

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.

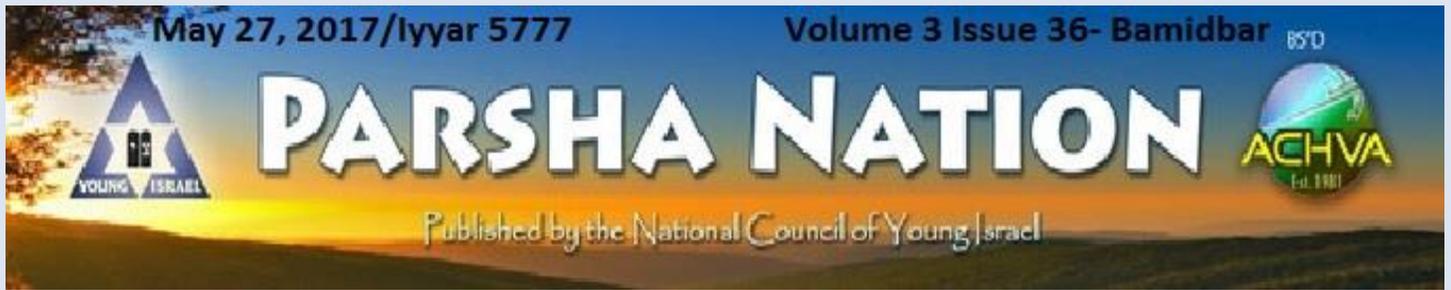
We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

NCYI Department of Synagogue Services

Youth@youngisrael.org

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 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.



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 Review- 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.

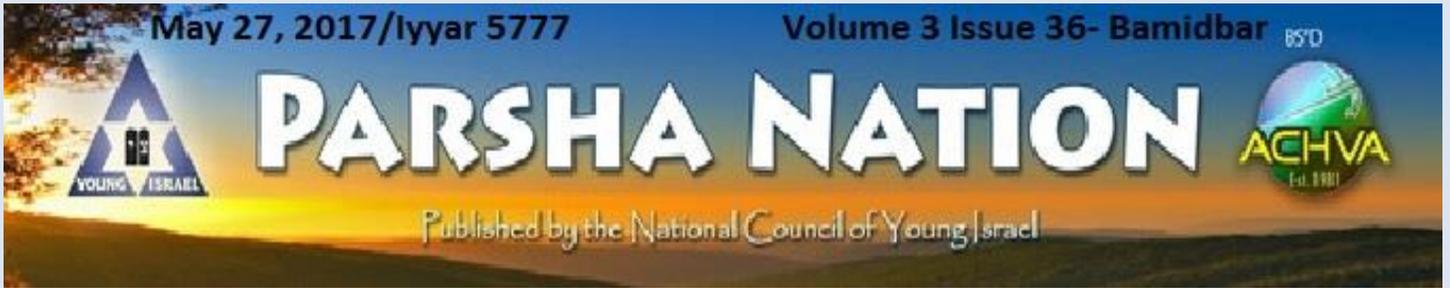
Discussion Portion- After the game is over and the participants are settled down, the youth leaders should facilitate a discussion. The guidelines for this discussion are broken down into easy to use instructions. Youth leaders should review the discussion topics and goals before the start of morning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

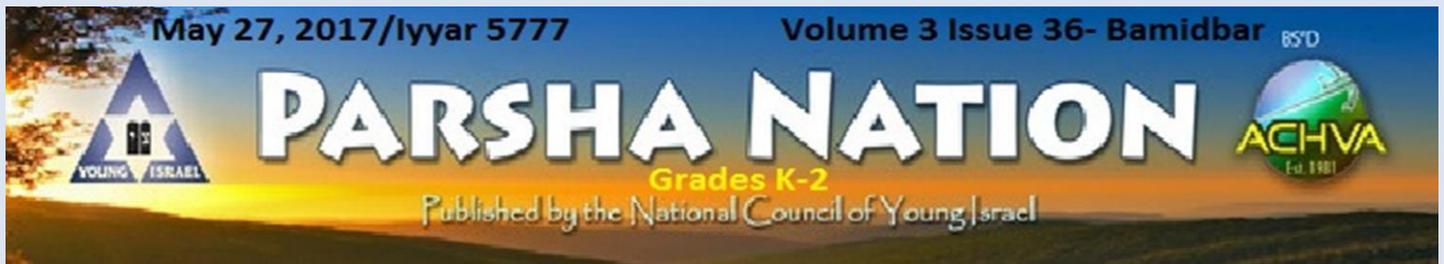
Teen Minyan Packet- This packet is filled with stories, riddles, points to ponder, and more.

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



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 Review	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.
Total Time:	2 hours & 40 min of programing!	



BAMIDBAR REVIEW

Bamidbar Review

Moshe counts all males over the age of 20, and registers them according to their paternal ancestry. The total, not including Shevet Levi, was 603,550. The total number of Jews was around 3 million. The tribes are each assigned their position within the camp, and in the order of the traveling.

Bnei Yisrael was arranged as follows...

In the middle was the mishkan. Around the mishkan were the Levi'im split up with Kehat, the carriers of the vessels (mizbeah, menorah, aron, etc.) being to the south of the Mishkan, Gershon, the carriers of the curtains and roofings, being to the west, and Merrari, the carriers of the walls and pillars, being to the north. Moshe and Aharon's families were to the east. Around the Mishkan and the Levi'im were the rest of the Shevatim. Yehudah, Yissachar, and Zevulum to the east, Reuven, Shimon and Gad to the south, Efraim, Menashe, and Binyamin to the west, and Dan, Asher, and Naftali to the north.

In preparation for separating the tribe of Levi, the Torah establishes Aharon's genealogy. Although the Kohanim were also from Shevet Levi, they were counted by themselves.

Moshe counts the Levi'im according to their three basic families: Gershon, Kehat, and Merarri. Their individual responsibilities in transporting the Mishkan is stated, and their total was 22,000.

Being that the Levi'im were to be in direct exchange for the first born, Moshe counts all the first born in the rest of the nation. Their total was 22,273. The extra 273 first born are instructed to redeem themselves from Aharon the Kohen for 5 silver shekels.

The Parsha concludes with detailed instructions for the family of Kehat. Their primary responsibility was to transport the vessels of the Mishkan. Only Aharon and his sons were allowed to cover the vessels in preparation for transport. Once covered, the family of Kehat did the actual carrying.

LEADER TIP: While explaining about the parsha, instead of having everyone sit regularly, set them up like Bnei Yisrael were set up in the desert.

PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions

1. What did HaShem tell Moshe to do at the beginning of Parshat Bamidbar?
2. Since HaShem knows everything, why did the Bnei Yisrael have to be counted?
3. Who counted the Bnei Yisrael?
4. What is one reason why shevat Levi was so much smaller than the other shevatim?
5. Who were originally supposed to work in the mishkan? Why?
6. Why were the Leviim chosen to replace them in their Avodah (Holy work)?
7. Why did the *levi'im* receive *ma'aser rishon*?
8. What is a Pidyon Haben, and who makes one today?
9. What was in the center of the camp?
10. What did each shevat display at its camp?

Answers

1. To count the Bnei Yisrael
2. HaShem wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael how much He loves them
3. Moshe, Aharon, and the twelve Nesiim
4. The shevatim that did slave labor in mitzrayim were blessed by HaShem and had six babies at a time. Since Shevat Levi never did slave labor, they didn't get this berachah from HaShem
5. The bechorim (first born), since they weren't killed during makat bechorot (plague of the first born)
6. The firstborn bowed to the egel (golden calf), losing their privilege, while the Leviim did not
7. Since the *leviim* served in the *Mishkan* in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
8. Each firstborn had to be redeemed with five shekels from the kohen. Nowadays, any firstborn son whose parent isn't a kohen or Levi must have one. The father should do it, but if he doesn't, the son must
9. The Mishkan
10. Its own degel (flag), symbolizing each shevat

LEADER TIP: Pick team captains to lead their teams just like the leaders of the shvatim!

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: In this week's parsha, Hashem tells Moshe to count all of Bnei Yisrael. Each of the 12 shvatim had a leader. In this game the kids will try and learn about each shevet and their leaders.

ACTIVITY: "Memory"- Match the leader/nasi to the shevet it represents

Before Shabbat, prepare cards or papers with the names of the shvatim and the leader of each shevet.

Reuven- Elitzur **Binyamin-** Avidan

Shimon- Shelumiel **Dan-** Achiezer

Yehudah- Nachshon **Asher-** Pagiel

Yissachar- Netanel **Gad-** Eliasaph

Zevulun- Eliav **Naftali-** Achirah

Menasheh- Gamliel **Efraim-** Achirah

Make some sort of visual connection between the shevet and its leader (ex: same color font, put the shevet's symbol on each card, etc.) You can use index cards, pieces of paper, or even cut out bigger pieces from poster board depending on how big you want it to be. You can do it in small groups as well as one big group. Before you start playing, show the kids all of the cards and introduce them to the shvatim and their leaders. Discuss with them who the shvatim are and why they're so important. If you'd like, you can even discuss what each of their symbols mean. Once the kids are somewhat familiar with the names, place all the cards face down on the floor. Switch off between people flipping over two cards at a time and seeing if they are a match. If they're not, it goes to the next persons turn. If it is a match, that person gets to keep the cards and go again.

DISCUSSION: The 12 tribes are Yaakov Avinus sons. They are all different and each have their own special talents and qualities. We all come from the 12 tribes. We learn from the 12 tribes that everyone has their own unique things that make them special. We wouldn't be able to have a world if everyone was great at sports but not smart, or if everyone was really strong physically but not emotionally. They teach us that we can all help each other out because were all good at different things. Everyone has a chance to be a leader in a different way. Either being a team captain playing sports, or helping friends with homework, or carrying something heavy, we're all good at something and should be proud of the people we are.

LEADER TIP: Obviously it'll be very difficult for the kids this age to learn all the names of the leaders, but the point of the game is to at least familiarize them with the names of the shvatim and their leaders so that as they get older they can learn it easier.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: Every person is important and every person counts. This week's portion takes a detailed census-count of each of the 12 tribes, not just the leaders or 'important' people. One thing we can learn from this is to remember that every person - including us - always counts!

DOWN FOR THE COUNT

It was the final game of the season and the neighborhood league championship was on the line. And though Mike belonged to one of the two best teams in the league, part of him felt that he really didn't belong at all. That's because his big brother, Rick, who was the team captain, hardly ever let him play.

Whenever Mike had tried to get into a game, pointing out that he was part of the team, too, Rick would just glare at him and say, "But you don't count." Mike would always argue back in protest - "I do too count!" - but Rick would just laugh in his face. The only times he *did* let him play was when their team had been so far ahead that Rick said he wasn't scared that Mike would blow it. But in a tight game like this, where everything was on the line, Mike figured there was no way he'd see the light of day.

As the innings went on, though the game was close, from his familiar perch on the bench, Mike found it hard to stay interested.

"Hey, Mike," Rick's voice interrupted Mike's thoughts. The boy perked up. *Maybe he actually was going to get a chance to play!*

"You want me to come into the game?" he asked hopefully.

"Nahh..." Rick waved off the idea like it was absurd. "I just wanted you to go bring a few extra batting gloves from the van, in case we'll need them, okay?" the kid said with a smirk.

Mike sighed, got up and shuffled toward the parking lot. *Could it be I really don't count for anything on this team? Rick certainly seems to feel that way, he thought glumly. He got to the van, but instead of getting the stuff, he just kept walking. If so, why should I even bother sticking around? Who's going to even notice if I go home?*

And indeed, it seemed as if no one had noticed. That is, until a while later when he heard a frantic knock on the locked door.

It was Rick.

"Hey Mike, why'd you take off? Everyone's been looking all over for you!" he said, panting.

"For me? Why? I didn't know the batting gloves were so important."

Rick gave him a confused look. "Wha ... anyway, grab your mitt and come back with me *right* away!" He glanced at his watch. "We've only got ten minutes and every second matters!"

"Ten minutes? What are you talking about?" Mike asked.

"Or else we'll forfeit the game - and the championship. You know, a couple of the guys couldn't show up today because of the flu going around, Larry had to run home for some kind of important appointment and Jerry just twisted his knee and can't play."

"Sorry to hear it, but so what?"

"So that means we're down to just eight guys and the umpire said if we can't field the regulation nine guys within 15 minutes, he was going to forfeit the game to the other team - and that was five minutes ago!"

"Gee, that's too bad," Mike grinned, making no sign of getting ready to move. "But I thought you said I don't count? Aren't you afraid I'll blow it or something?"

Rick lowered his head.

"I know I've been pretty obnoxious to you all season. I was thinking about that on the way here. I was wrong. You do count and you always did - and now you count for *everything* - please come!" the kid begged with a desperate look in his eyes.

Mike thought for a moment - then decided to go. He was happy that Rick realized he counted now, but that's not why he went. Mike had already known that he counted - and someone who counted was someone who could be counted on.

Discussion Questions

Q. How did Rick feel about Mike at first?

A. He wouldn't let him play and tried to make him feel he didn't count.

Q. How did he feel in the end?

A. He realized that Mike counted a lot.

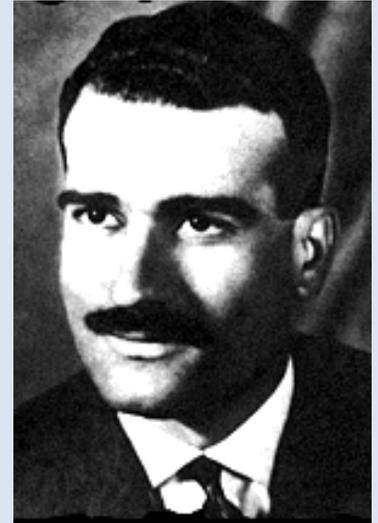
LEADER TIP: What would life be like if you were the only one in the world? What kinds of things are you good at that? What are things that you may not be so good at but can use other people's help?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eli Cohen

(December 16, 1924 – May 18, 1965)

Eli Cohen was an Israeli spy. He is best known for his spying work in 1961-1965 in Syria, where he created close relationships with people high up in the military and politics and he became the chief advisor to the Minister of Defense. He moved to Damascus in February 1962 using the name Kamel Amin Thaabet. When Syrian intelligence uncovered that he was a spy, he was taken to trial and found guilty of spying and sentenced to death. On 18 May 1965, Cohen was publicly hanged in the Marjeh Square in Damascus. On the day of his execution, Cohen's 'last wish' to see a Rabbi was respected by the prison authorities. While on his way in a truck to the Marjeh Square, he was accompanied by Nissim Andabo, the 80-year old Chief Rabbi of Syria.



LEADER TIP: Eli Cohen gave up everything he had just for the State of Israel and the Jewish people? Can you imagine what you would do if you were in his situation?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Birchot HaShachar

Boruch... Oiter Yisroel B'tif-ara.

"Blessed are You... Who crowns Israel with splendor."

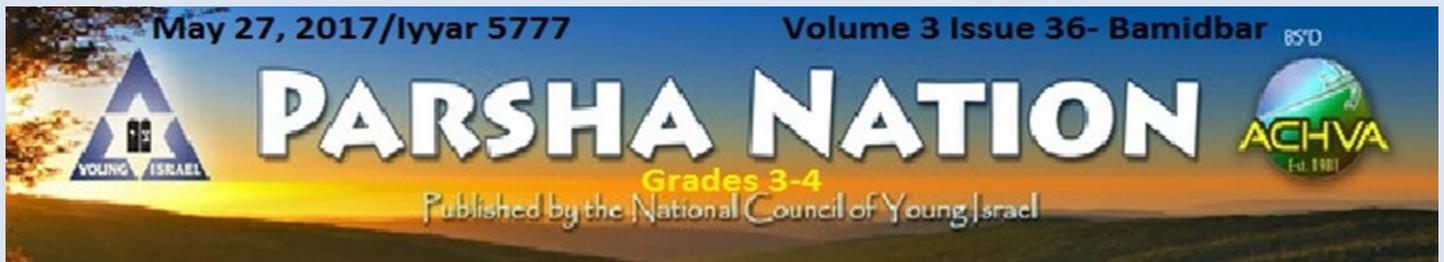
Wearing a hat goes in and out of style for the rest of the world (an Indiana Jones movie will always boost the industry!), but for a Jew, wearing a keepa is a sign of respect towards *Hashem*. A Jewish male mustn't walk "*Dalet Amot*" (about three feet) or make a *Bracha* without a *Yarmulka* on his head.

Boruch... Hanosayn La-yaw-ayf Co-ach.

"Who grants strength to the weary."

***Hashem* gives you the strength to start off the day. That includes the will to get through the day. Now, will you use that free will to make good or bad choices? Will you make this world a better place? Will you waste your day? Will you study *Torah* and do *Mitzvot* and be kind to others? Only you can make those important choices. So, use your power of choice wisely!!**

LEADER TIP: Have a "Who's the Strongest Person in the Group?" competition and "crown" a winner!



BAMIDBAR REVIEW

Bamidbar Review

Moshe counts all males over the age of 20, and registers them according to their paternal ancestry. The total, not including Shevet Levi, was 603,550. The total number of Jews was around 3 million. The tribes are each assigned their position within the camp, and in the order of the traveling.

Bnei Yisrael was arranged as follows...

In the middle was the mishkan. Around the mishkan were the Levi'im split up with Kehat, the carriers of the vessels (mizbeah, menorah, aron, etc.) being to the south of the Mishkan, Gershon, the carriers of the curtains and roofings, being to the west, and Merrari, the carriers of the walls and pillars, being to the north. Moshe and Aharon's families were to the east. Around the Mishkan and the Levi'im were the rest of the Shevatim. Yehudah, Yissachar, and Zevulum to the east, Reuven, Shimon and Gad to the south, Efraim, Menashe, and Binyamin to the west, and Dan, Asher, and Naftali to the north.

In preparation for separating the tribe of Levi, the Torah establishes Aharon's genealogy. Although the Kohanim were also from Shevet Levi, they were counted by themselves.

Moshe counts the Levi'im according to their three basic families: Gershon, Kehat, and Merarri. Their individual responsibilities in transporting the Mishkan is stated, and their total was 22,000.

Being that the Levi'im were to be in direct exchange for the first born, Moshe counts all the first born in the rest of the nation. Their total was 22,273. The extra 273 first born are instructed to redeem themselves from Aharon the Kohen for 5 silver shekels.

The Parsha concludes with detailed instructions for the family of Kehat. Their primary responsibility was to transport the vessels of the Mishkan. Only Aharon and his sons were allowed to cover the vessels in preparation for transport. Once covered, the family of Kehat did the actual carrying.

LEADER TIP: While explaining about the parsha, instead of having everyone sit regularly, set them up like Bnei Yisrael were set up in the desert.

PARSHA QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

1. What did HaShem tell Moshe to do at the beginning of parshat bamidbar?
2. Since HaShem knows everything, why did the Bnei Yisrael have to be counted?
3. Who counted the Bnei Yisrael?
4. Who were counted?
5. How were they counted?
6. Which shevat was counted alone?
7. Who was counted from shevat Levi?
8. How did Moshe count shevat Levi? (Hint: what nes occurred)?
9. What is one reason why shevat Levi was so much smaller than the other shevatim?
10. Who were originally supposed to work in the mishkan? Why?
11. Why were the Leviim chosen to replace them in their Avodah (Holy work)?
12. Why did the *levi'im* receive *ma'aser rishon*?
13. What is a Pidyon Haben, and who makes one today?
14. What was shevat Levi's job?
15. What did each shevat display at its camp?

LEADER TIP: Pick team captains to lead their teams just like the leaders of the shvatim!

ANSWERS

1. To count the Bnei Yisrael
2. HaShem wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael how much He loves them
3. Moshe, Aharon, and the twelve Nesiim
4. The men who were between twenty and sixty years old
5. Each person who was to be counted gave a *machtzit hashekel*. Then the coins were counted
6. Shevat Levi
7. All males from one month old and older
8. He went near their tents and a *bat kol* (voice from heaven) told him
9. The shevatim that did slave labor in *mitzrayim* were blessed by HaShem and had six babies at a time. Since Shevat Levi never did slave labor, they didn't get this *berachah* from HaShem
10. The *bechorim* (first born), since they weren't killed during *makat bechorot* (plague of the first born)
11. The firstborn bowed to the *egel* (golden calf), losing their privilege, while the Leviim did not
12. Since the *levi'im* served in the *Mishkan* in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
13. Each firstborn had to be redeemed with five shekels from the kohen. Nowadays, any firstborn son whose parent isn't a kohen or Levi must have one. The father should do it, but if he doesn't, the son must
14. To sing during the *avodah*; to carry all the pieces and *keilim* of the *mishkan*; and to stand guard around the *mishkan* to make sure only *kohanim* entered the *kodesh* section of the *mishkan*
15. Its own *degel* (flag), symbolizing each shevat

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: In this week's parsha, we read about how Bnei Yisrael is arranged as they travel through the desert. This is just a fun activity to get them moving and learning about how Bnei Yisrael were set up while in the desert.

ACTIVITY: Split up the kids into two teams. Give each team some sort of object that they have to keep hold of the entire game. Make sure it's something big enough that it requires a few people to hold (nothing too big/heavy though). Give them different ways that they need to align themselves in competition with the other team. For example- height order, birthday from January to December, like a "hashtag", spelling out a word or shape, etc. Make sure their object is always being held! If you have enough space to work with, once each group gets into their order, make them race in line/shape to the opposite side of the room and back.

DISCUSSION: When the Jews had to leave their encampment and begin traveling, the Levites would take apart the *Mishkan* carry it to wherever the next camp was, and set it up again. The camp was arranged like this: In the center was the *Mishkan*. Around the *Mishkan* was the camp of the Levites, divided into three groups. The Kehatites, who carried the *Mishkan's* vessels (the mizbeach, aron, menorah, etc.), camped to its south. The Gershonites, who carried the curtains and roof coverings, were to the west, and the sons of Merrari, who carried the walls and pillars, camped to the north. In front of the *Mishkan's* entranceway in the east were the tents of Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons.

Around the Levites were camped the rest of the People of Israel, in four groups. To the east were Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; to the south, Reuben, Shimon, and Gad; to the west, Ephraim, Menasseh, and Benjamin; and to the north, Dan, Asher, and Naphtali. When everyone works together and travels together, things get done more efficiently. We are one nation and everyone has a special place in it.

LEADER TIP: Be creative with the things you make the groups do. Have them do all sorts of crazy things while making sure they stay in order and not drop the object! You can even split up in to teams and give them team names as the shvatim!

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: Every person is important and every person counts. This week's portion takes a detailed census-count of each of the 12 tribes, not just the leaders or 'important' people. One thing we can learn from this is to remember that every person - including us - always counts!

DOWN FOR THE COUNT

It was the final game of the season and the neighborhood league championship was on the line. And though Mike belonged to one of the two best teams in the league, part of him felt that he really didn't belong at all. That's because his big brother, Rick, who was the team captain, hardly ever let him play.

Whenever Mike had tried to get into a game, pointing out that he was part of the team, too, Rick would just glare at him and say, "But you don't count." Mike would always argue back in protest - "I do too count!" - but Rick would just laugh in his face. The only times he *did* let him play was when their team had been so far ahead that Rick said he wasn't scared that Mike would blow it. But in a tight game like this, where everything was on the line, Mike figured there was no way he'd see the light of day.

As the innings went on, though the game was close, from his familiar perch on the bench, Mike found it hard to stay interested.

"Hey, Mike," Rick's voice interrupted Mike's thoughts. The boy perked up. *Maybe he actually was going to get a chance to play!*

"You want me to come into the game?" he asked hopefully.

"Nahh..." Rick waved off the idea like it was absurd. "I just wanted you to go bring a few extra batting gloves from the van, in case we'll need them, okay?" the kid said with a smirk.

Mike sighed, got up and shuffled toward the parking lot. *Could it be I really don't count for anything on this team? Rick certainly seems to feel that way, he thought glumly. He got to the van, but instead of getting the stuff, he just kept walking. If so, why should I even bother sticking around? Who's going to even notice if I go home?*

And indeed, it seemed as if no one had noticed. That is, until a while later when he heard a frantic knock on the locked door.

It was Rick.

"Hey Mike, why'd you take off? Everyone's been looking all over for you!" he said, panting.

"For me? Why? I didn't know the batting gloves were so important."

Rick gave him a confused look. "Wha ... anyway, grab your mitt and come back with me *right* away!" He glanced at his watch. "We've only got ten minutes and every second matters!"

"Ten minutes? What are you talking about?" Mike asked.

"Or else we'll forfeit the game - and the championship. You know, a couple of the guys couldn't show up today because of the flu going around, Larry had to run home for some kind of important appointment and Jerry just twisted his knee and can't play."

"Sorry to hear it, but so what?"

"So that means we're down to just eight guys and the umpire said if we can't field the regulation nine guys within 15 minutes, he was going to forfeit the game to the other team - and that was five minutes ago!"

"Gee, that's too bad," Mike grinned, making no sign of getting ready to move. "But I thought you said I don't count? Aren't you afraid I'll blow it or something?"

Rick lowered his head.

"I know I've been pretty obnoxious to you all season. I was thinking about that on the way here. I was wrong. You do count and you always did - and now you count for *everything* - please come!" the kid begged with a desperate look in his eyes.

Mike thought for a moment - then decided to go. He was happy that Rick realized he counted now, but that's not why he went. Mike had already known that he counted - and someone who counted was someone who could be counted on.

Discussion Questions

Q. What life-lesson do you think someone could learn from this story?

A. There are always going to be people who try to make us feel like we don't 'count' - but we should always remember that we do.

Q. Why do you think Mike walked away from the game?

A. His brother's put downs had almost convinced him that he really didn't count. A person who feels he doesn't count won't feel motivated to take his responsibilities seriously. That's why once Rich realized - and Mike remembered - that he really did count, Mike acted responsibly and returned to the game.

LEADER TIP: What would life be like if you were the only one in the world? What kinds of things are you good at that? What are things that you may not be so good at but can use other people's help?

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 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.

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eli Cohen

(December 16, 1924 – May 18, 1965)

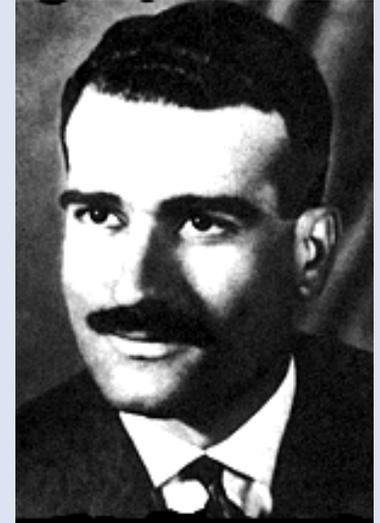
Eli Cohen was an Israeli spy. He is best known for his spying work in 1961-1965 in Syria, where he created close relationships with people high up in the military and politics and he became the chief advisor to the Minister of Defense.

He moved to Damascus in February 1962 using the name Kamel Amin Thaabet. When Syrian intelligence uncovered that he was a spy, he was taken to trial and found guilty of spying and sentenced to death. On 18

May 1965, Cohen was publicly hanged in the Marjeh Square in Damascus. On the day of his execution, Cohen's 'last wish' to see a Rabbi that was respected by the prison authorities. While on his way in a truck to the Marjeh Square, he was accompanied by Nissim Andabo, the 80-year old Chief Rabbi of Syria.

In 2005, he was voted the 26th-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis. Cohen provided an incredible amount of intelligence data to the Israeli Army over a period of four years (1961-1965).

Cohen sent intelligence to Israel by radio, secret letters, and occasionally in person, he secretly traveled to Israel three times. His most famous achievement was when he toured the Golan Heights, and collected intelligence on the Syrian fortifications there. Pretending sympathy for the soldiers exposed to the sun, Cohen had trees planted at every position. The trees were used as targeting markers by the Israeli military during the Six-Day War and enabled Israel to easily capture the Golan Heights in two days.



LEADER TIP: Eli Cohen gave up everything he had just for the State of Israel and the Jewish people? Can you imagine what you would do if you were in his situation?

TEFILLAH TREASURES

Birchot HaShachar

Boruch... Oiter Yisroel B'tif-ara.

"Blessed are You... Who crowns Israel with splendor."

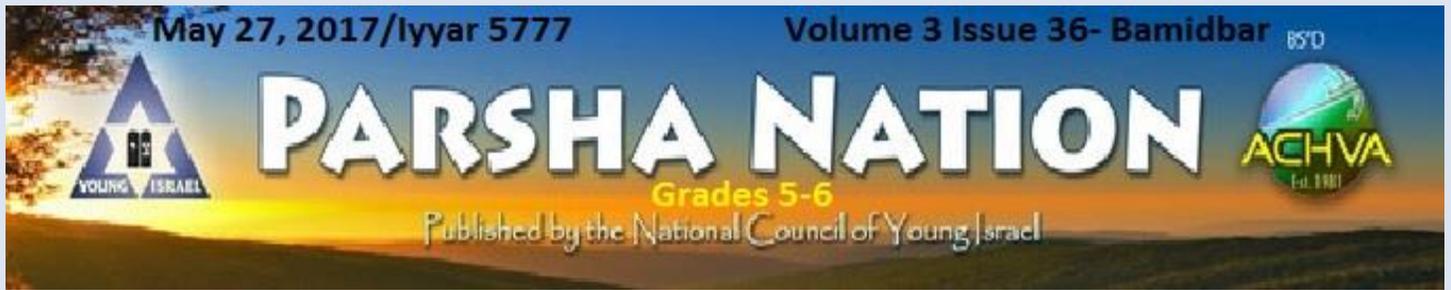
Wearing a hat goes in and out of style for the rest of the world (an Indiana Jones movie will always boost the industry!), but for a Jew, wearing a keepa is a sign of respect towards *Hashem*. A Jewish male mustn't walk "*Dalet Amot*" (about three feet) or make a *Bracha* without a *Yarmulka* on his head. Hashem has crowned us with a special gift. We should always wear our "crowns" with pride and remember who we are.

Boruch... Hanosayn La-yaw-ayf Co-ach.

"Who grants strength to the weary."

***Hashem* gives you the strength to start off the day. That includes the will to get through the day. Now, will you use that free will to make good or bad choices? Will you make this world a better place? Will you waste your day? Will you study *Torah* and do *Mitzvot* and be kind to others? Only you can make those important choices. So, use your power of choice wisely!! Even more miraculous is the strength that arises in a person just when he believes there is nothing left. Exactly when we've expended all our power, G-d grants us His special Divine Assistance and inspires us to try just one more time, to take just one more step, and there, at last, we find our success.**

LEADER TIP: Have a "Who's the Strongest Person in the Group?" competition and "crown" a winner!



BAMIDBAR REVIEW

Bamidbar Review

Moshe counts all males over the age of 20, and registers them according to their paternal ancestry. The total, not including Shevet Levi, was 603,550. The total number of Jews was around 3 million. The tribes are each assigned their position within the camp, and in the order of the traveling.

Bnei Yisrael was arranged as follows...

In the middle was the mishkan. Around the mishkan were the Levi'im split up with Kehat, the carriers of the vessels (mizbeah, menorah, aron, etc.) being to the south of the Mishkan, Gershon, the carriers of the curtains and roofings, being to the west, and Merrari, the carriers of the walls and pillars, being to the north. Moshe and Aharon's families were to the east. Around the Mishkan and the Levi'im were the rest of the Shevatim. Yehudah, Yissachar, and Zevulum to the east, Reuven, Shimon and Gad to the south, Ephraim, Menashe, and Binyamin to the west, and Dan, Asher, and Naftali to the north.

In preparation for separating the tribe of Levi, the Torah establishes Aharon's genealogy. Although the Kohanim were also from Shevet Levi, they were counted by themselves.

Moshe counts the Levi'im according to their three basic families: Gershon, Kehat, and Merarri. Their individual responsibilities in transporting the Mishkan is stated, and their total was 22,000.

Being that the Levi'im were to be in direct exchange for the first born, Moshe counts all the first born in the rest of the nation. Their total was 22,273. The extra 273 first born are instructed to redeem themselves from Aharon the Kohen for 5 silver shekels.

The Parsha concludes with detailed instructions for the family of Kehat. Their primary responsibility was to transport the vessels of the Mishkan. Only Aharon and his sons were allowed to cover the vessels in preparation for transport. Once covered, the family of Kehat did the actual carrying.

LEADER TIP: While explaining about the parsha, instead of having everyone sit regularly, set them up like Bnei Yisrael were set up in the desert.

PARSHA QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

1. What did HaShem tell Moshe to do at the beginning of parshat bamidbar?
2. Since HaShem knows everything, why did the Bnei Yisrael have to be counted?
3. Who counted the Bnei Yisrael?
4. Who were counted?
5. How were they counted?
6. Which shevat was counted alone?
7. Who was counted from shevat Levi?
8. How did Moshe count shevat Levi? (Hint: what nes occurred)?
9. What is one reason why shevat Levi was so much smaller than the other shevatim?
10. Who were originally supposed to work in the mishkan? Why?
11. Why were the Leviim chosen to replace them in their Avodah (Holy work)?
12. Why did the *levi'im* receive *ma'aser rishon*?
13. What is a Pidyon Haben, and who makes one today?
14. What was shevat Levi's job?
15. How old were the Leviim that carried the Mishkan?
16. Who covered all the keilim of the Mishkan before the Leviim were allowed to carry them?
17. What was in the center of the camp?
18. The Bnei kehat transported the aron Hakodesh, shulchan, menorah, mizbach hazahav, and mizbach hanechoshet. Did they carry these keilim by themselves or were the keilim placed on wagons?
19. What does the funeral of Yaakov have to do with the order in which Bnei Yisrael camped in the Midbar?
20. What did each shevat display at its camp?

ANSWERS

1. To count the Bnei Yisrael
2. HaShem wanted to show the Bnei Yisrael how much He loves them
3. Moshe, Aharon, and the twelve Nesiim
4. The men who were between twenty and sixty years old
5. Each person who was to be counted gave a machtzit hashekel. Then the coins were counted
6. Shevat Levi
7. All males from one month old and older
8. He went near their tents and a bat kol (voice from heaven) told him
9. The shevatim that did slave labor in mitzrayim were blessed by HaShem and had six babies at a time. Since Shevat Levi never did slave labor, they didn't get this berachah from HaShem
10. The bechorim (first born), since they weren't killed during makat bechorot (plague of the first born)
11. The firstborn bowed to the egel (golden calf), losing their privilege, while the Leviim did not
12. Since the *leviim* served in the *Mishkan* in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
13. Each firstborn had to be redeemed with five shekels from the kohen. Nowadays, any firstborn son whose parent isn't a kohen or Levi must have one. The father should do it, but if he doesn't, the son must
14. To sing during the avodah; to carry all the pieces and keilim of the mishkan; and to stand guard around the mishkan to make sure only kohanim entered the kodesh section of the mishkan
15. Between 30 and 50 years old
16. Aharon and his sons
17. The Mishkan
18. They carried them by themselves
19. Before Yaakov died, he arranged the order that his children should carry his body back to Eretz Yisrael. This is the same order that the Bnei Yisrael camped in the midbar
20. Its own degel (flag), symbolizing each shevat

LEADER TIP: Pick team captains to lead their teams just like the leaders of the shvatim!

PARSHA ACTIVITY

GOAL: This week's parsha talks about the leaders of each shevet, each being different and unique individuals. In this activity, our goal is to try and familiarize the kids with leadership figures and to encourage them to be leaders- each one in his/her personal way.

ACTIVITY:

Start by asking each kid who his/her role model is. Ask them why? What makes that individual a role model? Don't forget to include your role model!

As people we have many leaders. We have religious leaders of all types, political leaders, academic leaders, and personal leaders.

It is important for us to know who our leaders are, so we know what kind of person to follow and strive to be like. Since that is essentially what a leader is – a role model, an example.

Let's start small. As young people we have even more leaders. First and foremost our parents are our leaders – and the most important ones we could have. Then comes our school teachers and principals and our counselors and group leaders! These people can and should act for us as personal, spiritual (religious) and academic leaders.

On a broader level, we have community leaders – mainly our Shul Rabbi and our school principal/director.

On a more idealistic level we have Jewish leaders - common leaders for the entire Jewish community. We have people like the Rabanut Ha'Rashit of Israel – both the Sephardi and Ashkenazi – who should appear to us as leaders of the Jewish people.

Attach a name of a Jewish leader on the forehead of each of the kids. If there are a lot of kids, then pick a number of them to sit in front of the room to do it to. They have to guess who they are by asking the other kids yes and no questions. Once everyone has guessed their person, go around the room and ask each kid why that person is a Jewish leader today. (examples of leaders – Rav Solovietchik, the Shul Rabbi, the school principal, the name of a group leader, Roi Klein, Natan Sharansky, Moshe Rabbeinu etc...)

DISCUSSION: We start off this week's parsha being introduced to all the leaders of each shevet. It seems that we have many leaders in life. This can be overwhelming. But it can also prepare us for our future task: Making ourselves into leaders.

You can be a leader for others, but more importantly you can be your own leader. There is great importance in being your own personal leader and setting up your own priorities. But before reaching that stage you have to take examples from others.

“Ase lecha Rav, K'ne lecha chaver.” Pick the people who you wish to you be your leaders and follow them. Start at home, start with your parents and your teachers.

LEADER TIP: Kids love talking about leadership, take advantage of the topic and really get conversation going. The more you open up, the more the kids will too.

PARSHA STORY

Before you read: Every person is important and every person counts. This week's portion takes a detailed census-count of each of the 12 tribes, not just the leaders or 'important' people. One thing we can learn from this is to remember that every person - including us - always counts!

DOWN FOR THE COUNT

It was the final game of the season and the neighborhood league championship was on the line. And though Mike belonged to one of the two best teams in the league, part of him felt that he really didn't belong at all. That's because his big brother, Rick, who was the team captain, hardly ever let him play.

Whenever Mike had tried to get into a game, pointing out that he was part of the team, too, Rick would just glare at him and say, "But you don't count." Mike would always argue back in protest - "I do too count!" - but Rick would just laugh in his face. The only times he *did* let him play was when their team had been so far ahead that Rick said he wasn't scared that Mike would blow it. But in a tight game like this, where everything was on the line, Mike figured there was no way he'd see the light of day.

As the innings went on, though the game was close, from his familiar perch on the bench, Mike found it hard to stay interested.

"Hey, Mike," Rick's voice interrupted Mike's thoughts. The boy perked up. *Maybe he actually was going to get a chance to play!*

"You want me to come into the game?" he asked hopefully.

"Nahh..." Rick waved off the idea like it was absurd. "I just wanted you to go bring a few extra batting gloves from the van, in case we'll need them, okay?" the kid said with a smirk.

Mike sighed, got up and shuffled toward the parking lot. *Could it be I really don't count for anything on this team? Rick certainly seems to feel that way,* he thought glumly. He got to the van, but instead of getting the stuff, he just kept walking. *If so, why should I even bother sticking around? Who's going to even notice if I go home?*

And indeed, it seemed as if no one had noticed. That is, until a while later when he heard a frantic knock on the locked door.

It was Rick.

"Hey Mike, why'd you take off? Everyone's been looking all over for you!" he said, panting.

"For me? Why? I didn't know the batting gloves were so important."

Rick gave him a confused look. "Wha ... anyway, grab your mitt and come back with me *right* away!" He glanced at his watch. "We've only got ten minutes and every second matters!"

"Ten minutes? What are you talking about?" Mike asked.

"Or else we'll forfeit the game - and the championship. You know, a couple of the guys couldn't show up today because of the flu going around, Larry had to run home for some kind of important appointment and Jerry just twisted his knee and can't play."

"Sorry to hear it, but so what?"

"So that means we're down to just eight guys and the umpire said if we can't field the regulation nine guys within 15 minutes, he was going to forfeit the game to the other team - and that was five minutes ago!"

"Gee, that's too bad," Mike grinned, making no sign of getting ready to move. "But I thought you said I don't count? Aren't you afraid I'll blow it or something?"

Rick lowered his head.

"I know I've been pretty obnoxious to you all season. I was thinking about that on the way here. I was wrong. You do count and you always did - and now you count for *everything* - please come!" the kid begged with a desperate look in his eyes.

Mike thought for a moment - then decided to go. He was happy that Rick realized he counted now, but that's not why he went. Mike had already known that he counted - and someone who counted was someone who could be counted on.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Q. In your opinion, did Mike becoming the necessary ninth man on his team make him 'count' more than he did before?

A. Maybe in a technical sense, so they wouldn't forfeit the game, but in the ultimate sense, he - just like every person - always counted.

Q. Why do you think that is?

A. Because each of us - every person in the world - is a special creation of God. God made each of us for a purpose and with a purpose in life that only we can fulfill. The world would be lacking if any of us weren't here; therefore, everyone, even if sometimes it doesn't look or feel like it, counts more than we can even imagine.

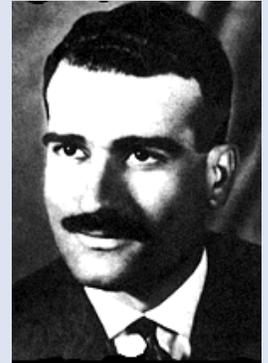
LEADER TIP: What would life be like if you were the only one in the world? What kinds of things are you good at that? What are things that you may not be so good at but can use other people's help?

JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Eli Cohen

LEADER TIP: Eli Cohen gave up everything he had just for the State of Israel and the Jewish people? Can you imagine what you would do if you were in his situation?

(December 16, 1924 – May 18, 1965)



Eli Cohen was an Israeli spy. He is best known for his spying work in 1961-1965 in Syria, where he created close relationships with people high up in the military and politics and he became the chief advisor to the Minister of Defense.

He moved to Damascus in February 1962 using the name Kamel Amin Thaabet.

When Syrian intelligence uncovered that he was a spy, he was taken to trial and found guilty of spying and sentenced to death. On 18 May 1965, Cohen was publicly hanged in the Marjeh Square in Damascus. On the day of his execution, Cohen's 'last wish' to see a Rabbi that was respected by the prison authorities. While on his way in a truck to the Marjeh Square, he was accompanied by Nissim Andabo, the 80-year old Chief Rabbi of Syria.

In 2005, he was voted the 26th-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis. Cohen provided an incredible amount of intelligence data to the Israeli Army over a period of four years (1961-1965).

Cohen sent intelligence to Israel by radio, secret letters, and occasionally in person, he secretly traveled to Israel three times. His most famous achievement was when he toured the Golan Heights, and collected intelligence on the Syrian fortifications there. Feigning sympathy for the soldiers exposed to the sun, Cohen had trees planted at every position. The trees were used as targeting markers by the Israeli military during the Six-Day War and enabled Israel to easily capture the Golan Heights in two days. Cohen made repeated visits to the southern frontier zone, providing photographs and sketches of Syrian positions. Cohen learned of an important secret plan by Syria to create three successive lines of bunkers and mortars; the Israel Defense Forces would otherwise have expected to encounter only a single line. Newly appointed Syrian Intelligence, Colonel Ahmed Su'edani trusted no one and disliked Cohen. Because of this, Cohen expressed his fear and wish to terminate his assignment in Syria during his last secret visit to Israel in November 1964 to pass intelligence and for the birth of his third child. Still, Israeli Intelligence asked him to return to Syria one more time. Before leaving, Cohen assured his wife that there would only be one more trip before he returned permanently.

In January 1965, Syrian efforts to find a high-level mole were stepped up. Using Soviet-made tracking equipment and assisted by hired Soviet experts, a period of radio silence was observed, and it was hoped that any illegal transmissions could be identified. After large amounts of radio interference were detected and traced to their source, on 24 January Syrian security officers broke into Cohen's apartment where he was caught in the middle of transmission to Israel.

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 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... Oiter Yisroel B'tif-ara.

"Blessed are You... Who crowns Israel with splendor."

Wearing a hat goes in and out of style for the rest of the world (an Indiana Jones movie will always boost the industry!), but for a Jew, wearing a kepea is a sign of respect towards *Hashem*. A Jewish male mustn't walk "*Dalet Amot*" (about three feet) or make a *Bracha* without a *Yarmulka* on his head. Anaf Yosef highlights the use of the word "Yisrael" in this bracha, explaining that the underlying subject is the singularity of the Jewish people and their vital role in G-d's world. Hidden within each aspect of the mundane world, there is a spark of holiness. It would have to be so, for each part of creation is a work of G-d. When a Jew, acting according to the dictates of the Torah, interacts with any element of the mundane world, he unveils the spark of kedusha embedded within it.

Boruch... Hanosayn La-yaw-ayf Co-ach.

"Who grants strength to the weary."

Hashem gives you the strength to start off the day. That includes the will to get through the day. Now, will you use that free will to make good or bad choices? Will you make this world a better place? Will you waste your day? Will you study *Torah* and do *Mitzvot* and be kind to others? Only you can make those important choices. So, use your power of choice wisely!! Even more miraculous is the strength that arises in a person just when he believes there is nothing left. Exactly when we've expended all our power, G-d grants us His special Divine Assistance and inspires us to try just one more time, to take just one more step, and there, at last, we find our success.

LEADER TIP: Have a "Who's the Strongest Person in the Group?" competition and "crown" a winner!

Copyright by National Council of Young Israel 2017 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.



This Week in Jewish History

May 18th, 1965

Eli Cohen Executed

Eli Cohen was an Israeli spy. He is best known for his spying work in 1961-1965 in Syria, where he created close relationships with people high up in the military and politics and he became the chief advisor to the Minister of Defense. He moved to Damascus in February 1962 using the name Kamel Amin Thaabet. When Syrian intelligence uncovered that he was a spy, he was taken to trial and found guilty of spying and sentenced to death. On 18 May 1965, Cohen was publicly hanged in the Marjeh Square in Damascus. On the day of his execution, Cohen's 'last wish' to see a Rabbi that was respected by the prison authorities. While on his way in a truck to the Marjeh Square, he was accompanied by Nissim Andabo, the 80-year old Chief Rabbi of Syria. In 2005, he was voted the 26th-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public

considered the 200 Greatest Israelis. Cohen provided an incredible amount of intelligence data to the Israeli Army over a period of four years (1961-1965). Cohen sent intelligence to Israel by radio, secret letters, and occasionally in person, he secretly traveled to Israel three times. His most famous achievement was when he toured the Golan Heights, and collected intelligence on the Syrian fortifications there. Pretending sympathy for the soldiers exposed to the sun, Cohen had trees planted at every position. The trees were used as targeting markers by the Israeli military during the Six-Day War and enabled Israel to easily capture the Golan Heights in two days.

FIND...

- Shevet
- Nassi
- Census
- Army
- Twenty
- Sixty
- Travel
- Desert

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- BECHUKOTAI

34th of 54 sedras; 1st of 10 in Bamidbar
Written on 263 lines in a Sefer Torah, ranks 3rd
30 Parshiyot; 23 open, 7 closed, ranks 4th
159 p'sukim - ranks 3rd (3rd in Bamidbar)
1823 words - ranks 13th (4th in Bamidbar)
7393 letters - ranks 9th (3rd in Bamidbar)
Note the difference in rank from p'sukim to words.
BaMidbar's p'sukim are among the shortest in the
Torah - 11.5 words/pasuk. Compare: Vayelech: 18.4,
Book of Bamidbar: 12.7, the Torah: 13.7

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS THE NAME OF ISRAEL'S SHIPPING LINE?

Email your answers to 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!

- **The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.**
- **Snails can sleep for 3 years without eating**
- **Porcupines float in water.**

For more info please feel free to contact us at youth@youngisrael.org

Parsha Points to Ponder...

A good portion of this week's Sidra is devoted to taking the census of Bnei Israel in the Wilderness. All the men who were twenty years and older were counted in every tribe. They were designated as KOL YOTZE TZAVA, "every man capable of joining the army." (Num. 1,3) At first the only tribe not counted was the tribe of Levi. Their task was not to go to the army but they were assigned to a different task. The Torah says: VESHAMRU HALEVIIM ET MISHMERET MISHKAN HA'EDUT. (Num. 1,53) They were to guard the Mishkan. Towards the end of the Sidra we read that a census was taken of the tribe of Levi and all men from the age of one month and up were counted. If the duties of the Levites was to guard the Mishkan what could be the function of a month old child? The answer, of course, is that the task of the Levites was not to physically protect the Mishkan. There was no need for that. Their task was a spiritual one. With their holiness and their dedicated attention to keep the Mishkan holy, they were protecting the integrity of the Mishkan. The children from their very childhood were brought up in the aura of holiness. They grew up with a sense of purity that lasted with them throughout life. A Jewish child today should also be raised with this same feeling of holiness and belonging to Klal Israel.

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

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

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!**