

Elementary:

1) In this parsha we learn about kosher animals. What 2 things make an animal kosher? What 2 things makes a fish kosher?

2) How often is there a Shmitah year?

3) Why are the 3 chagim mentioned in this week's parasha called the "Shalosh Regalim"?

4) Describe 1 mitzvah we do to celebrate each of the Shalosh Regalim?

Middle/High School:

1) Why is the mitzvah of "Lo Tevashel Gedi B'Chalev Imo" repeated for the 3rd time in this week's parsha? What new idea do we learn from each mention of this mitzvah?

2) From which words do we learn to value "minor" mitzvot just as much as "major" ones (see Rashi 12:28)?

3) What 3 examples does Rashi (13:1) give for the mitzvah of Bal Tosif?

4) What do we learn from the double expression (14:22) "Aser Taaser?" (Taanit 9a)

5) What do we learn from the words "Achicha HaEvyon?" (Rashi 15:7)

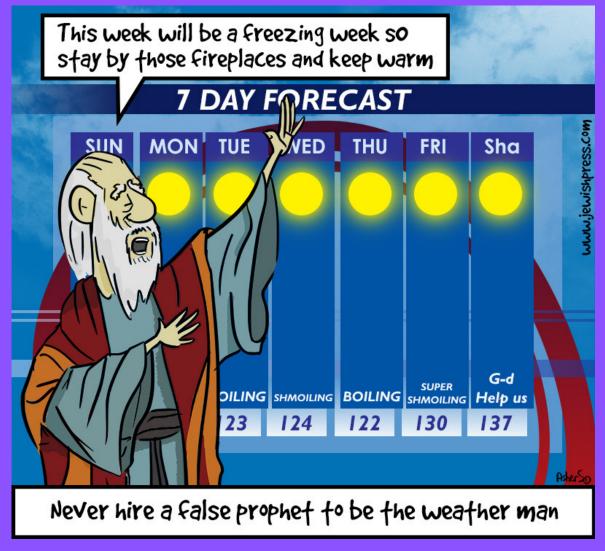
What would you do?

Discussion starter for your Shabbat table..

You find a 5 dollar bill on the floor in school. What should you do?

Did You Know?

Chodesh Elul starts this Sunday. Every day (except Shabbat) until Erev Rosh Hashana we have the minhag of blowing the shofar to prepare ourselves for Yom HaDin. Rambam (Hilchot Teshuva 3:4) says that the Shofar is like a wake up call reminding us to snap out of our slumber and do Teshuva. We do not make a bracha on the daily Tekiat Shofar, and we only blow the Tekiah, Shevarim, Teruah once each day, but this minhag serves as a daily reminder that we have only a few days left in the year to reflect on what went well this year and plan for how the coming year will be even better.



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י אָשָׁר-יִבְּחַרָה אֱשָׁר-יִבְחַר ה אֱלֹקִיכֶם, מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֵיכֶם, לָשׁוּם אֶת-שְׁמוֹ, שָׁם--לְשִׁכְנוֹ תִדְרְשׁוּ, וּבָאת שָׁמָה (Devarim 12:5) The pilgrim festivals are central to this portion. The Torah commands us how and with whom to celebrate, but there is a glaring omission: although mentioned more than 10 times in the parshah, "the place the L-rd your G-d will choose" is left unnamed. Moshe spent 40 years teaching Torah and passing on the mitzvot with intricate detail. He transmitted the highly detailed laws of the sacrifices, including everything from which types of animals may be used to the location on the Temple where the animals should be offered. Yet the place where all this would happen is undisclosed. Why did Moshe keep the location of the spiritual capital a secret? Why does the name of the city where the Holy Temple will be built remain a mystery?

"You shall seek His presence," says the Torah. G-d will choose Jerusalem only after the people themselves choose a place they feel is appropriate for His home. Only the Jew, who is part and parcel of the physical reality, can create a permanent dwelling place for G-d in this physical world. What is the lesson for us? To become the person we want to be, we cannot wait for inspiration from above. Inspiration alone will not change us for the better, unless we choose to get involved, to become a partner, to contribute to the effort, to do our part to "seek His presence." G-d will choose to send you Divine inspiration and success, but it will have a permanent effect only after you do your part in building your spiritual Jerusalem.