hashem who creates the beautiful trees, the shining sun and the blossoming flowers. Everything we have comes from Hashem and we must thank Him. So you see, when we think about the meaning of the Shema, it only makes sense for us always to thank Hashem and always appreciate what Hashem does for us.

The Shema prayer is so important, that we teach it to our children from a very young age. It is the one prayer which nearly every single Jewish person knows.





PARASHA QUESTIONS:

1. What is the name of this weeks Parasha??
This weeks Parasha is called Parashat Vaetchanan.
2. Are we allowed to change a Mitzvah?
No, we cannot change a Mitzvah. We cannot add to it and we cannot subtract from it.
3. To whom must we teach the Mitzvot and the Ten Commandments?
It is a Mitzvah for us to teach the Ten Commandments to our children, who will in turn, teach it to their children.
4. What is the First Commandment?
The First Commandment is 'I am the Lord, your G-d, who took you out of Egypt'.
5. Name all of the Ten Commandments?
See above for the answer.
6. How will life in Israel be different to life in the desert?
Life in Israel will be different to life in the desert, for in the desert Hashem provided the Jewish people with their needs in a very revealed way. However, now that the Jews are entering Israel, they will need to begin to fend for themselves. They will need to work the land. Although they will be working, Hashem will still be helping them in a concealed way.
7. What is the Shema? What does it talk about?
The Shema is one of the most central prayers in Judaism. It talks about the Oneness and the greatness of G-d. When saying the Shema, one comes to realise that everything in this world only exists because of Hashem.
8. Why does Moshe think that saying the Shema will help the Jewish people recognise Hashem?
Moshe knows that when one says the Shema and thinks about the meaning of the Shema, one will realise that it is Hashem that causes everything to occur in this world. Therefore, by saying the Shema, one will automatically recognise Hashem.
9. Where do we place a Mezuzah?
We place a Mezuzah on every single doorpost in our home.
10. Why is a Mezuzah so important?
A Mezuzah is important as it serves as a reminder that Hashem protects us from everything.

It was great seeing you in Shule!

**We hope you enjoy reading this Parasha Sheet and quizzing your family!
Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew**

