

# NCYI Youth Groups Parshat Bo

[http://www.headcoverings-by-devorah.com/HebEngTaNaKh\\_TorahSummary.htm](http://www.headcoverings-by-devorah.com/HebEngTaNaKh_TorahSummary.htm)

## Parsha Outline

- Final plagues
- The first Pesach Seder
- The Exodus from Egypt
- Sanctification of the firstborn

## Parsha Summaries

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/347694/jewish/Bo-Roundup.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/347694/jewish/Bo-Roundup.htm)

### Bo Roundup

Pharaoh still refuses to let the Jews leave Egypt, so G-d brings more plagues on Egypt. In the eighth plague, a very strong wind brings in great swarms of **locusts**, which are like grasshoppers. There are so many of them that they darken the earth and eat all the greenery, plants and fruits from the trees, and there is no more food in the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh refuses to let the Jews go, so in the ninth plague, G-d brings a very thick **darkness** on Egypt. For seven full days, all of Egypt (except for the homes of the Jews) is covered in complete and total darkness. The Egyptians can't see anything at all, and for the last three days of the plague, the darkness is so thick that they can't even move!

Pharaoh *still* remains stubborn, so G-d will bring one final plague upon him and his people. But before that, G-d gives the Jews some important things to do. In fact, the Jews now get their very first mitzvah--a special commandment from G-d. Eventually, the Jews receive many mitzvot, but this first one establishes that special connection. In this mitzvah, the Jews are commanded to set up a calendar based on the cycle of the moon. And this is the same Jewish calendar that we use today, over three thousand years later! Next the Jews must each bring a sacrifice of a goat or a lamb and brush the blood on to their doorposts. This way, when the final plague comes, G-d will know which houses to pass over. (All these miracles are celebrated on a special Jewish holiday called Passover--because G-d **passed over** the Jewish homes.) The Jews must then eat the roasted meat with Matzah and bitter herbs.

Now, for the tenth and final plague: On the fourteenth of the month of Nissan, at exactly midnight, every Egyptian **firstborn** dies. Pharaoh is terrified, for he himself is a firstborn; he jumps out of bed and rushes to find Moses and Aaron. When he does, he simply shouts frantically, "Go! Go! Leave this land, you and all the Jews. Take your sheep and your cattle and whatever you want. JUST GO!" And with that, after 210 years of slavery, Pharaoh practically chases the Jews out of Egypt. So they leave quickly, so quickly, in fact, that their dough does not have time to rise and becomes matzah--the very same flat bread that we eat on Passover. But they do have time to ask the Egyptians for their gold and silver, emptying Egypt of all its wealth.

Now that the Jews are free, G-d tells Moses about the holiday that they will be celebrating each year to remember the occasion, Passover, by eating Matza and telling the story to their children. The Jews also receive the mitzvah of Tefillin, special boxes that are put on the head and arm to remind us of our exodus from Egypt and the connection we feel to G-d since then.

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/619489/jewish/Aliya-Summary.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/619489/jewish/Aliya-Summary.htm)

## Bo Aliya Summary

**General Overview:** In this week's reading, *Bo*, the last three plagues – Locust, Darkness, and Death of the Firstborn – are inflicted upon the Egyptians. Moses commands the Israelites concerning the Paschal Offering and the laws of the *seder*. After the final plague, Pharaoh unconditionally releases the Israelites from his land.

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**First Aliyah:** Plague Eight: At G-d's behest, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and delivered a warning: "How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let My people go so that they can worship me!" They informed Pharaoh that if he does not allow the Israelites to go, Egypt will be attacked by a plague of locust. After Moses and Aaron left, Pharaoh's servants begged him to allow the Israelites to leave. "Don't you yet know that Egypt is lost?" they argued. Pharaoh called back Moses and Aaron and offered to allow the Israelites to leave—provided that they leave behind their children as security. Moses and Aaron refused the offer, and Pharaoh stubbornly refused to allow the Israelites to go.

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**Second Aliyah:** Moses stretched out his hands and swarms of locusts swept down on Egypt. They consumed absolutely every blade of grass and all the crops. Pharaoh beseeched Moses to pray to G-d for the removal of the locusts, promising to then release the Israelites. Moses prayed, and no sooner than a wind carried the locusts back to the Red Sea and Pharaoh changed his mind yet again. Plague Nine: A frightful darkness descended upon Egypt. For days, the entire nation was incapacitated by the debilitating pitch darkness. "But for all the children of Israel there was light in their dwellings."

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**Third Aliyah:** Pharaoh summoned Moses again, offering to release the Israelites if they leave behind their cattle. Moses refused the condition. Pharaoh sent Moses away, warning him to never appear in his presence again, "for on the day that you see my face, you shall die!" Moses agreed, but not before he delivered a final message that G-d relayed to him at that moment. G-d told Moses that he would visit one more plague upon Egypt, after which Pharaoh will actually drive the Israelites from his land. Parenthetically, at that time G-d also instructed Moses to ask the Israelites to borrow from their Egyptian neighbors jewels, silver and gold. The Israelites complied, and the Egyptians readily lent out their valuables.

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**Fourth Aliyah:** Moses delivered G-d's warning to Pharaoh: "At midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt. Every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the slave woman..." G-d then gave the Israelites their first mitzvah, that of determining the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) each month and establishing a lunar calendar. G-d also told Moses to instruct the Israelites to designate a lamb for the Paschal Offering. The Israelites were to sacrifice this lamb and consume it, together with matzah and bitter herbs, on the eve of the fifteenth of Nissan. The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the lintels and doorposts of the Israelite residences, and all inside those homes would be spared when G-d descended to smite the Egyptian firstborn. G-d also instructed that for all future generations this day would signal the beginning of the seven-day holiday of Passover, during which no leaven can be eaten or possessed.

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**Fifth Aliyah:** Moses gathered the Israelite elders and conveyed to them G-d's instructions.

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**Sixth Aliyah:** Plague Ten: At the stroke of midnight G-d slew all the Egyptian firstborn. No Egyptian home was spared, and Egypt erupted in a great outcry. Pharaoh awoke and raced to Moses and begged him to take the Israelites and leave. The Egyptians pressured the Israelites to leave as soon as possible, and the Israelites complied. Equipped with all the valuables they had borrowed from the Egyptians, and provisions for the way – dough that was baked before having time to rise – the Israelites left Egypt at midday of the fifteenth of Nissan. This section concludes with some more rules that pertain to the Paschal Offering.

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**Seventh Aliyah:** G-d gave the Israelites several mitzvot: 1) All male Israelite firstborn were henceforth sanctified to G-d. 2) Eat matzah on Passover. 3) Recount the story of the Exodus at the Passover *seder*. 4) Bring all male firstborn of kosher as sacrifices. 5) Redeem all male firstborn donkeys for a sheep—which is then brought as a sacrifice. 6) Don *tefillin* on the head and arm.

<http://ohr.edu/tw/5759/shmos/bo.htm#SUM>

Hashem tells Moshe that He is hardening Pharaoh's heart so that through miraculous plagues the world will know for all time that He is the one true G-d. Pharaoh is warned about the plague of locusts and is told how severe it will be. Pharaoh agrees to release only the men, but Moshe insists that everyone must go. During the plague, Pharaoh calls for Moshe and Aharon to remove the locusts, and he admits he has sinned. Hashem ends the plague but hardens Pharaoh's heart, and again Pharaoh fails to free the Jewish people. The country, except for the Jewish People, is then engulfed in a palpable darkness. Pharaoh calls for Moshe and tells him to take all the Jews out of Egypt, but to leave their flocks behind. Moshe tells him that not only will they take their own flocks, but Pharaoh must add his own too. Moshe tells Pharaoh that Hashem is going to bring one more plague, the death of the firstborn, and then the Jews will leave Egypt. Hashem again hardens Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh warns Moshe that if he sees Moshe again, Moshe will be put to death. Hashem tells Moshe that the month of Nissan will be the chief month. The Jewish people are commanded to take a sheep on the 10th of the month and guard it until the 14th. The sheep is then to be slaughtered as a Pesach sacrifice, its blood put on their door-posts, and its roasted meat eaten. The blood on the door-post will be a sign that their homes will be passed-over when Hashem strikes the firstborn of Egypt. The Jewish People are told to memorialize this day as the Exodus from Egypt by never eating chametz on Pesach. Moshe relays Hashem's commands, and the Jewish People fulfill them flawlessly. Hashem sends the final plague, killing the first born, and Pharaoh sends the Jews out of Egypt. Hashem tells Moshe and Aharon the laws concerning the Pesach sacrifice, pidyon haben (redemption of the first born son) and tefillin.

## פרשת בא

(שמות י"א-יג:טז)

### The Last Three *Makkot*

1. **ארבה – Locusts**

The land of Egypt was overrun by a swarm of locusts which ate all the plants that had survived the hail.

2. **חשך – Darkness**

A darkness fell over the land of Egypt. This was not a normal darkness. It had substance; it extinguished all lamps and made movement impossible. During this plague, the Jews, who were unaffected, searched the homes of the Egyptians for valuables. Before they left Egypt they went to the Egyptians and asked for these items. When the Egyptians denied having any, the Jews would respond, "I know that you have. I saw it during the plague of darkness."

3. **מכת בכורות – The Death of the Firstborn**

At midnight, every firstborn in Egypt died.

### *HaChodesh HaZeh – The First Mitzva*

Hashem tells Moshe that this month would be the first month of the year. According to Chazal, Hashem also gave the Jewish people the mitzvah of *rosh chodesh*. This was the first *mitzvah* given to the Jews as a people.

### The *Korban Pesach*

Hashem told Moshe to instruct the Jewish people to get an unblemished lamb or kid on the tenth of the month. The Jewish people were to slaughter this lamb on the fourteenth in the afternoon. Some of the blood was to be placed on the doorposts and lintel of the Jewish homes. That night they were to eat the roasted flesh of the offering with *matzot* and *marror*.

The blood on the doors would serve as a "sign" that Hashem would see and spare the Jewish people from the tenth *makka*. (Chazal explain that the fulfillment of the *mitzvah* provided the Jewish people with a merit that protected them from being included in the *makka*.)

### The Festival of *Pesach*

This day would become the first day of an eternal seven-day *chag* for the Jewish people. The first and last days would be forbidden in all work and the consumption and possession of *chometz* would be forbidden for all seven days, and they would eat *matzot*.

## The Jewish People are Set Free

In the aftermath of the tenth *makka*, Pharaoh went to Moshe and told him that the Jewish people should leave Egypt. The Jewish people requested gifts of valuable items from the Egyptians and the Egyptians granted their request. That night, six hundred thousand Jewish adult men left, with their families, traveling from Rameses to Sukkot.

### **Mitzvot**

The *sedrah* ends with a few *mitzvot*:

- The *mitzvah* to remember *yetziat Mitzrayim*.
- The sanctity of first-born sons, cattle, and donkeys.
- The *mitzvah* of *tefilin*.

## Parsha Songs

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

[http://www.chabad.org/kids/article\\_cdo/aid/608060/jewish/Bo.htm](http://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/608060/jewish/Bo.htm)

### Lyrics:

The tenth Makah, was fulfilled  
Each first born Mitzri was killed,  
Over the Jews, Hashem passed  
It was time to go at last

Moshe told the people to prepare  
Yetzias Mitzrayim, was near  
There was no time to bake bread  
They put dough on their backs instead

To remind us we were saved  
Chag Hapesach, Hashem gave  
In Mitzrayim slaves were we  
Then Bnei Yisroel were set free

## Parsha Questions & Answers

Selected from the following websites:

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/1444>

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=5705&id=39&s=1](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=5705&id=39&s=1),

[http://www.chinuch.org/admin\\_topic\\_search.php?id=130](http://www.chinuch.org/admin_topic_search.php?id=130),

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=7075](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=7075)

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

## K-2

### Questions

1. How many makkot are there in Parshat Bo?
2. What was the eighth makkah?
3. Describe what this makkah did.
4. What was the ninth makkah?
5. When the Jews asked the Egyptians for gold and silver vessels, the Egyptians were unable to deny ownership of such vessels. Why?
6. Makkat Bechorot took place at EXACTLY midnight. Why did Moshe say it would take place at APPROXIMATELY midnight?
7. Who was the only Egyptian firstborn to not die from Makkat bechorot?
8. In which parsha are all of the dinim of Pesach written in the Torah?
9. Why do we eat matzah on Pesach?
10. The Bnei Yisrael left Egypt in order to receive the Torah and ultimately go to a land flowing with milk and honey. Which land is this?

### Answers

1. There are three makkot in Parshat Bo.
2. Arbeh (locusts).
3. They ate the crops.
4. Choshech (darkness).
5. During the plague of darkness the Jews could see and they searched for and found the Egyptians' vessels.
6. If Moshe said the plague would begin exactly at midnight, the Egyptians might miscalculate and accuse Moshe of being a fake.
7. Pharaoh.
8. Parshat Bo.
9. The Jews left in a hurry when they left Egypt.
10. Eretz Yisrael.

## 3-4

### Questions

1. How many makkot are there in Parshat Bo?
2. What was the eighth makkah?
3. Describe what this makkah did.
4. What did Pharaoh's servants tell him because of this makkah?
5. What was the ninth makkah?
6. How many days did it last?
7. How did the first three days of darkness differ from the last three days?

8. When the Jews asked the Egyptians for gold and silver vessels, the Egyptians were unable to deny ownership of such vessels. Why?
9. Makkat Bechorot took place at EXACTLY midnight. Why did Moshe say it would take place at APPROXIMATELY midnight?
10. Who was the only Egyptian firstborn to not die from Makkat bechorot?
11. In which parsha are all of the dinim of Pesach written in the Torah?
12. Why do we eat matzah on Pesach?
13. Which month is counted as the first month of the year?
14. How many adult Jewish males left Egypt?
15. The Bnei Yisrael left Egypt in order to receive the Torah and ultimately go to a land flowing with milk and honey. Which land is this?

## Answers

1. There are three makkot in Parshat Bo.
2. Arbeh (locusts).
3. They ate the crops.
4. Pharaoh's servants told him to free the Bnei Yisrael.
5. Choshech (darkness).
6. Six days.
7. During the first three days the Egyptians could not see. During the last three days the Egyptians could not even move.
8. During the plague of darkness the Jews could see and they searched for and found the Egyptians' vessels.
9. If Moshe said the plague would begin exactly at midnight, the Egyptians might miscalculate and accuse Moshe of being a fake.
10. Pharaoh.
11. Parshat Bo.
12. The Jews left in a hurry when they left Egypt.
13. Nissan.
14. 600,000.
15. Eretz Yisrael.

## 5-6

## Questions

1. How many makkot are there in Parshat Bo?
2. What was the eighth makkah?
3. What did Pharaoh's servants tell him because of this makkah?
4. Describe what this makkah did.
5. What was the ninth makkah?
6. How many days did it last?
7. How did the first three days of darkness differ from the last three days?
8. What did Hashem do to the Jewish sinners during choshech?

9. What did the Bnei Yisrael do during Choshech?
10. When the Jews asked the Egyptians for gold and silver vessels, the Egyptians were unable to deny ownership of such vessels. Why?
11. Makkat Bechorot took place at EXACTLY midnight. Why did Moshe say it would take place at APPROXIMATELY midnight?
12. Who was the only Egyptian firstborn to not die from Makkat bechorot?
13. In which parsha are all of the dinim of Pesach written in the Torah?
14. When did the Bnei Yisrael shecht the Karbon pesach?
15. Where did the Bnei Yisrael put the blood of the Karbon Pesach?
16. Why do we eat matzah on Pesach?
17. Which month is counted as the first month of the year?
18. Prior to the Exodus from Egypt, what two mitzvot involving blood did Hashem give the Bnei Yisrael?
19. How many adult Jewish males left Egypt?
20. The Bnei Yisrael left Egypt in order to receive the Torah and ultimately go to a land flowing with milk and honey. Which land is this?

## Answers

1. There are three makkot in Parshat Bo.
2. Arbeh (locusts).
3. They ate the crops.
4. Pharaoh's servants told him to free the Bnei Yisrael.
5. Choshech (darkness).
6. Six days.
7. During the first three days the Egyptians could not see. During the last three days the Egyptians could not even move.
8. Hashem killed them.
9. The Bnei Yisrael checked to see what precious thing the Egyptians had (they didn't take anything; they just looked!).
10. During the plague of darkness the Jews could see and they searched for and found the Egyptians' vessels.
11. If Moshe said the plague would begin exactly at midnight, the Egyptians might miscalculate and accuse Moshe of being a fake.
12. Pharaoh.
13. Parshat Bo.
14. On the fourteenth day of Nissan in the afternoon.
15. The Bnei Yisrael placed the blood on the two doorposts and on the crossbar of the door.
16. The Jews left in a hurry when they left Egypt.
17. Nissan.
18. The karbon Pesach and Bris Milah.
19. 600,000.
20. Eretz Yisrael.

## Parsha Riddle

Which three people's grandfather and great-grandfather was the same person? (The answer is Moshe, Aharon, and Miriam).

[www.chinuch.org](http://www.chinuch.org)

### POEM-Shir shel Makkos

Now listen to us Paroh  
We worked for you, you know  
And the wages that you paid us  
Were mighty, mighty low  
We're sick of mixing mortar  
It's time for us to go  
But Paroh shakes his head and laughs  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

The blood remember Paroh  
Was not a glass of beer  
How did you like the froggies  
All croaking in your ear?  
Why don't you take a warning  
And right now let us go  
But Paroh shakes his head and sneers  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

They itched and twitched you, Paroh  
The lice sure took to you  
And the wild beasts came to visit  
They grabbed a bite or two  
Your cattle seemed unhealthy  
So why not let us go  
But Paroh shakes his head and shouts  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

The boils were pleasant Paroh  
You looked so puffy and red  
Did you really mind the hailstones  
That rapped you on the head  
But better yet is coming  
Unless you let us go  
But Paroh shakes his head and groans  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

What hungry locust Paroh  
They picked your country clean  
And the darkness really scared you  
You couldn't sit or lean  
Just stood there looking silly  
Now wise up let us go  
But Paroh shakes his head and moans  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

How sad your firstborn Paroh  
That there is no fun for him  
We're glad that when the sea split  
You came along to swim  
We simply must be leaving  
Oh won't you miss us so  
But Paroh shakes his head and cries  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

But you'll be sorry Paroh  
You'd better let us go  
But Paroh keeps on laughing

## **Definitely, Absolutely, Positively NO!**

One final word dear Paroh  
Let's hear it clear and slow  
And that's what Paroh's crying  
**Definitely, Absolutely, Positively GO!**

[www.chinuch.org](http://www.chinuch.org)

## **Play**

The Ten Makkos

Dam: Blood

#1: OK, everyone! Quiet down! We have no time to waste-this is our last practice.  
#2: But we don't know our parts yet!  
#3: Well, let's just start. OK, the first plague please stand up.  
#4: Hello, everybody! I'm "DUM."  
#5: Hey, what do you mean I'm "DUM?" Rabbi Karmel, which one of us is DUM?  
Rabbi Karmel: How many times do I have to tell you dummies—you're both DUM! Now get on with it.  
#4: OK. Hello everybody. The first of the ten makos-plagues-was the plague of "DUM" – blood.  
#5: All the water in Egypt turned into blood and the Egyptians had nothing to drink.  
#4: Unless, of course, they bought it from the Jews.  
#5: I was going to say that, you dummy!  
#4: Anyway, it was a real bloody mess.

Tzefardea: Frogs

[#6 and #7 come jumping on to the stage with a few stuffed Kermit's].  
#6: Hi! I'm Kermit the Frog and here is my pal.  
#7: We've been having a great time these past couple of months... You know frogs just love leap years.  
#6: All you guys think you were the only ones with ancestors in Egypt. Well, so did we!  
#7: Yeah, and the story goes that those Egyptians were really bad until we took over the country.  
#6: Yeah, we drove them so crazy, some of them even croaked!

Kinim: Lice

#8: Hey, guess what. What were you able to find in all the freezers in Egypt during the third plague?  
#9: I give up.  
#8: Lice cubes!

#9: Bad joke but good point! If you think those frogs were bad, we had them itching and scratching a whole day long.

#8: Anyway, we gotta go. Have a lice day!

Arov: Wild Animals

#10: Hey, why are we picked for this part?

#11: Because the next plague was “Arov”—wild animals—and everyone knows we’re wild animals.

#10: Man, just imagine the trouble our ancestors made during the fourth plague when wild animals came from anywhere. Boy, were those Egyptians on the run!

#11: How did they get away with all that trouble?

#10: I guess Mrs. Hartenstein’s ancestors didn’t give out detentions back then.

Dever: Death of Cattle

#12: What has four legs and flies?

#13: I give up.

#12: All the Egyptians’ animals during the plague of “Dever” – when all the livestock died.

#13: That’s not funny!

#12: You bet it wasn’t funny for the Egyptians with all their herds gone.

#13: Boy, it must’ve smelled as bad as Travis Robins’ locker.

Shechin: Boils

#14: Hey, what’s happened to our faces? We look like we’ve broken out in a rash.

#15: Well, to tell you the truth, I just hope those Jews would break out in a rash!

#14: Yeah, why doesn’t King Pharaoh let them go—these pimples are killing me.

#15: Don’t complain, just wait till you get to high school!

Barad: Hail

#16: What’s hot and cold and hurts all over?

#17: How can something be hot and cold at the same time?

#16: That’s exactly what the Egyptians said until they were hit with icy hail with fire inside.

#17: I guess when Pharaoh wanted the Jews to hail the king he didn’t know what he was in for!

Arbeh: Grasshoppers

#18: Boy, after that hail there must have been nothing in Egypt left to eat!

#19: Well, whatever was left was now destroyed by the eighth plague of Arba-locusts.

#18: I’ll bet Pharaoh’s popularity wasn’t too high at the time.

#19: No, it wasn't. As a matter of fact, if the elections were held today, Bill Clinton would've won Pharaoh in a landslide.

Choshech: Darkness

#20: Hey, why did my alarm go off in the middle of the night?

#21: Black out! Black out! I can't see a thing! Are the lights off all over town or only in the house? Did we blow a fuse?

#20: I don't think so—but I'm about to blow a fuse! It looks like the only lights are coming from the Jewish section of town. Boy, what could be worse than this?

#21: Well, that depends if you're a first born...

Makkas Bechoros: Death of the Firstborn

#22: Why is that guy going jogging in the middle of the night—in his pajamas?!?

#23: Well, it looks like some kind of emergency. He's banging on all the doors looking for Moshe.

#22: Hey, am I crazy or is that Pharaoh?

#23: You are crazy, and it is Pharaoh!

#22: Are you sure?

#23: Yeah, I've heard that he has little airplanes and hockey players on the royal pajamas. It must be him.

#22: Hey, what's that announcement? All the Jews are free to have as much extra outdoor recess as they want!

#23: Yes, and we celebrate this every year.

## Parsha Stories

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/349095/jewish/Living-with-the-Parsha.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/349095/jewish/Living-with-the-Parsha.htm)

### Living with the Parsha: Lighting up the World

By [Tali Loewenthal](#)

It was in the middle of a game of Rummy at which Josh, Dan and Rachel were playing happily one evening - quietly, because their mother lay upstairs with a migraine headache - that without warning, the lights went out. Rachel jumped up and pressed the switch, but the room remained in darkness. The lights in the rest of the house also appeared to be off.

Josh felt his way to the window and looked outside. Wow!" he exclaimed. The street lamps are off - and so are all the lights in the other houses. It must be a power cut!"

"A power cut?" echoed Dan. "What do you mean?"

"It means the electricity in the city, or part of the city, stops working - but don't worry, it'll probably come on again soon."

"But how can we see, meanwhile?" wondered Josh, who had already bumped himself several times.

"Let's light some candles," suggested Dan.

But alas! None were to be found in the usual place. "Oh! I remember mummy saying we needed some more for next Friday evening," said Rachel.

"What should we do? We can't wake poor mummy, and daddy won't be back for an hour at least. We'll just have to sit quietly and talk. Oh well, it's quite fun really. It reminds me a bit of the Plague of Darkness the Egyptians had," Josh said.

"Oh no, the Egyptians had it much worse," Rachel disagreed. "We learned that the darkness was so dark that you could feel it, and the Egyptians were unable to move at all!"

"Oh no, the poor Egyptians - that means they couldn't move for a few days. That's much worse than this!" said Dan, who hated the dark.

"Isn't that amazing - that darkness can be so thick you can actually feel it?" Rachel wondered. "I always thought that darkness was something that happens when there is no light - but I suppose it's something that really exists, if the Egyptians could feel it".

"Even if it is something, it's quite easy to get rid of it," Josh said. "As long as there's no power cut, all you have to do is turn on the light - and all the darkness is gone."

"You know, my teacher told us once that mitzvot are like that - when we do good things it is like turning on the light - we help get rid of all the darkness, of the badness in the world."

"And maybe darkness actually isn't anything after all," said Rachel. "Only light and goodness are real. But when there is no light, the darkness seems very real, and that's why the Egyptians couldn't move. Really, all along, everything can turn to light."

Suddenly, as she was talking, the lights went on again. "Hooray," said Dan happily. "We got rid of the darkness just by talking about the light!"

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/349096/jewish/Bo-Parshah-Lesson.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/349096/jewish/Bo-Parshah-Lesson.htm)

## Bo Parshah Lesson

By [Malka Touger](#)

“And it was on this very day that the entire *army of G-d* left the land of Egypt.”

Many things help to make an army strong and successful. Let’s talk about three very important rules.

The first is to obey. We all know that we should listen to our parents, our teachers and other people who guide us. Still, we sometimes say: “Sure, mom, I’ll do what you say, but please tell me why I have to do it?” Or “Why does the teacher tell me to do it this way?”

Soldiers on the front don’t ask why. They listen to their commander, who may or may not explain why, and do just as they are ordered. After the battle is over, there may be time to discuss and explain. But while in combat, the soldiers must carry out every order which they are given.

The second important rule is to cooperate. All people are responsible for one another. In the army, cooperating with another person is much more than just a good thing to do. It’s necessary, because it’s the only way that the army can succeed. All the soldiers in any unit depend upon each other.

Soldiers in a tank depend upon the navigator to steer them in the right direction. Parachutists in the air depend upon the pilot to fly the plane at the correct height, and upon radar specialists miles away to give them correct reports. In the armory, soldiers depend on the equipment manager to supply them with the proper arms. And every soldier in the field of battle hopes that his fellow man will help him in time of need.

The third rule is to understand the importance of every individual.

Even though every soldier knows that others care for him and will be there to help him, he must still take full responsibility for himself and for his position. The future of the entire army sometimes depends upon a lone guard at an outpost, or upon the information provided by one radio dispatcher. Every individual soldier must do his job properly in order for the army to succeed.

These three rules must also be followed in G-d’s army. We follow G-d’s commandments. We cooperate with each other. And each one of us tries his best to do his own job well.

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/Parshat-Bo.pdf?docid=3358&ie=1&showobject=1>

# LESSONS FROM THE PARSHA

## NOW IS THE TIME

The plague of locusts demolished Mitzrayim. The locusts ate up the last bit of the produce that was not destroyed by the hail. This devastating makko humbled Paroh to the point that he verbally agreed to send the Jewish people out of Mitzrayim. He said to him, “Go and serve Hashem, your G-d. Who is going?” Moshe said, “With our youngsters and our elders we shall go; with our sons and our daughters, with our sheep, goats and cattle we shall go, because it is a festival of Hashem for us” (Shemos 10:8,9).

The Noam Elimelech beautifully darshens these verses with a message that touches at the very heart of the educational process. Shlomo HaMelech teaches us, “Train the youth according to his way; even when he grows old, he will not swerve from it” (Mishlei 22:6). If a child is brought up in a holy atmosphere and taught to serve Hashem from the earliest age, he will not have to change his ways when he grows older. He has been on the right path since his youth, and will find it easy to serve Hashem later in life. This is the meaning of the verse, “With our youngsters and our elders we shall go.” Those youngsters, who conduct themselves with holiness, will continue along the same path when they become elders. “With our sons and our daughters we shall go.” Both young men and young women need guidance along the proper path. “With our sheep, goats, and cattle we shall go.” This part of the verse hints to our business ventures, eating, drinking, and other activities to sustain our bodies. We engage in all of these activities with the intention of coming closer to our Creator. They are also included in avodas Hashem. Lastly, “because it is a festival of Hashem for us.” A flame of desire burns inside of us, to serve Hashem with all of our hearts.

Kinderlach . . .

Now is the time. Now you are young. Stay on the straight path. Keep your souls pure. Serve Hashem with great enthusiasm. When you do this, you lay down a solid foundation for the rest of your life. One who follows the correct path in his youth, will not stray from it later in life. It will be easier for him to serve Hashem with fervor. Now is the time!

## I SEE

Come to Paroh for I have hardened his heart” (Shemos 10:1). This verse is a bit puzzling. A person with a hard heart is usually not sympathetic to the needs and requests of others. Moshe Rabbeinu was being sent to Paroh to seek the freedom of the Jewish people. If Paroh’s heart was hardened, what was the point of asking? He will only refuse. Furthermore, we know that people have the free will to choose between right and wrong. By hardening Paroh’s heart, did Hashem take away his free will? Was he doomed to suffer the plagues without any hope of doing teshuva (repentance) on his sins?

Rav Leib Chasman zt”l in his sefer Ohr Yohel shares a deep insight into human nature. There are two types of sight. The eyes are made of flesh and blood, and they see the physical appearance of objects. The heart, on the other hand, “sees” the spiritual world. Knowledge is contained in the brain. The true understanding is in the heart. When his wisdom enters his heart, a person can say, “I see.” As the verse states, “You shall know this day and take to your heart”(Devarim 4:39). Some people are blind because they have no eyes. Others do not see because their eyes are covered. Both cannot see, but for vastly different reasons. The same is true with spiritual “sight.” Some cannot understand the truth because they have no heart. They are totally cut off from reality. There is no hope for them, because their heart (ability to understand) has been removed. They are like the person with no eyes. Others have a heart. It is just covered and locked up. They can remove the lock, but it may take some work. They are like the person whose eyes are covered. Paroh’s heart was blocked. This impaired his spiritual vision. However, he was capable of removing the blockage. He could “see” again, if he did teshuva. Therefore, it was worthwhile for Moshe to go to him. Perhaps he would soften his heart, and see the truth that Hashem is the King of Kings. Then he would let the Jewish people go.

Kinderlach . . .

Hashem did not give up on Paroh. He and his nation had suffered seven makkos (plagues) and he still did not recognize Hashem. We might think that he was hopeless. Hashem did not. He sent Moshe Rabbeinu to him again, in the hope that he would do tshuva. What about us? Do you ever feel that you want to give up on your self? “I’ll never change.” “I’m beyond hope.” These words are false. You are surely no worse than the evil Paroh. You are much better than he was. And he was able to change. You can too. Try again. And again. And again. Your heart will soften. The truth will enter. “I see, I see,” you will say. With the voice of true understanding.

## TEMPTATION

The plague brings total darkness and the Egyptians are defenseless. Anything can happen. The Jews are free to do whatever they want. They can take revenge against their cruel Egyptian taskmasters and never be caught. Why not leave Egypt? The perfect opportunity. There were no guards or sentries to stop them, and no army to catch them. They have an opportunity to end this miserable slavery once and for all. But wait. They once made an oath many years ago. The Targum Yonason (on Bereshis 50:25) explains that Yosef made the Jews swear not to leave Egypt before the appointed time. The Chasam Sofer zt”l explains that this is the explanation of the verse in Tehillim (105:28), “He sent darkness and made it dark, and they did not defy his word.” The Jewish people could have very easily defied Yosef’s word and left Egypt. However, they would not go back on their oath. They resisted the temptation and kept their word.

Kinderlach . . .

We all have temptations. The desire is especially strong when people are not watching. “Abba and Imma are taking their Shabbos nap. Now I can go to my friend’s house

without asking permission.” “The storekeeper is busy with customers. I can easily slip this bag of marbles into my pocket.” “Imma is busy with the baby. Now is the perfect time to sneak a piece of the special desert that is only for guests.” We know that these things are wrong. It makes no difference whether someone is watching or not. However, the temptation is greater when we feel that we can get away with it. We have the strength to resist that temptation. We inherited it from our forefathers. Stand fast and do the right thing. Even when no one is watching.

<http://www.aish.com/torahportion/pArchive.asp?eventType=15&eventName=Bo>

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

[http://www.aish.com/torahportion/family/Finding\\_Courage.asp](http://www.aish.com/torahportion/family/Finding_Courage.asp)

**Bo** (Exodus 10:1-13:16)

**Finding Courage**

## From this week's Torah Portion

It took a lot of courage for the Jewish slaves in Egypt to do things that publicly showed that the false gods of their Egyptian masters were meaningless to them. And it takes a lot of courage for *us* to publicly stand up for what's true and right even when it's not popular. But that's just what God asked of them - and just what He asks of us.

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## Story

*In our story, a kid tries to find the courage to take a stand for truth.*

### HOUSE CALLS

Wendy was taking in the sights as she scurried along with her classmates walking home from school. The other kids, who were used to the walk, hardly paid attention, but for Wendy, who'd just moved to town, everything was still new and interesting.

With one eye on the scenery and the other keeping track of which way the kids were turning so she wouldn't get lost, Wendy suddenly felt a tug on her sleeve.

"Crazy Lady's house! Quick, cross the street!" Paula said as she and the others all crossed over to the other side of the street.

"Is anything wrong? Why did we just cross? Who's 'Crazy Lady'?" Wendy asked nervously.

"Oh, we're okay now," Paula laughed. "Crazy Lady - that's the old woman who lives in that little house up ahead - can't reach us now. For the last month or so, whenever we walk by this lady comes limping out the front door of her house and yells, or more like croaks at us with the weirdest voice - but then again," she smiled, "what do you expect from somebody who's crazy?"

Sure enough, as if on cue, Wendy heard a door swing open and a bent-over old woman came limping out the doorway, making strange, loud noises while pointing back inside her house.

"There she is!" the kids half shrieked and half giggled. "She wants to catch us."

"Cra-zee, cra-zeee!" one kid taunted, while banging on the nearby trash dumpster as the others laughed.

Getting over her initial shock, Wendy slowed down and watched the woman closely. It sounded like she was trying to say the words 'help me.'

"Do you think she's okay?" Wendy asked.

"Of course not. She's crazy!" Paula sputtered.

"No, I mean, she looks like she needs help or something. Maybe we should go over there and see."

"Go to scary Crazy Lady's house? No way!" squealed Kate. Anyone who does that must be as crazy as she is!" Wendy felt bad for the woman and also felt it wasn't right the way the kids were making fun of her. She wanted to go try to help, but if she did, what would the others think of her?

The kids, still laughing, began to move on. Wendy was about to join them, then looked back. The woman, now quiet, had put down her arms and looked very sad. It would be easier to just ignore her, but it wouldn't be right...

"Guys, I'm just going over there for a minute to see if she's okay," Wendy called out to their astonished faces. She slowly walked closer to the house and when she was just outside the fence, she smiled and said, "Hello ma'am, can I be of help to you in any way?"

The woman looked up, nodded her head and pointed inside like before. Wendy edged closer to the front door and smelled a bad smell. She peeked

inside the house and saw a big pile of sealed-up garbage bags that seemed to take up half the room.

"T-too h-h-hea-vy..." the woman stuttered. "I-I-I had a st-str-stroke and now c-can't lift tr-tra-trash!" Wendy noticed tears streaming down the woman's face. She went on to explain that she lived alone and each day since she'd gotten home from the hospital after the stroke, it was hard for her to walk and to speak clearly. When she'd see the group of school kids passing by she would call to them, hoping they could help her carry out the trash. But they just seemed to laugh at her and run away so now, with no choice, she had to leave all her trash piled up inside her house.

Immediately Wendy grabbed two of the bags and briskly carried them out and across the street to the dumpster. She explained to her friends, who had waited around to see what would happen and they immediately joined her. They felt bad for the woman ... and ashamed of the way they'd acted.

From then on, when the kids would walk home, instead of crossing the street to avoid 'Crazy Lady,' they made it a point to stop in and ask 'Sweet old Mrs. Simmons,' as they discovered was the woman's real name, if she needed any help - all thanks to Wendy's courage to care.

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## Discussion Questions

### Ages 3-5

Q. How did the kids feel at first about the old woman?

A. They felt she was crazy and made fun of her.

Q. How did they feel in the end?

A. Thanks to Wendy's courage to try and help, they felt like they wanted to help the lady and were sorry they had called her names.

### Ages 6-9

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

A. When Wendy, a new kid in school, saw the rest of the kids making fun of the old woman, she could have taken the easy way out and joined them or at least said nothing. But she bravely took a stand and tried to help and in the end they all saw that it was the right thing to do.

Q. How can a person learn to become courageous like that?

A. One way is to ask ourselves in every situation 'What is the right thing to do?' instead of asking ourselves 'What will people think?' It takes courage, for sure,

but we'll see that most of the time, people will also think better of us, when we show we have the guts to do what is right.

### **Ages 10 and Up**

Q. What is your definition of 'courage'?

A. There may be many definitions, but there is no greater courage than to be willing to live life according to our deepest values and convictions regardless of what other people think.

Q. How can a person discover what his or her deepest convictions are?

A. One wise man advised to consider what we would be willing to die for - and then go out and live for these things!

## **Parsha Games**

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

### **K-2**

When the B'nei Yisrael left Mitzrayim/Egypt they quickly made preparations to do so (e.g. getting the family ready, eating a big meal)

#### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Preparing for something as best as you can**

#### **Activity**

**Tell the story of Yetziat Mitzrayim. Talk about journeys. How do we prepare for going on a journey? Act this out.**

### **3-4**

The parashah tells us that Nisan is the start of the Jewish year

#### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Taking pride in our Jewish calendar**

#### **Activity**

In this parashah the word 'Aviv' is mentioned for the first time, as the name of the first month. We do not use this as the name of a month, but of a season.

### Activity One:

Sing this song.

Tune: Bobby Shaftoe

Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz,  
Av, Ellul, Tishrei, Cheshvan,  
Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar,  
These are the months of the year

## 5-6

Jewish people are part of a society composed of many cultures and religions. The parashah tells us that the B'nei Yisrael in Mitzrayim/Egypt kept their separate ways

### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Accepting differences between people**

### **Activity**

In our multicultural society different groups use different calendars. The parashah tells us that the Jewish calendar starts at the month of Nisan. Which other calendars can you list? Name them and explain what you know about them, for example, Christian, Chinese, School etc.