



# PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

**NCYI is excited to continue our very successful Parsha Nation Guides.** I hope you're enjoying and learning from Parsha Nation as much as we are. Putting together Parsha Nation every week is indeed no easy task. It takes a lot of time and effort to ensure that each section, as well as each age group, receives the attention and dedication it deserves.

**We inspire and mold future leaders.** The youth leaders of Young Israel have the distinct honor and privilege to teach and develop the youth of Young Israel. Children today are constantly looking for role models and inspirations to latch on to and learn from. Whether it is actual sit down learning sessions, exciting Parsha trivia games, or even just walking down the hall to the Kiddush room, our youth look to us and watch our every move.

**It's not always about the things we say, it's about the things we do.** Our children hear and see everything we do whether we realize it or not. This year we are taking our Youth Services to new heights as we introduce our Leadership Training Shabbaton. This engaging, interactive shabbaton will give youth leader's hands on experience and practical solutions to effectively guide your youth department.

**Informal education is key.** What the summer shows us as educators is that informal education can deliver better results and help increase our youth's connection to Hashem. More and more shuls are revamping their youth program to give their children a better connection to shul and to Hashem. The NCYI is here to help you reconnect with your youth departments and bring more participation.

**Thank you for being a light to future generations.** You are doing incredible work that should not be taken lightly. You should be proud to call yourself a Young Israel Youth Leader as you have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in so many young people's lives. Keep up the amazing work.

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.  
Our doors are always open.

**NCYI Department of Synagogue Services**

[Youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:Youth@youngisrael.org)

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2016 All Rights Reserved, No reproduction or copying of this work without permission of the National Council of Young Israel is permitted. Any copying of this work is a violation of U.S. Copyright law and Halacha.



# PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

## Program Guide Breakdown

**Theme-** Each year our curriculum will focus on a theme. By centering the entire year around one overarching theme, our youth group participants will understand different characteristics and concepts that will help them achieve this lofty goal. This year's theme is Manhigut (leadership). Our goal is for our children to view themselves as leaders and to inspire them to play a leadership role every day.

**Parsha Roundup-** Each week group leaders will have the opportunity to roundup the parsha in two or three paragraphs. By giving over the parsha in a short and simple way, group participants will be able to grasp the parsha as a whole and to get them to think globally and conceptually.

**Parsha Questions-** No Shabbat morning group is complete without a list of parsha questions. These questions allow group participants the opportunity to win fun prizes while increasing their Torah knowledge. Questions vary from basic understanding of story line to challenging source-based material. The answers are provided as well.

**Tefillah Treasure-** Many youth directors have asked for help when it comes to teaching tefillah to children. This is a problem that not only shuls are dealing with. Schools, camps, and youth organizations are having trouble developing creative ideas to help children understand tefillah. Over the course of the year, this section will highlight one aspect of davening by providing both the Hebrew and English text, and one explanatory idea. The older the age group, the more we delve into the idea. This section is designed to help group participants follow the flow of tefillah while understanding what they are saying.

**Group Activity-** Now the fun begins! We start off with a GOAL. Each game has a purpose. The youth leaders should familiarize themselves with the goal before implementing the game.

**Discussion Portion-** After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning groups.

**Story-** Each week we will include a story that addresses a modern day concern with lesson taken from that week's parsha.

**Jewish Leader of the Week-** In keeping with our theme of Manhigut, every week a different Jewish Leader from modern Jewish history will be highlighted. This will allow group participants to expand their knowledge of history and to learn how they can be a Jewish leader in today's society.

**Teen Minyan Packet-** This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

**Leader Tip-** Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.



# PARSHA NATION



Published by the National Council of Young Israel

## Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

Time Duration	Activity	Notes
5 min	Registration	Welcome parents and children in to the group room.
10-35 min	Davening	Depending on your group size and level.
5 min	Introduction to Yearly Theme (Manhigut)	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parsha Roundup	Prep participants for parsha questions.
10 min	Parsha Questions	Prizes and awards should also be given out if participants answer correctly
2 min	Understanding the Goal	Leaders should start prepping for Shabbat activity
30 min	Activities	Your choice of two games to play
10 min	Follow Up Discussion	Refer to materials
10 min	Parsha Song	This is for younger groups only.
20 min	Free Game Play	Groups can break for free game play or continue their own programing.
5 min	Story	Assemble in a circle and have participants read sections of the story out loud.
5-10 min	Discussion	Refer to handout
4 min	Jewish Leader of the Week	Refer to handout
4 min	Tefillah Treasures	Refer to Handout
5 min	Parent Pick up/Dismissal	Parents pick up their children.
<b>Total Time:</b>	<b>2 hours &amp; 40 min of programing!</b>	



# PARSHA NATION



GRADES K-2

## EMOR ROUNDUP

### Emor Roundup

The Parshah begins by telling us that a *kohen* must always be careful to remain *tahor*, pure, so that he can serve in the Holy Temple. In order to do this, he must make sure not to come in contact with a dead body because that would make him impure. He is only allowed to become impure by going to a funeral or cemetery if a close relative of his passes away. That means his father, mother, son, daughter brother, or unmarried sister. A *kohen* is also not allowed to marry somebody who was married before and got divorced.

The *kohen gadol*--the "high priest" or "head *kohen*," is *never* allowed to become impure, even if a close relative passes away. Also, he's not allowed to marry anybody who was married before at all. When an animal (a cow, sheep, or goat) gives birth (to a calf, lamb, or kid) nobody is allowed to take the newborn away for seven days. Also, an animal and its offspring may not be killed on the same day.

### The Jewish Calendar

The Torah then tells us about the special times of year on the Jewish calendar

First it discusses Shabbat. For six days we do work and the seventh is a day of rest.

Next is Passover, in the Hebrew month of Nissan. For seven days we eat matzot, and the first and last of those days are days of rest on which we're not allowed to do any work.

Next is the Counting of the Omer, which begins on Passover and counts down until Shavuot.

The fiftieth day of the Omer is the festival of Shavuot.

Next comes Rosh Hashanah, the "head of the year" on the first day of Tishrei. This is when we blow the *shofar*.

Ten days later is the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, a fast day when we pray for forgiveness for our sins.

Next is Sukkot, a joyful festival when we eat in a booth called a *sukkah* and make a blessing on four types of plants gathered together.

The Parshah ends by telling us about somebody who cursed G-d. Moses asked G-d what his punishment should be and G-d said that he must be killed. We also read that somebody who kills a person is punished with death and that somebody who hurts a person or animal must pay money to compensate for the cost.

**LEADER TIP:** This parsha talks all about chagim, use that to start up discussions. Ask Kids to list all the holidays they know. Or use this as an opportunity to make a fun game. Be Creative!

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## Questions

1. When may a kohen become tameh for a dead person?
2. How does one honor a kohen?
3. What is a Kiddush Hashem?
4. What is a Chillul Hashem?
5. What must we eat on Pesach?
6. What must we begin counting from the second day of pesach?
7. Which yom tov is celebrated after 49 days of the omer
8. What are some of the reasons that we blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah?
9. What are we not allowed to do on Yom Kippur?
10. What mitzvot do we do specifically on Sukkot?

**LEADER TIP:** Don't just ask questions; turn it into a game show! Remember engagement is key for a successful group.

## Answers

1. For one of his seven close relatives, and a mes mitzvah (there is no one else to bury him).
2.
  - a. By letting him go first (e.g., by kriyas hatorah)
  - b. By asking him to lead the birkas hamazon.
3. Behaving in a way that makes others respect Hashem and the Torah.
4. Behaving in a way that makes others not respect Hashem and the Torah.
5. Matzah
6. Sefirat Ha'omer
7. Shavuot
8.
  - a. The shofar acts like an alarm clock to wake us up to do teshuvah.
  - b. The shofar is usually made from a ram's horn. By blowing a ram's horn, we beg Hashem to remember Akeidat Yitzchak.
9. Eat, drink, wash for pleasure, wear leather shoes, and smear on oil.
10. Sitting in a Sukkah, taking the arba minim (four species – lulav, esrog, hadassim, and aravot), and a special mitzvah to have simchah (to be happy).

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha, it discusses the counting of Sefirat HaOmer. In this activity, we will discuss with the kids about what Sefirat HaOmer is and why we're so excited to count every day.

**ACTIVITY:** Set up the room like a "Sorry" Board with 49 spaces. You can use colored pieces of construction paper. You can either put the kids in teams of 2-4 people, or everyone for themselves. You roll a die and can move that many spaces. The goal is to get to the end of the board. (or if on a team, for the whole team to get there.) If someone lands on the same space as you, the person who was there first must go back to start. Alternatively, you cannot have one winner, but rather everyone wins when they get to the end. Once each person/team reaches the end, give them a prize for making it all the way there. In the beginning of the game, explain to the kids that they're playing in order to get the big prize (whatever you give them) at the end. You can also make the game "Chutes and Ladders" instead where whenever anyone lands on a chute they slide down to another spot the slide leads to and when they land on a ladder they move up to the other spot the ladder leads to.

**DISCUSSION:** The point of this game is to symbolizes the 49 days we count the omer. We count from the second night of Pesach all the way to the holiday of Shavuot, which is the day we received the Torah. We count at night. What happens if you mess up and don't count at night? You can count during the day without a bracha, and then resume counting at night. But if you forget a whole day, you keep counting without a bracha the rest of the omer. We count both by weeks and by days (27 days, which is 3 weeks and 6 days, for example.) It is so exciting because we know that at the end of counting to 49 (or the 50<sup>th</sup> day) we get to receive the biggest prize ever, THE TORAH! Each day gets more and more exciting because we get closer and closer to getting the Torah.

**LEADER TIP:** There is a TON to talk about in this week's activity, don't be afraid to spend a nice amount of time discussing everything. Let the kids talk things out and try to get them involved and talking as much as possible.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** Families are important and we should be willing to go out of our way for ours. In this week's Torah portion (Lev. 21:2), we see how the Cohen-priests could do things to help their close relatives that they couldn't do for anyone else. So too, when it comes to our family's needs, we should walk the extra mile.

## PRIORITY ONE

"What do you mean you're not coming?" Lisa asked with a hurt look in her eyes.

"Listen, do you know how lucky I am to have gotten a ticket to the championship game?" Andy said.

"I've got friends who've already offered to buy it from me for three times the price. But I told them 'no way.' I'm not going to miss the game for nothing and for nobody."

"But I'm not 'nobody'," Lisa said. "I'm your sister - and I'm graduating tomorrow and it would mean so much to me for you to be there."

Andy shrugged. "Sister or no sister, I'm just not giving up the game. It's just too important to me."

Lisa wrinkled her face and stormed upstairs from the living room, just as their mother walked in from the front door.

"Hi Mom," Andy said. "What's for lunch?"

"Oh, lunch time already?" she smiled. "I'll heat up something from the freezer. Sorry about that. I've just been so busy shopping for Lisa's graduation that I've lost track of time."

Andy rolled his eyes. "Is it really such a big deal?"

"Of course it is," his mother said. "Any graduation is. But especially for Lisa. She worked so hard, and is graduating with the second best grades in her whole class. She would have been the best ... except for that time she missed from school last year."

"Which time?" Andy asked.

"Don't you remember? When you were in the hospital. It was hard for you to be alone and I was so busy at work. So Lisa got permission to take those days off from school and stay with you."

Andy nodded as his mother went on.

"It was right before her mid-term tests and she missed a lot of important review classes that would have helped her get better grades."

"Really?" Andy said. "I didn't know that."

"Uh, huh. I was actually surprised that she did it - it couldn't have been an easy choice," his mom said. "As you know, doing well in school is so important to her - unlike someone else we both know." Andy blushed. "I didn't even ask her to take the time off," his mother added, shaking her head. "She volunteered and just said 'family comes first.' Anyway, what would you like me to make you for lunch - frozen pizza or ... hey, where are you going?" she asked, as Andy turned and headed toward the door. "Oh, um ... I've just got this ticket I have to go sell to my friend," Andy said. "Be back soon. By the way, do you happen to know where my good suit is ... you know, to wear to the graduation?"

As Andy walked out the door, he realized that while he wasn't much of a student, like his sister was - he'd just learned a big lesson from her on what's really important in life.

## Discussion Questions

Q. How did Andy feel at first about going to his sister's graduation?

A. He wasn't willing to give up going to a ballgame to do it.

Q. How did he feel in the end?

A. He realized that it was important to do things for his family - even when it was hard.

**LEADER TIP:** Family is a very important topic that doesn't always get talked about, take advantage of this but be sensitive about other kids family. There may be some kids who don't want to talk about their families and that is OK. Be alert and gauge if the kids in your age group are finding this discussion good or you should move on.



# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki “Rashi”

(February 22, 1040- July 13, 1105)



Rashi was a medieval French rabbi who is famous for his commentary on the Talmud and Tanach. He is able to give over the basic meaning of texts in a short, clear, and concise fashion. Rashi appeals to both learned scholars as well as beginning students and his work is one of the biggest centerpieces of Jewish study. He is one of, if not the most, famous commentators we have in Torah study. When people aren't sure of what something means, Rashi is usually the first place people will look for an explanation and help understanding what's going on.

**LEADER TIP:** Rashi is best known for his commentating, ask the kids about what kinds of learning they connect to most. Do they think they can one day make their own commentary for anything? Take it one step further and ask the kids if they know a famous Rashi. Most stories told in school are based off Rashi's interpretations.

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Birchot HaShachar

***Boruch.....Ma-tir Ah-su-rim.***

**"Blessed are You... Who releases the bound."**

You want to get up out of bed, but you are immobile. Your limbs are frozen in place. You become restless and uncomfortable, waiting for the bonds of paralysis to be released. Finally, G-d sends a surge of strength and energy into your muscles and you can move! MATIR ASURIM!

***Boruch... Zokaif Kefufim.***

**"Blessed are You... Who straightens the bent."**

It's time to get out of bed. There is so much you need to accomplish this day. But as you try to stand up, you realize that your back is still stuck in the curled-up position of sleep. Like a beggar, you stand with your eyes cast on the floor in front of you as you wait for G-d to set you straight. At last, you feel the flexibility return to your spine and you stand up to face the day.

**ZOKEIF K'FUFIM!**

**LEADER TIP:** Start off this session with warm up exercises to get in the mood!



# PARSHA NATION



GRADES 3-4

## EMOR ROUNDUP

### Emor Roundup

The Parshah begins by telling us that a *kohen* must always be careful to remain *tahor*, pure, so that he can serve in the Holy Temple. In order to do this, he must make sure not to come in contact with a dead body because that would make him impure. He is only allowed to become impure by going to a funeral or cemetery if a close relative of his passes away. That means his father, mother, son, daughter brother, or unmarried sister. A *kohen* is also not allowed to marry somebody who was married before and got divorced.

The *kohen gadol*--the "high priest" or "head *kohen*," is *never* allowed to become impure, even if a close relative passes away. Also, he's not allowed to marry anybody who was married before at all. When an animal (a cow, sheep, or goat) gives birth (to a calf, lamb, or kid) nobody is allowed to take the newborn away for seven days. Also, an animal and its offspring may not be killed on the same day.

### The Jewish Calendar

The Torah then tells us about the special times of year on the Jewish calendar

First it discusses Shabbat. For six days we do work and the seventh is a day of rest.

Next is Passover, in the Hebrew month of Nissan. For seven days we eat matzot, and the first and last of those days are days of rest on which we're not allowed to do any work.

Next is the Counting of the Omer, which begins on Passover and counts down until Shavuot.

The fiftieth day of the Omer is the festival of Shavuot.

Next comes Rosh Hashanah, the "head of the year" on the first day of Tishrei. This is when we blow the *shofar*.

Ten days later is the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, a fast day when we pray for forgiveness for our sins.

Next is Sukkot, a joyful festival when we eat in a booth called a *sukkah* and make a blessing on four types of plants gathered together.

The Parshah ends by telling us about somebody who cursed G-d. Moses asked G-d what his punishment should be and G-d said that he must be killed. We also read that somebody who kills a person is punished with death and that somebody who hurts a person or animal must pay money to compensate for the cost.

**LEADER TIP:** This parsha talks all about chagim, use that to start up discussions

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## QUESTIONS

1. When may a kohen become tameh for a dead person?
2. How does one honor a kohen?
3. What is a Kiddush Hashem?
4. What is a chillul Hashem?
5. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan?
6. What must we eat on Pesach?
7. What must we begin counting from the second day of pesach?
8. Which yom tov is celebrated after 49 days of the omer
9. Which yom tov is celebrated on aleph tishrei?
10. What are some of the reasons that we blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah?
11. Which yom tov is celebrated on yud tishrei?
12. What are we not allowed to do on Yom Kippur?
13. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> of Tishrei?
14. What mitzvot do we do specifically on Sukkot?
15. What is terumah?

**LEADER TIP:** Don't just ask questions, turn it into a game show!

## ANSWERS

1. For one of his seven close relatives, and a mes mitzvah (there is no one else to bury him).
2.
  - a. By letting him go first (e.g., by kriyas hatorah)
  - b. By asking him to lead the birkas hamazon.
3. Behaving in a way that makes others respect Hashem and the Torah.
4. Behaving in a way that makes others not respect Hashem and the Torah.
5. Pesach
6. Matzah
7. Sefirat Ha'omer
8. Shavuot
9. Rosh Hashanah
10.
  - a. The shofar acts like an alarm clock to wake us up to do teshuvah.
  - b. The shofar is usually made from a ram's horn. By blowing a ram's horn, we beg Hashem to remember Akeidat Yitzchak.
11. Yom Kippur
12. Eat, drink, wash for pleasure, wear leather shoes, and shmear on oil.
13. Sukkot
14. Sitting in a Sukkah, taking the arba minim (four species – lulav, esrog, hadassim, and aravot), and a special mitzvah to have simchah (to be happy).
15. The part of our crops that we give to a kohen.

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha, it discusses the counting of Sefirat HaOmer. In this activity, we will discuss with the kids about what Sefirat HaOmer is and why we're so excited to count every day. Also, we discuss that during the time of the omer was when the students of Rabbi Akiva died and we mourn the loss of all of the students that died. Additionally, there are a few days throughout the Omer that are special days as well- Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut, Lag BaOmer, Yom Yerushalayim.

**ACTIVITY:** Set up the room like a "Sorry" Board with 49 spaces. ( *You can also make the game "Chutes and Ladders" instead where whenever anyone lands on a chute they slide down to another spot the slide leads to and when they land on a ladder they move up to the other spot the ladder leads to.*) You can use colored pieces of construction paper. You can either put the kids in teams of 2-4 people, or everyone for themselves. You roll a die and can move that many spaces. The goal is to get to the end of the board. (or if on a team, for the whole team to get there.) If someone lands on the same space as you, the person who was there first must go back to start. To make the game more exciting, you could instead have people on the same space have a competition of some sort over who goes back. Alternatively, you can not have one winner, but rather everyone wins when they get to the end. Once each person/team reaches the end, give them a prize for making it all the way there. In the beginning of the game, explain to the kids that they're playing in order to get the big prize (whatever you give them) at the end. Not only will they get a big prize at the end, but give out very small prizes at every square, or every few squares as well. It doesn't need to be a real prize or candy, it can also be maybe a "Gold Coin" or print out pictures of something exciting or a raffle ticket and at the end do a bonus raffle.

Throughout the board, make different spaces "Challenge Squares", where you make whoever lands on it do a specific task or answer a trivia question or something of the sort. The board pieces will each have numbers on them 1-49, but also note the special days throughout the time period (days of Pesach, Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut, Lag BaOmer, Yom Yerushalayim, and ultimately ending up at Shavuot

In addition to the "Challenge Squares", prizes throughout, and prize at the end, make it that if you land on Yom HaAtzmaut, Lag BaOmer, or Yom Yerushalayim you get another extra prize, but if you land on Yom HaShoah or Yom HaZikaron you lose one of the prizes you got before.

**DISCUSSION:** The point of this game is to symbolizes the 49 days we count the omer. We count from the second night of Pesach all the way to the holiday of Shavuot, which is the day we received the Torah. We count at night. What happens if you mess up and don't count at night? You can count during the day without a bracha, and then resume counting at night. But if you forget a whole day, you keep counting without a bracha the rest of the omer. We count both by weeks and by days (27 days, which is 3 weeks and 6 days, for example.) It is so exciting because we know that at the end of counting to 49 (or the 50<sup>th</sup> day) we get to receive the biggest prize ever, THE TORAH! Each day gets more and more exciting because we get closer and closer to getting the Torah.

Throughout the game, sometimes we would be sent back because our friend landed on our square. This relates to the students of Rabbi Akiva who all died because they didn't treat each other nicely. They would talk bad about each other and be mean to each other and wouldn't think of anyone except themselves. Were all in this world together and we should be happy to see our friends succeed and get prizes. Discuss with the kids about being nice to our friends and how you would feel if you got sent back in the game. Is it a good feeling? Is it possible to share a square?

And lastly, feel free to discuss a little bit about the special days throughout the omer- Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut, Lag BaOmer, and Yom Yerushalayim. There's obviously a lot to talk about them, but you can keep it basic and explain why on some squares the kids gained prizes and why some they lost prizes. On Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron they lost because the Jewish people lost so many special people (the Jews of Europe and Israeli Soldiers). On Yom HaAtzmaut Israel became a state, Yom Yerushalayim is the day we got Yerushalayim back in Jewish control, and Lag BaOmer is the day Rabbi Akiva's students stopped dying.

**LEADER TIP:** There is a TON to talk about in this week's activity, don't be afraid to spend a nice amount of time discussing everything. Let the kids talk things out and try to get them involved and talking as much as possible.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** Families are important and we should be willing to go out of our way for ours. In this week's Torah portion (Lev. 21:2), we see how the Cohen-priests could do things to help their close relatives that they couldn't do for anyone else. So too, when it comes to our family's needs, we should walk the extra mile.

## PRIORITY ONE

"What do you mean you're not coming?" Lisa asked with a hurt look in her eyes.

"Listen, do you know how lucky I am to have gotten a ticket to the championship game?" Andy said.

"I've got friends who've already offered to buy it from me for three times the price. But I told them 'no way.' I'm not going to miss the game for nothing and for nobody."

"But I'm not 'nobody'," Lisa said. "I'm your sister - and I'm graduating tomorrow and it would mean so much to me for you to be there."

Andy shrugged. "Sister or no sister, I'm just not giving up the game. It's just too important to me."

Lisa wrinkled her face and stormed upstairs from the living room, just as their mother walked in from the front door.

"Hi Mom," Andy said. "What's for lunch?"

"Oh, lunch time already?" she smiled. "I'll heat up something from the freezer. Sorry about that. I've just been so busy shopping for Lisa's graduation that I've lost track of time."

Andy rolled his eyes. "Is it really such a big deal?"

"Of course it is," his mother said. "Any graduation is. But especially for Lisa. She worked so hard, and is graduating with the second best grades in her whole class. She would have been the best ... except for that time she missed from school last year."

"Which time?" Andy asked.

"Don't you remember? When you were in the hospital. It was hard for you to be alone and I was so busy at work. So Lisa got permission to take those days off from school and stay with you."

Andy nodded as his mother went on.

"It was right before her mid-term tests and she missed a lot of important review classes that would have helped her get better grades."

"Really?" Andy said. "I didn't know that."

"Uh, huh. I was actually surprised that she did it - it couldn't have been an easy choice," his mom said.

"As you know, doing well in school is so important to her - unlike someone else we both know." Andy

blushed. "I didn't even ask her to take the time off," his mother added, shaking her head. "She volunteered and just said 'family comes first.' Anyway, what would you like me to make you for lunch - frozen pizza or ... hey, where are you going?" she asked, as Andy turned and headed toward the door. "Oh, um ... I've just got this ticket I have to go sell to my friend," Andy said. "Be back soon. By the way, do you happen to know where my good suit is ... you know, to wear to the graduation?"

As Andy walked out the door, he realized that while he wasn't much of a student, like his sister was - he'd just learned a big lesson from her on what's really important in life.

## Discussion Questions

Q. What life-lesson do you think Andy learned that day?

A. Like all of us, he had his personal priorities - what was important to him - like going to a big sports event. But he realized, after hearing how his sister gave up one of her personal priorities in order to do something for the family, that being part of a family sometimes meant putting its needs even before one's own.

Q. Do you think Andy made a good choice?

A. While it certainly wasn't an easy one, by choosing to put his family first, not only did Andy improve his character, but he helped make his family stronger, and more secure, which is something valuable that lasts a lifetime.

**LEADER TIP:** Family is a very important topic that doesn't always get talked about, take advantage



# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki “Rashi”



(February 22, 1040- July 13, 1105)

Rashi was a medieval French rabbi who is famous for his commentary on the Talmud and Tanach. He is able to give over the basic meaning of texts in a short, clear, and concise fashion. Rashi appeals to both learned scholars as well as beginning students and his work is one of the biggest centerpieces of Jewish study. He is one of, if not the most, famous commentators we have in Torah study. When people aren't sure of what something means, Rashi is usually the first place people will look for an explanation and help understanding what's going on.

A famous legend of Rashi says that his parents were childless for many years. Rashi's father, Yitzhak, a poor winemaker, once found a precious jewel and was approached by non-Jews who wished to buy it to adorn their idol. Yitzhak agreed to travel with them to their land, but en route, he cast the gem into the sea. Afterwards he was visited by either the Voice of God or Eliyahu HaNavi, who told him that he would be rewarded with the birth of a noble son "who would illuminate the world with his Torah knowledge."

**LEADER TIP:** Rashi is best known for his commentating, ask the kids about what kinds of learning they connect to most. Do they think they can one day make their own commentary for anything?

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Birchot HaShachar

***Boruch.....Ma-tir Ah-su-rim.***

**"Blessed are You... Who releases the bound."**

You want to get up out of bed, but you are immobile. Your limbs are frozen in place. You become restless and uncomfortable, waiting for the bonds of paralysis to be released. Finally, G-d sends a surge of strength and energy into your muscles and you can move! MATIR ASURIM!

***Boruch... Zokaif Kefufim.***

**"Blessed are You... Who straightens the bent."**

It's time to get out of bed. There is so much you need to accomplish this day. But as you try to stand up, you realize that your back is still stuck in the curled-up position of sleep. Like a beggar, you stand with your eyes cast on the floor in front of you as you wait for G-d to set you straight. At last, you feel the flexibility return to your spine and you stand up to face the day.

**ZOKEIF K'FUFIM!**

**LEADER TIP:** Start off this session with warm up exercises to get in the mood!



# PARSHA NATION



## GRADES 5-6

# EMOR ROUNDUP

## Emor Roundup

The Parshah begins by telling us that a *kohen* must always be careful to remain *tahor*, pure, so that he can serve in the Holy Temple. In order to do this, he must make sure not to come in contact with a dead body because that would make him impure. He is only allowed to become impure by going to a funeral or cemetery if a close relative of his passes away. That means his father, mother, son, daughter brother, or unmarried sister. A *kohen* is also not allowed to marry somebody who was married before and got divorced.

The *kohen gadol*--the "high priest" or "head *kohen*," is *never* allowed to become impure, even if a close relative passes away. Also, he's not allowed to marry anybody who was married before at all. When an animal (a cow, sheep, or goat) gives birth (to a calf, lamb, or kid) nobody is allowed to take the newborn away for seven days. Also, an animal and its offspring may not be killed on the same day.

## The Jewish Calendar

The Torah then tells us about the special times of year on the Jewish calendar

First it discusses Shabbat. For six days we do work and the seventh is a day of rest.

Next is Passover, in the Hebrew month of Nissan. For seven days we eat matzot, and the first and last of those days are days of rest on which we're not allowed to do any work.

Next is the Counting of the Omer, which begins on Passover and counts down until Shavuot.

The fiftieth day of the Omer is the festival of Shavuot.

Next comes Rosh Hashanah, the "head of the year" on the first day of Tishrei. This is when we blow the *shofar*.

Ten days later is the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, a fast day when we pray for forgiveness for our sins.

Next is Sukkot, a joyful festival when we eat in a booth called a *sukkah* and make a blessing on four types of plants gathered together.

The Parshah ends by telling us about somebody who cursed G-d. Moses asked G-d what his punishment should be and G-d said that he must be killed. We also read that somebody who kills a person is punished with death and that somebody who hurts a person or animal must pay money to compensate for the cost.

**LEADER TIP:** This parsha talks all about chagim, use that to start up discussions

# PARSHA QUESTIONS

## QUESTIONS

1. When may a kohen become tameh for a dead person?
2. How old did an animal have to be in order to be brought as a karbon?
3. How does one honor a kohen?
4. What is a Kiddush Hashem?
5. What is a chillul Hashem?
6. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan?
7. What must we eat on Pesach?
8. What must we begin counting from the second day of pesach?
9. Which yom tov is celebrated after 49 days of the omer
10. Which yom tov is celebrated on aleph tishrei?
11. What are some of the reasons that we blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah?
12. Which yom tov is celebrated on yud tishrei?
13. What are we not allowed to do on Yom Kippur?
14. Which yom tov is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> of Tishrei?
15. Why do we live in a Sukkah on Sukkot?
16. What mitzvoth do we do specifically on Sukkot?
17. What kind of oil was used in the menorah?
18. What miracle happened with the lechem hapanim (special breads) on the Shulchan every week?
19. Who ate the lechem hapanim?
20. What is terumah?

## ANSWERS

1. For one of his seven close relatives, and a mes mitzvah (there is no one else to bury him).
2. At least 8 days old.
3.
  - a. By letting him go first (e.g., by kriyas hatorah)
  - b. By asking him to lead the birkas hamazon.
4. Behaving in a way that makes others respect Hashem and the Torah.
5. Behaving in a way that makes others not respect Hashem and the Torah.
6. Pesach
7. Matzah
8. Sefirat Ha'omer
9. Shavuot
10. Rosh Hashanah
11.
  - a. The shofar acts like an alarm clock to wake us up to do teshuvah.
  - b. The shofar is usually made from a ram's horn. By blowing a ram's horn, we beg Hashem to remember Akeidat Yitzchak.
12. Yom Kippur
13. Eat, drink, wash for pleasure, wear leather shoes, and shmear on oil.
14. Sukkot
15. To remind us of the clouds that protected the Bnei Yisrael when they stayed in the Midbar.
16. Sitting in a Sukkah, taking the arba minim (four species – lulav, esrog, hadassim, and aravot), and a special mitzvah to have simchah (to be happy).
17. Shemen zayis zach – pure olive oil
18. The lechem hapanim were baked every erev Shabbat, and they stayed fresh and warm all week until the next erev Shabbat.
19. The kohanim
20. The part of our crops that we give to a kohen.

**LEADER TIP:** Don't just ask questions, turn it into a game show!

# PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** In this week's Parsha, it speaks about Sefirat HaOmer. During the period of Sefirat HaOmer, thousands of students of Rabbi Akiva died because they did not have respect for one another. Having respect for others is a trait that is inculcated from the youngest ages. We are taught to have respect for our parents, teachers, relatives, friends, etc. And yet when we look around at the world, how much of the quality of respect really exists? How much do people really respect each other at all, or if they do, reflect it in their actions? This week's activity is designed to help the kids consider why they respect people, what respect should be based on, and how it should reflect in their actions.

## **ACTIVITY:**

**Game One:** A) Sit in a circle and count to 25 going around the circle. At each multiple of 3 the person whose turn it is must say "Bizz." At each multiple of 5 the person whose turn it is must say "Buzz" and the count switches directions around the circle (ie. From clockwise to counter-clockwise).

B) Sit in a circle and count to 10. Here's the catch, they can't go in order around the circle and they can't say anything except the numbers—and if any two people call out a number at once the group must start over.

**Game Two:** On pieces of paper, write the following words (and/or other similar ones):

1. Rabbi
2. Group Leader
3. Math Teacher
4. Talmid Chacham
5. Mayor of the City
6. Famous Artist
7. Mother
8. Father
9. Policeman
10. Garbage man
11. Friend
12. Storekeeper
13. Bus Driver
14. President Obama
15. Israeli Citizen
16. Old Man
17. A corrupt businessman
18. Convicted Felon
19. Basketball Player
20. A baby

Take each piece of paper and pin one to the back of each kid. (Make sure to prepare ahead of Shabbat a halachically correct way to do so – you can use paper clips.) The kids now begin talking to each other. Everyone looks at the back of each other and talks to them as if they are the person described on their back. (If someone's back says Bus Driver, I talk to them as if they are a bus driver.) Whenever someone thinks they know who they are, they go to a group leader and state their guess. If they are right, they have won.

The game can progress a number of ways. If you think of many different personas, you could give them a new card, and after a period of time see who has the most cards completed. Otherwise, you could have them simply sit back down in order of how they finished, and maybe use this order to decide who gets to go first in the next game.

**DISCUSSION:** The first games were to open up discussion about counting the days of the omer and what the omer stands for. We are excited to count up towards the receiving of the Torah, every day is more exciting than the one before. Although, during this time many many many students of Rabbi Akiva died because they did not respect each other. The second game is all about treating people with respect and not judging people based on what you see at first glance. When the kids played the game, was everyone treated the same way? Was there anyone treated without any respect? Who was given the most respect? We were put on this world to work together and to be the best people and nation we can. When we respect one another we make the world an incredible place, but when we are mean to others and talk bad about them and judge them immediately, we can never let the world reach its potential.

**LEADER TIP:** There is a TON to talk about in this week's activity, don't be afraid to spend a nice amount of time discussing everything. Let the kids talk things out and try to get them involved and talking as much as possible.

# PARSHA STORY

**Before you read:** Families are important and we should be willing to go out of our way for ours. In this week's Torah portion (Lev. 21:2), we see how the Cohen-priests could do things to help their close relatives that they couldn't do for anyone else. So too, when it comes to our family's needs, we should walk the extra mile.

## PRIORITY ONE

"What do you mean you're not coming?" Lisa asked with a hurt look in her eyes.

"Listen, do you know how lucky I am to have gotten a ticket to the championship game?" Andy said.

"I've got friends who've already offered to buy it from me for three times the price. But I told them 'no way.' I'm not going to miss the game for nothing and for nobody."

"But I'm not 'nobody'," Lisa said. "I'm your sister - and I'm graduating tomorrow and it would mean so much to me for you to be there."

Andy shrugged. "Sister or no sister, I'm just not giving up the game. It's just too important to me."

Lisa wrinkled her face and stormed upstairs from the living room, just as their mother walked in from the front door.

"Hi Mom," Andy said. "What's for lunch?"

"Oh, lunch time already?" she smiled. "I'll heat up something from the freezer. Sorry about that. I've just been so busy shopping for Lisa's graduation that I've lost track of time."

Andy rolled his eyes. "Is it really such a big deal?"

"Of course it is," his mother said. "Any graduation is. But especially for Lisa. She worked so hard, and is graduating with the second best grades in her whole class. She would have been the best ... except for that time she missed from school last year."

"Which time?" Andy asked.

"Don't you remember? When you were in the hospital. It was hard for you to be alone and I was so busy at work. So Lisa got permission to take those days off from school and stay with you."

Andy nodded as his mother went on.

"It was right before her mid-term tests and she missed a lot of important review classes that would have helped her get better grades."

"Really?" Andy said. "I didn't know that."

"Uh, huh. I was actually surprised that she did it - it couldn't have been an easy choice," his mom said.

"As you know, doing well in school is so important to her - unlike someone else we both know." Andy

blushed. "I didn't even ask her to take the time off," his mother added, shaking her head. "She volunteered and just said 'family comes first.' Anyway, what would you like me to make you for lunch - frozen pizza or ... hey, where are you going?" she asked, as Andy turned and headed toward the door. "Oh, um ... I've just got this ticket I have to go sell to my friend," Andy said. "Be back soon. By the way, do you happen to know where my good suit is ... you know, to wear to the graduation?"

As Andy walked out the door, he realized that while he wasn't much of a student, like his sister was - he'd just learned a big lesson from her on what's really important in life.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Q. Do you think that family members are entitled to more priority than others? Why or why not?

A. While we should treat everyone well, we should treat our family especially well, and their needs should take precedence over those of others. It is not 'random' that we are part of a family. God has put us together as a support system, that if used properly can make every family member a stronger individual.

Q. Does a person with family commitments lose out on his or her personal freedom?

A. Although it's true that being attached and committed to others means we may sometimes have to give up our own private wants, this isn't a negative thing. A person who lives only for himself can quickly grow selfish and never experience the deep spiritual growth that only giving imparts.

**LEADER TIP:** Family is a very important topic that doesn't always get talked about, take advantage



# JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

## Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki “Rashi”



(February 22, 1040- July 13, 1105)

Rashi was a medieval French rabbi who is famous for his commentary on the Talmud and Tanach. He is able to give over the basic meaning of texts in a short, clear, and concise fashion. Rashi appeals to both learned scholars as well as beginning students and his work is one of the biggest centerpieces of Jewish study. He is one of, if not the most, famous commentators we have in Torah study. When people aren't sure of what something means, Rashi is usually the first place people will look for an explanation and help understanding what's going on.

A famous legend of Rashi says that his parents were childless for many years. Rashi's father, Yitzhak, a poor winemaker, once found a precious jewel and was approached by non-Jews who wished to buy it to adorn their idol. Yitzhak agreed to travel with them to their land, but en route, he cast the gem into the sea. Afterwards he was visited by either the Voice of God or Eliyahu HaNavi, who told him that he would be rewarded with the birth of a noble son "who would illuminate the world with his Torah knowledge."

Rashi also influenced non-Jewish circles. His commentaries on the Torah circulated in many different communities especially his commentaries on the Tanach. In the 12th–17th centuries, Rashi's influence spread from French and German provinces to Spain and the east. He had a tremendous influence on Christian scholars. The French monk Nicolas de Lyre of Manjacorria was dependent on Rashi when writing his commentary on the bible. He believed that Rashi's commentaries were the "official origin of Rabbinical tradition" and significant to understanding the Bible.

**LEADER TIP:** Rashi is best known for his commentating, ask the kids about what kinds of learning they connect to most. Do they think they can one day make their own commentary for anything?

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2014 All Rights Reserved, No reproduction or copying of this work without permission of the National Council of Young Israel is permitted. Any copying of this work is a violation of U.S. Copyright law and Halacha.

# TEFILLAH TREASURES

## Birchot HaShachar

***Boruch.....Ma-tir Ah-su-rim.***

**"Blessed are You... Who releases the bound."**

You want to get up out of bed, but you are immobile. Your limbs are frozen in place. You become restless and uncomfortable, waiting for the bonds of paralysis to be released. Finally, G-d sends a surge of strength and energy into your muscles and you can move! MATIR ASURIM!

***Boruch... Zokaif Kefufim.***

**LEADER TIP:** Start off this session with warm up exercises to get in the mood!

**"Blessed are You... Who straightens the bent."**

It's time to get out of bed. There is so much you need to accomplish this day. But as you try to stand up, you realize that your back is still stuck in the curled-up position of sleep. Like a beggar, you stand with your eyes cast on the floor in front of you as you wait for G-d to set you straight. At last, you feel the flexibility return to your spine and you stand up to face the day.

**ZOKEIF K'FUFIM!**



# PARSHA NATION



Teen Minyan Kol Haniarim

## This Week in Jewish History

April 28, 2014- 27<sup>th</sup> of Nissan

### Yom HaShoah

In remembrance of all those who died and in observance of Yom HaShoah 2014, let us recollect some of the most essential and heart-wrenching facts associated with Holocaust:

The most important reasoning that led Adolf Hitler execute so many people in the Holocaust, was his obsession with the idea of 'racial hygiene' - the believe that it was possible to create a 'pure' German race by selective breeding techniques applied in agriculture. Among those Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist German Workers Party wanted to eliminate were Jewish people, the Roma; certain groups from Poland and Russia; Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, disabled people, and communists.

The systematic removal and elimination of Jewish people from German society was referred to as the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question".

Among the 11 million people who died mainly in death and concentration camps, six million were Jewish. The total number of Jewish people that died represented almost one-third of all Jewish people alive at that time. Two-thirds of Jewish people living in Europe at the time of World War II were killed by Nazis.

Among the 11 million people killed during the Holocaust, 1.1 million were children.

There were thousands of Nazi concentration camps and sub-camps during the Holocaust.



When World War II began, Jews were forced to wear a yellow Star of David with the word 'Jude' written on it so that Nazi's and others could identify them.

Jewish people were forced to live in degrading areas of the city called ghettos after WWII began. In the larger ghettos, up to 1000 people were picked up and brought by train to concentration camps or death camps.

In order to get the Jewish people to cooperate with the Nazis they said that they were being transported for different labor.

One of the first concentration camps was known as Dachau.

Auschwitz was the largest concentration camp.

The Nazis reportedly had six extermination camps - where they would exterminate the Jewish people.

The Holocaust in Hebrew is called the Shoah, which means catastrophe.

The first victims of the Holocaust were people with disabilities.

Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps in 1945.

There are still some people in the world who feel the Holocaust never existed.

More than 500,000 people visit the Auschwitz concentration camp every year.

### STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- EMOR

31st of 54 sedras; 8th of 10 in Vayikra

Written on 215 lines in a Sefer Torah (rank: 20th)

17 parshiyot; 11 open, 6 closed (above avg.)

124 p'sukim, rank: 15th; 1st in Vayikra Same as Sh'mot, but shorter in words & letters Very very close in number of lines; but number of parshiyot affects line-count

1614 words, rank: 22nd; 2nd in Vayikra

6106 letters, rank: 23rd; 2nd in Vayikra

Relatively short p'sukim account for its drop in ranking in words and letters

Mitzvot:

63 of the 613 mitzvot; 24 pos. 39 prohibitions

Only Ki Tetze (with 74) has more mitzvot than Emor. And only K'doshim and Ki Teitzei are more "Mitzva- dense". Emor averages more than one mitzva every two p'sukim. Emor has almost five times as many mitzvot than average for the Torah. From another angle, the many mitzvot in Emor can be grouped into relatively few categories. This is in contrast with the mitzvot of K'doshim and Ki Teitzei, which range over many different areas. In this respect, Emor's mitzvot are very "tidy".

Acharei, K'doshim, Emor have a total of 142 mitzvot. For three consecutive sedras, that's second only to R'ei, Sho-f'tim, Ki Teitzei (170).

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

# WHAT DOES THE 1950 LAW OF RETURN GUARANTEE?

Email your answers to [YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG) along with your **NAME** and **AGE** for a chance to win **AWESOME PRIZES!** Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

### THIS JUST IN!

- **It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.**
- **Dogs have four toes on their hind feet, and five on their front feet.**
- **The ant can lift 50 times its own weight, can pull 30 times its own weight and always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.**

### FIND...

- Shabbat
- Pesach
- Omer
- Shavuot
- Rosh HaShanah
- Shofar
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot

H	H	D	R	J	E	E	U	U	T	N	M
N	N	R	O	P	B	M	R	A	J	D	Z
F	M	W	S	O	Y	T	M	D	O	Q	K
R	D	S	H	S	J	R	A	F	O	H	S
U	F	A	H	Z	H	X	E	I	R	S	Y
P	V	F	A	A	I	A	R	Z	T	U	F
P	W	O	S	E	B	E	V	I	Y	K	D
I	C	K	H	V	M	B	T	U	M	K	P
K	L	Z	A	O	T	S	A	F	O	O	U
M	E	C	N	M	G	M	P	T	B	T	Y
O	H	I	A	J	M	W	O	N	K	F	P
Y	R	B	H	C	A	S	E	P	S	R	Z

For more info please feel free to contact us at [youth@youngisrael.org](mailto:youth@youngisrael.org)

### Parsha Points to Ponder...

וְלֹא תִהְיֶה אֶת שְׁמִי קִדָּוֶשׁ, "You shall not desecrate My holy Name..." (Lev.22,32) This is the caution that Hashem presents to Bnei Israel. Very few people would think that they profane Hashem's Name. Yet there are times when we act in a way that we may think it is not an immoral manner and yet, unbeknownst to us, we have actually desecrated His Name. The Talmud asks, "What constitutes profanation of the Name? Rav said, 'if for example I take meat from the butcher and don't pay him at once.' R. Yochanan said, 'In my case, if I walk four cubits without uttering the words of Torah or wearing Tefillin.'" (Yoma 86a) We see from this that we must be ever mindful of how people see us and what effect our actions have on others. We may think we have not done wrong but our actions have sent a message, of which we were unaware, to others. We have truly profaned Hashem's Name without realizing it. Whenever we do something we must consider how others perceive it.

**Since 1981**



BRYCE CANYON, UTAH

# ACHVA

**EAST - WEST - ALASKA/HAWAII - ISRAEL**

***Once-in-a-lifetime Summer Tours  
for Modern Orthodox High School Students***

***[www.youngisrael.org/achva](http://www.youngisrael.org/achva)  
or call 212-929-1525 ext. 181***

***Amazing Summer Programs for post-8th to post-11th graders starting at \$3,650 up to \$9,250.  
For itineraries, dates and prices, see our web site. Experience matters: our 34th year! Sign up  
online today!***