

NCYI Youth Groups Parshat Behaalotcha

(http://www.headcoverings-by-devorah.com/HebEngTaNaKh_TorahSummary.htm)

Parsha Outline

- Menorah
- Inauguration of Leviim
- Pesach
- Departure from Har Sinai
- Complaints and the S'lav (Quail)
- Miraim's and Aharon's complaint
- Miram's punishment

Parsha Summaries

http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/388886/jewish/Behaalotecha-Roundup.htm

Behaalotecha Roundup

The Parshah begins with the instruction for Aaron to light the Menorah in the Mishkan. The Menorah had seven branches made out of one lump of solid gold according to the fiery image that G-d had shown Moses. Next we read about how Moses initiates the Levites to do their service in the Mishkan. Every man from the tribe of Levi between the ages of 20 and fifty served in the Mishkan by helping the Kohanim (priests) do their work.

Some background information on the next incident: What we're reading about here is the Jew's first year in the desert after they came out of Egypt. So as they neared the end of the year, they had to prepare for their first Passover. The most important part of celebrating Passover was bringing an offering in the Mishkan--the Paschal sacrifice (called the *Korban Pesach*). So, in this Parshah, G-d commands the Jews to prepare and bring the sacrifice. But some of the people are impure (*tameh*) because they have come in contact with a dead body and so they can't bring the sacrifice.

Now, instead of just thinking, "Oh, too bad, we'll have to wait till next year," these people are really upset. So they go to Moses and say, "Why should we miss out on doing the mitzvah? We also want to bring the Paschal sacrifice!" Moses passes over their question to G-d, asking what they should do. And lo and behold, G-d tells them that they will get a second chance. Exactly a month after Passover will be Pesach Sheini--the Second

Passover, when everybody who wasn't able to bring the Paschal Sacrifice in the right time has another opportunity to bring it. This is a very important story because it teaches us that it's never too late to do a good deed and that we always get a second chance.

Now we read a bit about how the Jews rested and camped in the desert. There was a "Cloud of Glory" over the Mishkan that represented G-d's presence. Whenever the cloud was over the Mishkan, the Jews camped in that place. When the cloud lifted, they began traveling, until it came down again upon the Mishkan, when they stopped. G-d also told Moses to make two silver trumpets. Different sounds were blown for different occasions: when Moses wanted to talk to the leaders of the tribe, when it was time to begin traveling, when Moses wanted to gather the whole nation, when the Jews were going to war, and when bringing the sacrifices on special holidays.

Every night, manna came down in the camp, and every morning, the people gathered and ate it. But now, after a year, the people complain that they are sick of eating the manna and want meat. G-d promises to send them meat and the next day large swarms of quail come over the camp, and the Jews have more than enough meat to eat.

G-d tells Moses to appoint seventy people to help him in his job; he does so and these seventy people get some of Moses' spirit.

Miriam says something bad about Moses and she gets stricken with *tzaraat* (remember learning about it in Parshat Tazria?). She has to be outside the camp for seven days, and the Jews don't travel for those seven days, waiting until she is healed.

http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/522417/jewish/Aliya-Summary.htm

Behaalotecha Aliya Summary

General Overview: In this week's Torah reading, *Beha'alotecha*, G-d instructs Aaron concerning the Tabernacle Menorah lighting. The Levites are initiated into the Tabernacle service. The "Second Passover" is instituted. At G-d's behest, Moses makes two trumpets, and is instructed how and when to use them. The Israelites leave Mount Sinai, and proceed towards the Land of Canaan. The people unreasonably complain about their "frugal" manna diet and receive a meat supplement, albeit with tragic results. Moses appoints seventy elders to assist him in bearing the burden of the people. Miriam speaks negatively about Moses and is punished with *tzara'at* (a skin disease).

First Aliyah: G-d commands Aaron to light the golden Tabernacle Menorah on a daily basis. Moses is then commanded to initiate the Levites into Tabernacle service. This inauguration procedure included shaving their bodies, immersion in a *mikvah*, and the offering of certain sacrifices.

Second Aliyah: The exact prescribed initiation procedure is followed, and the Levites are consecrated to G-d -- in stead of the firstborn who lost their hallowed status when they participated in the sin of the Golden Calf. Towards the end of this section we learn the Levite service age-requirements and retirement age.

Third Aliyah: On the first anniversary of the Exodus, the Jews are instructed to bring the Paschal Offering. Certain individuals, however, couldn't participate because they were ritually impure. These people lodged a complaint, which Moses then transmitted to G-d. G-d responds by designating a "Second Passover" to be observed exactly one month later. Anyone who could not offer the Paschal Offering in its proper time must do so on the Second Passover. G-d then informs Moses the laws of the Second Passover.

Fourth Aliyah: From the day the Tabernacle was erected, it was covered by a cloud during the day, and a fire by night. When the cloud lifted, this signaled G-d's wish that the Jews should journey onwards -- following the cloud until it came to rest in a new location of G-d's choosing. In some cases the Jews only stayed overnight in a particular location before the sign came for them to depart again, and on other occasions they would stay in one place for many years. This section then discusses Moses' two silver trumpets. These trumpets were used for several purposes: 1) To assemble the nation or its leaders. 2) To signal the beginning of a journey. 3) The trumpets were blown when the Jews went to battle. 4) The trumpets were sounded when certain communal sacrifices were offered in the Tabernacle.

Fifth Aliyah: Nearly one year after the Jews arrived at Mount Sinai, the cloud rises from the Tabernacle, signaling their impending departure. The Tabernacle was dismantled and they traveled in formation as outlined on last week's Torah reading. Moses pleads with his father-in-law Jethro to join them on their journey to the Land of Israel.

Sixth Aliyah: No sooner than the Jews start traveling, and they start complaining. First they complain about the "arduous" journey. Then they grumble about the manna, expressing their desire for meat. Moses turns to G-d and insists that he cannot bear his leadership role any longer. G-d tells Moses to gather seventy elders who will assist him in his leadership duties. He also promises to provide the Jews with an abundance of meat -- "until it will come out of their noses..." Moses gathers seventy elders and brings them to the Tabernacle where his holy spirit is imparted upon them. Two additional elders, Eldad and Medad, remain in the camp, and the holy spirit descends upon them, too, and they prophesy as well. Joshua is displeased by this, and Moses placates him.

Seventh Aliyah: G-d causes a wind to sweep in huge numbers of quail from the sea. The people gathered piles of quail and started enjoying meat. Those who ate gluttonously died in a plague. Miriam, Moses' sister, spoke negatively of Moses' decision to become celibate. G-d was highly displeased by this talk against His servant, and Miriam was stricken with *tzara'at* ("leprosy") for one week.

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/3538>

Aharon is taught the method for kindling the menorah. Moshe sanctifies the *levi'im* to work in the Mishkan. They replace the first-born, who were disqualified after sinning at the golden calf. The *levi'im* are commanded that after five years of training they are to serve in the Mishkan from ages 30 to 50; afterwards they are to engage in less strenuous work. One year after the Exodus from Egypt, G-d commands Moshe concerning the *korban* Pesach. Those ineligible for this offering request a remedy, and the mitzvah of Pesach Sheini, allowing a "second chance" to offer the *korban* Pesach one month later, is detailed. Miraculous clouds that hover near the Mishkan signal when to travel and when to camp. Two silver trumpets summon the princes or the entire nation for announcements. The trumpets also signal travel plans, war or festivals. The order in which the tribes march is specified. Moshe invites his father-in-law, Yitro, to join the Jewish People, but Yitro returns to Midian. At the instigation of the *eruv rav* the mixed Egyptian multitude who joined the Jewish People in the Exodus some people complain about the manna. Moshe protests that he is unable to govern the nation alone. G-d tells him to select 70 elders, the first Sanhedrin, to assist him, and informs him that the people will be given meat until they will be sickened by it. Two candidates for the group of elders prophesy beyond their mandate, foretelling that Yehoshua instead of Moshe will bring the people to Canaan. Some protest, including Yehoshua, but Moshe is pleased that others have become prophets. G-d sends an incessant supply of quail for those who

complained that they lacked meat. A plague punishes those who complained. Miriam tries to make a constructive remark to Aharon which also implies that Moshe is only like other prophets. G-d explains that Moshe's prophecy is superior to that of any other prophet, and punishes Miriam with *tzara'at* as if she had gossiped about her brother. (Because Miriam is so righteous, she is held to an incredibly high standard.) Moshe prays for her, and the nation waits until she is cured before traveling.

Parsha Songs

[The lyrics are supplied here. For the tunes, please click on the link]

http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/573762/jewish/Parshah-Song.htm

Lyrics:

In Behaalosecha Moshe was told
The Menorah must be made of one piece of gold
The base and the left and the flowers too
Hashem told Moshe exactly what to do.

Seven flames were lit one by one
Every evening in the mishkan
Facing the center, the flame does burn
From these lights a lesson we learn

Like the Menorah, we all can be
Bringing light to the world constantly
Doing mitzvos with great pride
Spreading Torah far and wide

Parsha Questions & Answers

Selected from the following websites:

http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=7077

http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=4155

http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=387

http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=1672

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/1717>

The following are a selection of questions obtained from the above mentioned websites.

K-2

Questions

1. What special Mitzvah was given to Aharon?
2. How far did Bnei Yisrael travel in one day?
3. Why did the Bnei Yisrael complain?
4. What did the Erev Rav (those Egyptians who converted as the Jews left Mitzrayim) complain about?
5. What kind of food came? What happened to those who stuffed themselves with it?
6. What did Miriam say about Moshe?
7. Why was Miriam punished?
8. How was she punished?
9. How was she rewarded?
10. Why did she deserve this?

Answers

1. To prepare and light the menorah
2. The distance one would normally travel in three days
3. Because they traveled too fast
4. They said they can't just live on Man, they wanted meat
5. Slov, a type of bird fell, and HaShem sent a plague to kill all those who ran to eat it all
6. Lashon hara, saying that Moshe left his wife since he was always getting nevuah (prophecy)
7. Because she spoke lashon hara about her brother Moshe
8. She was stricken with tzoraat
9. Bnei Yisrael did not travel until she was better, they waited for her
10. Because after placing Moshe in the river, she waited around to see what would happen to him

3-4

Questions

1. What special Mitzvah was given to Aharon?
2. Why would someone have to bring their karbon Pesach a month late on the 14th of Iyar ?
3. What do we call this day?
4. How far did Bnei Yisrael travel in one day?
5. Why did the Bnei Yisrael complain?

6. What did the Erev Rav (those Egyptians who converted as the Jews left Mitzrayim) complain about?
7. What kind of food came? What happened to those who stuffed themselves with it?
8. Moshe felt that he couldn't handle the nation himself so what did HaShem do?
9. What were the Chatzotzrot?
10. When were they used?
11. What did Miriam say about Moshe?
12. Why was Miriam punished?
13. How was she punished?
14. How was she rewarded?
15. Why did she deserve this?

Answers

1. To prepare and light the menorah
2. Because they were tameh and couldn't bring their karbon on time
3. Pesach Sheni
4. The distance one would normally travel in three days
5. Because they traveled too fast
6. They said they can't just live on Man, they wanted meat
7. Slof, a type of bird fell, and HaShem sent a plague to kill all those who ran to eat it all
8. He told them to gather seventy zekeinim (elders) and HaShem would prepare them to help Moshe lead
9. Moshe's two silver trumpets
10.
 - a. To tell the Bnei Yisrael that they were about...
 - i. To travel
 - ii. Or to gather them
 - iii. Or when an enemy attacked
11. Lashon hara, sayingb that Moshe left his wife since he was always getting nevuah (prophecy)
12. Because she spoke lashon hara about her brother Moshe
13. She was stricken with tzoraat
14. Bnei Yisrael did not travel until she was better, they waited for her
15. Because after placing Moshe in the river, she waited around to see what would happen to him

5-6

Questions

1. What special Mitzvah was given to Aharon?
2. What must a Levi do from the age of 25 to 30?

3. At what ages did the Leviim work in the Mishkan?
4. Why would someone have to bring their karbon Pesach a month late on the 14th of Iyar ?
5. What do we call this day?
6. What was on the Ohel Moed that indicated when it was time to travel?
7. How far did Bnei Yisrael travel in one day?
8. Why did the Bnei Yisrael complain?
9. What did the Erev Rav (those Egyptians who converted as the Jews left Mitzrayim) complain about?
10. How were they punished?
11. What is unique about the two pesukim beginning with Vayehi Binsoa HaAron?
12. Moshe felt that he couldn't handle the nation himself so what did HaShem do?
13. What kind of food came? What happened to those who stuffed themselves with it?
14. What were the Chatzotzrot?
15. When were they used?
16. What did Miriam say about Moshe?
17. Why was Miriam punished?
18. How was she punished?
19. How was she rewarded?
20. Why did she deserve this?

Answers

1. To prepare and light the menorah
2. Study how to serve HaShem in the Beit Hamikdash
3. From age 25, a Levi came to learn to do the work in the Mishkan, at age 30 he began to work, and at age 50 he stopped and helped others watch, guard and sing
4. Because they were tameh and couldn't bring their karbon on time
5. Pesach Sheni
6. By day, an anan (cloud) and by night esh (pillar of fire) rested on it, and it moved near shevat yehudah when it was time to travel
7. The distance one would normally travel in three days
8. Because they traveled too fast
9. They said they can't just live on Man, they wanted meat
10.
 - a. For complaining about the travel, a fire came and killed them
 - b. For complaining about the mun, the wicked died while chewing the meat that HaShem brought
11. They are surrounded by upside down nuns
12. He told them to gather seventy zekeinim (elders) and HaShem would prepare them to help Moshe lead
13. Slof, a type of bird fell, and HaShem sent a plague to kill all those who ran to eat it all
14. Moshe's two silver trumpets
- 15.

- a. To tell the Bnei Yisrael that they were about...
 - i. To travel
 - ii. Or to gather them
 - iii. Or when an enemy attacked
16. Lashon hara, sayingb that Moshe left his wife since he was always getting nevuah (prophecy)
17. Because she spoke lashon hara about her brother Moshe
18. She was stricken with tzoraat
19. Bnei Yisrael did not travel until she was better, they waited for her
20. Because after placing Moshe in the river, she waited around to see what would happen to him

Parsha Stories

http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/684779/jewish/Never-Ever-Too-Late.htm

Never Ever Too Late

The summer had arrived, school would soon be over and the long awaited holidays would begin. Everybody seemed to be in good spirits, all except for two girls.

Rita and Eta sat together on the school bus on the way to school that day with worried expressions on their faces. The two of them had not properly completed their coursework, they had not worked properly for most of their exams, and it looked as though, when the results came out, both of them would do very badly.

'If I hadn't gone away to my sister's wedding I'm sure this wouldn't have happened!' said Eta, depressed, 'I was so caught up in the excitement of going to America, it was all I could talk about - that and the wedding.'

'Yes,' said Rita, 'and I wish I hadn't been ill for all that time. Three months in the hospital, no energy to study and although I was able to come in for the exams... I hardly knew anything!' She looked ready to cry.

'Ah,' she sighed, 'what are we going to do?' And she looked out the window glumly as the bus pulled up outside the school and the girls began to pile off the bus. She heaved herself up from her seat, 'I guess we'd better get off the bus,' she said, as though it wasn't worth even going into school.

Soon they were seated in class and Miss Levy was giving them a class on Jewish history. The girls listened in silence as their teacher told them about the Jews in the desert.

'Some of the Jews were very unhappy,' Miss Levy was saying, 'they had been commanded by G-d to bring the Pesach Offering in commemoration of the Jews leaving Egypt, just as they had done the previous year, when they had actually left the land of Egypt. But this year there were a few individuals that were unable to bring the Sacrifice because they had been impure at the time of offering - and an impure person may not bring a sacrifice in the Sanctuary. So they all got together and came to Moses complaining, "It is not fair, we also want to have the chance to bring up the Pesach offering - why should we miss out?"'

Rita listened to the lesson with interest. What was being described reminded her of her own predicament with the exams - and she felt just like those impure Jews, who by no fault of their own were unable to bring the Pesach Offering. She, too, had been ill through no fault of her own and was therefore unable to study. Her teacher continued:

'Moses said, "Wait here while I speak to G-d and He will advise us on this matter." Then G-d said to Moses: "If a Jew was impure or was unable to come to the Sanctuary to offer his Offering at the right time, there will be a second chance for them. One month later, on the 14th of Iyar, in the afternoon hours, they should come to the Sanctuary and bring up the Pesach Offering, and they should eat it together with Matza and Maror, just like on the real Pesach a month earlier, and through this they will not miss out and they will be able to perform the Mitzvah just like the rest of the Jewish people."

Their teacher continued: 'When the Jews heard the news, they were exhilarated. It was in fact not too late to bring the offering, they were now able to perform the Mitzvah just like everyone else!'

Rita heard the words, and the message to her was clear. 'Perhaps I can re-take the exams in the winter,' she thought to herself, wondering why this thought had not occurred to her before, 'there is no need for us to be depressed,' she thought, thinking of Eta too.

She looked over to where Eta was sitting and their eyes met, and they both broke out into a smile. 'Eta has been listening too,' Rita laughed to herself, 'now we can truly enjoy the summer sunshine without worrying! Well, I guess we will have to study a little - but we can do that together, and won't we have fun!'

http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/385610/jewish/Behaalotecha-Parshah-Lesson.htm

Behaalotecha Parshah Lesson

By [Malka Touger](#)

The recess bell rang and the fifth graders headed out to the yard.

"Hannah," Mrs. Rosen called out softly. "Please come to my desk for a moment. I would like to speak to you."

Hannah turned around and walked towards her teacher. "Leah," she said to her friend, "please make sure I get picked to play on one of the teams. I'll be out to play as soon as I finish talking to Mrs. Rosen." Then she added, "And please make sure that Nadia is also picked."

Mrs. Rosen waited until all the girls had left the classroom. "Hannah, I would like to compliment you on your tremendous efforts to help Nadia. You have shown a lot of love for your fellow. Things are very different here than in Russia, and you have been helping her feel at home in this new country."

Hannah smiled bashfully. She really had tried very hard, and was happy to be praised. She had given up some other activities to help Nadia with the homework, and she went out of her way to invite her for Shabbat.

"While I really appreciate what you have been doing, I would like to teach you something about helping others." Mrs. Rosen continued.

Hannah looked at her teacher questioningly. "What do you mean, Mrs. Rosen? I was really trying to do my best. I help her in every way that I can. Last week, I even let Nadia copy my answers to the Novi questions."

Mrs. Rosen stroked Hannah's head gently. "Of course, you're trying your best. We can learn a lesson about this from this week's Torah portion."

Hannah didn't understand. "What does the Torah portion have to do with helping Nadia?" she wondered.

"Well," Mrs. Rosen explained, "The Torah begins with the command to light the menorah, the candelabra. But the Torah does not use the word 'light.' Instead, it uses the Hebrew word which means 'When you raise up.' Our sages tell us that this teaches that we must keep on lighting the wick until the fire rises up on its own."

"I think I understand what they are saying," replied Hannah. "Sometimes when I light my Shabbat candle, the wick doesn't light right away. I have to keep touching the wick with the match until it burns nicely on its own."

"Exactly!" exclaimed Mrs. Rosen. "From this we can learn that when we try to help others, we should do our best to guide them so they can do things on their own -- even if it takes extra effort and time."

Hannah nodded. "I understand, Mrs. Rosen. If I really want to help Nadia, I shouldn't let her copy my answers. I should be patient and explain the questions to her until she understands, so that she can answer them herself."

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/Parshat-Beha-alotcha.pdf?docid=2637&ie=1&showobject=1>

LESSONS FROM THE PARSHA

Always Speak Softly

Shulie, you have fifteen minutes until bedtime." "Thank you for reminding me, Imma." *Fifteen minutes pass, and Shulie is not ready for bed.* "Shulie, it is now your bedtime and you are still not ready. I have warned you about this many times. I have also told you about the consequences. For every minute that you are late, you will go to bed one minute earlier tomorrow night. I am now beginning to count the minutes." *Shulie's mother calmly looked at her watch. Shulie rushed to put on her pajamas, wash her face, brush her teeth, and prepare the water for washing her hands in the morning. She folded her clothes and lay down in bed.* "How much time did I take, Imma?" "Ten minutes, Shulie. Tomorrow you go to bed ten minutes earlier." "I should have listened to you fifteen minutes ago, Imma. I really want to thank you for not getting angry with me. You could have easily gotten upset by my not listening." "I learned to have patience from my mother, Shulie. She hardly ever got upset. I also had many teachers in school. Some got angry with the class, and some did not. I have to struggle to remember the words of those who became angry. However, the teachings of the soft spoken teachers are still with me." "I see." once asked a teacher how she managed to remain calm. She pointed me to the Sifsei Chachomim in this week's parasha." "Can you please share it with me, Imma?" "Yes, Shulie. The Torah is relating the episode where Miriam spoke loshon hora about Moshe Rabbeinu (Bamidbar 12:1-16). Hashem summoned Moshe, Aharon, and Miriam to the Ohel Moed. He spoke to Aharon and Miriam saying, 'Please hear My words.' The Sifsei Chachomim explains that Hashem only requested that they listen to Him. Although He was angry (so to speak) with them, He spoke with *nachas* (pleasantness). If He had spoken angrily, His words would not have been heard. *Kal v'chomer* (how much more so) a person, who is only made of flesh and blood, must speak softly." "I hear those

words clearly, Imma.” “The Ramban wrote a famous letter, Shulie on the evils of anger and the benefits of patience. All sorts of *gehennom* rule over one who becomes angry. It is truly horrible.” “We see what an ugly *middah* anger is even in this world, Imma.” “Yes, Shulie. The Ramban advises, ‘Accustom yourself always to speak all of your words softly to everyone, at all times, and in this way you will be saved from anger.’ The Ramban does not make any exceptions - always, all of your words, to everyone, at all times. By constantly guarding the tone of your voice, you will learn to control your anger. And you will be saved from *gehennom*, a fate too horrible to describe. In addition, your words will be heard. Therefore speaking softly is more effective than raising your voice.” “Wow, Imma. You convinced me. I’m going to listen to the words of the Ramban and do my best to follow them.” “Hashem should bless you with great patience, Shulie.”

Kinderlach . . .

Speaking softly is a great middah. It leads to something even better - patience. Wouldn't it be great to never get upset? You can do it! Follow the words of the Ramban. Speak softly always, all of your words, to everyone, at all times. The Ramban himself advises reading his letter once a week, in order that the words enter your heart. You can do it kinderlach. Read the Ramban's letter each week. Speak softly. Always.

How Do You Ask?

Imma, I’m home from school and I’m starved. Give me food!” *Chaim’s mother is a bit startled by her son’s abruptness. She realizes that Chaim needs a lesson in how to make a request. However, first things first. When a person is hungry, it is more difficult for him to hear words of tochacha (correction). She put the food in front of him, he made his blessings, and hungrily ate.* “Mmmm, these hamburgers are delicious, Imma. Thank you very much. I was so hungry.” “My pleasure, Chaim. May I share a few words of Torah with you from this week’s parasha?” “I always love your Divrei Torah, Imma.” “Thank you, Chaim. We know that Miriam was stricken with tsoraas because she spoke loшон hora about Moshe Rabbeinu. Moshe was concerned for her, so he offered a short prayer for her recovery. ‘Please Hashem, heal her now!’ (Bamidbar 12:13). Moshe could have just said the words, ‘Heal her now.’ Why did he add, ‘Please Hashem’? Rashi answers this question with the words of the Sifrei. The Torah is coming to teach us *derech erez* (proper conduct). Before asking someone for something, one should say a few words of supplication. The Even Ezra comments that Moshe was praising the Almighty. ‘You, Who have the power to do so, please heal her now.’ The Sforno explains that he was making a humble request. Rav Zalman Sorotzkin interprets this as a plea for mercy. The Ohr HaChaim calls it an appeal to Hashem’s attribute of kindness. The common denominator of all of these *meforshim* is that a person should humble himself before making a request. This is very sensible, because the person making the request is lacking something. The other person can provide it for him. In that way, the provider is his superior. Should he not humble himself before one who is greater than he is?”

I understand, Imma. And I get the message. I am sorry. I was abrupt when I came in the door a few minutes ago. You always make such delicious and nutritious food for me. I

really appreciate it. Please forgive me.” “I forgive you 100%, Chaim. And I admire you for recognizing your mistake. You have shown me that you possess real *derech erez*.” “Thank you Imma. I learned it from you.”

Kinderlach . . .

How do we ask for things? With derech erez. A few words of humility should precede the request. “Please may I have...” “You are so kind...” “I appreciate what you do for me...” Derech erez is a way of life. It applies to everything we do. An ehrlich (refined) person does everything with derech erez. The way he walks, speaks, prays, eats, handles business affairs, and relates to his family, colleagues, neighbors, and friends all show his consideration.

Kinderlach let us all work on making derech erez our derech in life.

<http://www.aish.com/torahportion/pArchive.asp?eventType=36&eventName=Be%26%2339%3Bhalot%26%2339%3Bcha>

There are other stories available as well at the above website.

http://www.aish.com/torahportion/family/Positive_Speech.asp

Be'halot'cha (Numbers 8-12)
Positive Speech

From this week's Torah Portion

The Torah value of speaking only positively about other includes even members of our own family. In this week's Torah portion we learn that Moses' sister Miriam behaved improperly by saying things about her brother that she shouldn't have.

Story

In our story, a kid faces the choice of how to speak about someone close.

PICTURE PERFECT

Liz walked into the playroom where her sister Amy stood, paintbrush in hand, working on her latest abstract painting.

"What do you think?"

Liz looked at the big splotches of red, green and blue and curved, squiggly lines and wrinkled her nose. "Are you sure it's not upside-down - or at least maybe sideways?" she sniffed. Liz wasn't the biggest art fan to begin with - especially not the kind her sister, Amy, made that looked to her like ... nothing.

"Hey, be nice!" Amy blurted out "I had to study a long time to learn how to make these. By the way, tonight's the school art exhibit and I'm in it. Are you going to come?"

"Well, you know, I'm kinda busy tonight ... you know I have a test coming up and..." She looked at her sister's hopeful eyes and caved in. "Yeah, sure, I guess so." Liz said, trying to sound more excited than she was.

That evening at the school exhibit Liz was feeling kind of bored walking through row after row of charcoal, pencil and pen and ink drawings, all types of paintings and sculptures, when she perked up at the sudden sight of Toni, a nice, popular kid that Liz wanted to become friendly with. But it hadn't been easy since Toni was always surrounded by tons of other kids. Now that she was alone, Liz took the opportunity and approached her.

"Hi, Toni." Liz said, brightly.

"Oh, hi Liz. What brings you here tonight?"

"My sister asked me to come. But I have to admit I'm kind of overwhelmed by all the stuff that's here."

"I can understand that," Toni laughed, "Hey, if you want, we can go around and look at the stuff together."

Liz was thrilled at the chance and the two girls walked around, looking at pictures and chatting. Things were going super well until they got to a row of big, colorful abstract paintings that Liz was sure were her sister Amy's.

"And what do you think of these?" Toni giggled, giving Liz the impression that she didn't care for them. Liz was about to put them down and say how much she really didn't like them - after all, it was only talking about her sister - when she stopped herself. Why should she badmouth her sister more than she would anyone else? If anything, she should defend her. It might cause her to lose points with a friend she was trying to make, but she didn't care. There had to be something nice she could say and really mean it.

"Well, I'm not an expert, but obviously they have to be very good to be in the show."

She expected Toni to mockingly roll her eyes - but instead they lit up.

"Really? You think my paintings are good?"

Liz could hardly believe it! They were Toni's paintings, not her sisters!

"I'm so happy to hear that!" Toni exclaimed. "I really love making them, but I'm, you know ... a little shy about showing them to people or even telling them they're mine. Hey, you want to come to my house tomorrow and see some more paintings - just for a little while - then we'll do a lot of other fun stuff?"

Liz happily agreed and began a fun and worthwhile friendship - all because she'd refused to speak badly about her sister.

Discussion Questions

Ages 3-5

Q. How did Liz feel at first when Toni asked her about the paintings?

A. She felt it was okay to put them down.

Q. How did she feel later on?

A. She felt it was wrong to speak badly about her sister, so she didn't.

Ages 6-9

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

A. She'd felt that when it came to her sister - or other family members - it was okay to speak badly about them. But she realized it was wrong just in time to do the right thing - and save herself from a major mess-up.

Q. How do you think Toni would have reacted if Liz had spoken badly about the paintings?

A. She would have been hurt and certainly never invited Liz over her house - and they probably never would have become friends.

Ages 10 and Up

Q. Why do you think people consider it somehow permissible to say and do negative things to their family members that they wouldn't do to others?

A. They rightly understand that their family is closer to them and more forgiving than others and feel this justifies taking the liberties of unkind behavior. In fact the opposite is true - we should use this closeness to motivate us to treat our family extra kindly.

Q. If Liz really didn't like the paintings - what would be wrong with saying so?
After all, she was only speaking the truth.
A. The fact that something is true, does not justify negative or cruel speech. The Torah way is to always search for something positive to say.

Parsha Games

<http://www.aje.org.uk/harayon/>

K-2

Even though Hashem gave the Bnei Yisrael 'Manna' which was delicious and tasted of anything they wanted, they still complained that they wanted all the foods that they had in Mitzrayim/Egypt

Middah/ Jewish Value

- **Being satisfied with what we have**

Activity

Tell the children how lucky we are that there are so many foods that are available for us to buy.

What kosher foods do they like best?

Sing this song about each child's favourite food.

Tune: The Farmer in the Dell

My favourite food is _____) (child)

My favourite food is _____)

Hi-ho, the derry-o _____ (all)

his/her favourite food is _____ (all)

3-4

In the parashah, Aharon, The Kohen Gadol, is told to light the Menorah. (The Ner Tamid over the Ark, the Aron Kodesh, reminds us of this)

Middah/ Jewish Value

- **The significance of 'light' in Judaism**

Activity

Can the children think of the different ways in which 'lights' feature in Jewish life? Here are just some examples:

- Shabbat and Yom Tov - lighting candles and havdalah, (the words 'Or' and 'Ner' in the brachot)
- Shul - Ner Tamid
- Chanukah - Chanukiah
- Ner Zikaron - 'Yahrzeit' light
- Bedikat Chametz
- Bereishit - Chapter 1, Verse 3
- Shemot - Chapter 25, Verse 31

5-6

Although he was a great leader, Moshe needed help in dealing with the people and their day-to-day demands. God told him to select 70 wise men to help him

Middah/ Jewish Value

- **Knowing your limitations and asking for help**

Activity

This activity is called 'The Selection Committee'. The group has been asked by Moshe to decide on the criteria for selecting the Elders. Can they think of five character or physical traits that would be useful for one of the seventy to be chosen?