



South Head Youth Parasha Sheet



Parashat Noach

Our Parasha this week introduces us to the righteous Noach. Noach was a very good man who only did good deeds. However, Noach lived in a corrupt world. A world in which the people did not listen to Hashem and did lots of bad deeds. The people were dishonest; they stole, told lies and acted immorally. You name it, they did it. Hashem was not very happy with the people and He wanted to destroy the whole world! Hashem called to Noach, 'The people of this generation are very wicked! They do not deserve to exist anymore! They don't treat each other nicely. They steal, they worship idols and I am not happy with this behaviour. I have decided to destroy the whole world, all people, animals and vegetation. I will destroy everyone and everything except you and your family!'



Hashem told Noach to build an ark, a Teivah, where he and his family as well as any people who repent could escape from the flood. Noach hammered, sawed and banged away for a very long time. Finally after 120 years, Noach finished building the ark. It had taken Noach a very long time to build the ark as Hashem wanted to give all the people a chance to repent. He was hoping that when the people would pass by Noach and see him building the ark, they would do Teshuva. However, this did not happen. Noach would tell the people, 'I am building an ark, because G-d will destroy the world if you do not repent. Repent, there is still a chance! Start behaving honestly and become good people!' But the people would just laugh at Noach and did not take him seriously.

Noach was 600 years old when the flood began! Together with his wife, three sons and their wives, Noach entered the ark. Hashem commanded Noach to take two of each non-kosher animal on the ark, one male and one female and fourteen of each kosher animal, seven male and seven female. At first, only drops of rain began to fall. Hashem was still giving the people a chance to repent. But when Hashem saw that the people weren't sorry for their bad ways, the rain started to fall harder and harder, until it finally turned into a flood. Rain was gushing down from the heavens and the hot springs deep below were bursting with boiling hot water! The rain fell for forty days and nights. It ruined the pretty flowers and destroyed the trees and fields. All the animals and wicked people drowned in the water. There was so much water, it covered the entire earth. You could not even see the tallest mountains!

During the entire time that they were in the ark, Noach tended to everyone's needs. The ark had three levels, so Noach would go to each level to make sure everything was in order. The top floor was for Noach and his family, the second floor was for all the animals and the bottom floor was for all the garbage. Noach fed the animals, fed his family and took the rubbish to the bottom floor. But one day, Noach just took too long to feed the animals and the lion just wouldn't wait!

CRUNCH! He bit Noach on the foot. From that day Noach learnt his lesson and knew not to make the King of the Jungle wait for his food again!

When the flood was over, the earth was still covered with water and the ark still floated around for a long time. Everything and everyone had been destroyed in the flood! Only the fish in the water survived! The only safe place in the world was in the Ark together with Noach, his family and the animals. Noach wasn't sure if it was safe to leave the ark, so he sent out a raven to see if there was any place on earth with dry land. The raven flew around in circles, but found no where to rest so she flew right back to Noach in the ark. Noach waited another



week and then sent out a dove to search for dry land. But the earth was still filled with water and the dove had nowhere to land, so the dove came flying right back to Noach. Noach decided to wait one more week and then sent out the dove again. This time as the dove flew around it saw the top of an olive tree. It broke off a branch and brought it right back to Noach. Now Noach became hopeful! He knew that the water was decreasing and soon there would be no more water! Noach waited one more

week and sent out the dove again. This time the dove didn't return and Noach knew that Hashem had finally dried up the world. It had taken a full year before the water completely settled, allowing Noach and his family to finally leave the ark. However, Noach and his family did not leave the ark immediately. They waited until Hashem told them that they could exit the ark.

When Noach and his family came out of the ark they saw that everything had been destroyed. The only people who were saved were Noach and his family and the only animals alive were those that had been with them in the ark. Noach wanted to thank Hashem for saving him and his family and so he built an altar and offered sacrifices to Hashem. Hashem then blesses Noach and gives him permission to eat meat. Before the flood man was forbidden to eat meat. All mankind were vegetarians! However, even though man was now permitted to eat meat, Hashem told Noach that man was not permitted to cause any unnecessary harm or suffering to any creature.

Hashem promises Noach that he would never again flood the entire world. He made a rainbow appear in the sky and He used it as proof of His promise to never flood the world again. When we see the rainbow we are supposed to say a special blessing: ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם זוכר הברית, ונאמן בבריתו, וקיים במאמרו. which means 'Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, Who remembers the treaty, is trustworthy in His treaty (not to destroy the world with a flood), and fulfills His word'.

The Parasha concludes with the birth of Avraham. Avraham was born into a family of idol worshippers. At the age of three Avraham looked at the world outside and saw many trees, flowers, the sun and the moon and all the other

beautiful things in the world. Avraham wondered who had made this beautiful world. He knew that the idols his family bowed down to could not have created the world. Avraham looked up at the sky and thought that possibly the sun had created the world, but when the sun disappeared at night and the moon appeared in its place, he realised that the sun could not have created the world. After all, the creator of the world must be present at all times. When Avraham saw the moon and stars he thought that maybe the moon was the creator of the world, but when morning came and the moon and stars disappeared he realised that this could not be. He knew that the Creator of the world would not just disappear. It was then that Avraham realised that the G-d in the heavens had created the world; a Creator that no one could see, but is always present in the world.

After coming to this conclusion, Avraham went home and smashed all of the idols in his father's shop. He then placed the hammer in the hand of the one very large idol that he did not break. When his father returned and saw what had occurred he was furious. Avraham told his father that the big idol had become angry with the other idols and so he smashed them all. Avraham's father, Terach told Avraham that could not possibly be so as an idol is an inanimate object that cannot see, hear, eat or do anything. Avraham immediately responded to his father, 'if an idol is an inanimate object with no abilities then how can you say the idol created the world?' Terach did not know what to do with his son and so he immediately went to King Nimrod and explained what had just transpired. King Nimrod said that Avraham had to be killed for his actions. Avraham was thrown into a big fire. All of the townspeople came to watch his death. However, Hashem made a miracle occur. As the people looked at the fire, they saw Avraham dancing away. The fire did not burn Avraham at all. Hashem had saved Avraham!



When King Nimrod saw that Avraham was unharmed, he was sure that Avraham was a god and he immediately bowed down to him. Avraham immediately responded that it was Hashem who had saved him. Although Avraham had been saved before King Nimrod's eyes, his father knew that the danger was not over. He was worried that the wicked King Nimrod might attempt to harm Avraham again. Avraham agreed with his father's suggestion and so they left their home and settled in the city of Charan.

Mission: Do something for others in your community! For example, pick up some rubbish that's left in your house, in school or even on the road, even though it's not your job!

**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**

The 7 Noahide Laws

1

Acknowledge that there is only one G-d who is Infinite and Supreme above all things. Do not replace that Supreme Being with finite idols, be it yourself, or other beings. This command includes such acts as prayer, study and meditation.

2

Respect the Creator. As frustrated and angry as you may be, do not vent it by cursing your Maker.

3

Respect human life. Every human being is an entire world. To save a life is to save that entire world. To destroy a life is to destroy an entire world. To help others live is a corollary of this principle.

4

Respect the institution of marriage. Marriage is a most Divine act. The marriage of a man and a woman is a reflection of the oneness of G-d and His creation. Disloyalty in marriage is an assault on that oneness.

5

Respect the rights and property of others. Be honest in all your business dealings. By relying on G-d rather than on our own conniving, we express our trust in Him as the Provider of Life.

6

Respect G-d's creatures. At first, Man was forbidden to consume meat. After the Great Flood, he was permitted - but with a warning: Do not cause unnecessary suffering to any creature.

7

Maintain justice. Justice is G-d's business, but we are given the charge to lay down necessary laws and enforce them whenever we can. When we right the wrongs of society, we are acting as partners in the act of sustaining the creation.