

# NCYI Youth Groups Parshat Ki Tetze

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

## Parsha Outline

- Female captives
- Firstborn's inheritance right
- The rebellious son
- Rape
- Exclusions from Jewish people
- Divorce
- Remarriage
- Laws of of employees
- Widows and orphans
- Gifts for the poor
- Amalek

## Parsha Summaries

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/420252/jewish/Kt-Teitzei-Roundup.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/420252/jewish/Kt-Teitzei-Roundup.htm)

### Kt Teitzei Roundup

For those of you who have been following the previous *parshiot*, you know that we've gone through lots of mitzvot. Well, this *parshah* brings lots more. Seventy-four more, to be exact. Let's get started!

**Returning lost objects:** When we find something that somebody has lost, if there's any way we can figure out how it belonged to, we must return it to the owner. This is big mitzvah.

**Burying the dead:** Another biggie: Respecting the body of a dead person and burying it as soon as possible.

**Protecting the mom:** Before we take eggs or baby birds from a nest, we must send away the mother bird, so she shouldn't see and be sad. We learn from this to be compassionate to all creatures.

**Fencing:** Anyone who builds a new house has to make a fence for the roof, so nobody should fall and get hurt. This teaches us that we have to always take precautions to make sure that there are no dangers that might trip up others.

**No mixing:** We must be careful not to create *kilayim*, which is a mixture of two different things. For example, we can't plant two types of plants too close to each other where they might cross-pollinate. Same with animals: we can't yoke together two different animals; for example, an ox and a donkey. Similar to this is the idea of *shaatnez*: we may not wear wool and linen mixed together.

**Tzitzit:** Anytime we wear something that has four corners, we have to attach strings, called *tzitzit*, at the corners. In order to do this mitzvah at all times, we wear a special garment with four corners with the strings attached. That garment is called *tzitzit* as well.

**Eating on the job:** When you have someone working for you in the field, picking fruit or vegetables, you must let him eat whatever he wants. He can't just take whatever he wants home with him, but eating on the job is his right.

**A lesson from Miriam:** If someone says something bad about another Jew, he is punished with *tzaraat*. We learned about this a while back in *parshot* Tazria and Metzora. The Jews are reminded of this here, and Miriam is held up as an example that all the Jews saw. Because she spoke ill of Moses, she got *tzaraat*.

The final mitzvah in this *parshah* is to remember Amalek, the evil nation who attacked the Jews after they left Egypt, and work to erase its memory.

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/549407/jewish/Aliya-Summary.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/549407/jewish/Aliya-Summary.htm)

**General Overview:** This week's reading, *Ki Teitzei*, contains 74 commandments, more mitzvot than any other Torah portion. Some of the commandments discussed: the law of the rebellious son, the obligation to bury the dead without undue delay, the requirement to return a found object, the prohibition against causing pain to any living creature, the prohibition against prostitution, the laws of marriage and divorce, the procedure of the Levirate marriage, and the obligation to eradicate the memory of Amalek.

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**First Aliyah:** This section begins with a discussion regarding female captives of war, and lays down the conditions under which a soldier may marry a captive. The right of a firstborn son to a double portion of his father's inheritance is then detailed. The section concludes with the procedure for dealing with an aberrantly rebellious child.

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**Second Aliyah:** Commandments discussed in this section: Speedy burial of the deceased, returning a lost object to its owner, aiding a neighbor when his animal has fallen because of its burden, the prohibition against cross-dressing, and the obligation to send away a mother bird before taking its chicks or eggs.

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**Third Aliyah:** Some commandments discussed in this section: Building a safety fence around a flat roof; the prohibitions against sowing mixtures of seeds, plowing with a mixed pair of animals, or wearing a garment which contains a mixture of wool and linen (*shatnez*); wearing *tzitzit*; the penalty for a husband who defames his wife; the punishment for adultery; the penalty for rape; and certain prohibited marriages.

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**Fourth Aliyah:** Some commandments discussed in this section: maintaining pure and hygienic army encampments, impurity resulting from seminal emissions, prohibition against prostitution, prohibition against lending with interest, and the obligation to honor VOWS.

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**Fifth Aliyah:** This section details the right of field workers to eat from the produce they are harvesting. The Torah then briefly discusses marriage and the bill of divorce. A divorced couple cannot remarry if the woman has been remarried to another man (and divorced again or widowed) in the interim.

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**Sixth Aliyah:** More mitzvot: A newlywed man is exempt from military service for a full year. It is forbidden to accept utensils used to prepare food as loan security or to forcibly take a debtor's possessions as collateral, and a poor man's security must be temporarily returned to him on a daily basis. Kidnapping is a capital offense. We are commanded to always remember that Miriam was afflicted with *tzara'at* for speaking badly about Moses.

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**Seventh Aliyah:** We are forbidden to withhold or delay a worker's wages. Relatives' testimony is inadmissible in a court of law. Various mandatory gifts for the poor are

discussed. The procedure for corporal punishment is outlined. The mitzvah of Levirate marriage (*yibum*) is introduced: if a married childless man dies, his brother is obligated to marry the widow. If the brother refuses to marry the widow, he and she go through a *chalitzah* ceremony, which frees her to marry whomever she wishes. We are instructed to maintain accurate weights and measures. The reading ends with the mitzvah to remember Amalek's evil deed, ambushing the Israelites on their way from Egypt.

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/3639>

The Torah describes the only permissible way a woman captured in battle may be married. If a man marries two wives, and the less-favored wife bears a firstborn son, this son's right to inherit a double portion is protected against the father's desire to favor the child of the favored wife. The penalty for a rebellious son, who will inevitably degenerate into a monstrous criminal, is stoning. A body must not be left on the gallows overnight, because it had housed a holy soul. Lost property must be returned. Men are forbidden from wearing women's clothing and vice versa. A mother bird may not be taken together with her eggs. A fence must be built around the roof of a house. It is forbidden to plant a mixture of seeds, to plow with an ox and a donkey together, or to combine wool and linen in a garment. A four-cornered garment must have twisted threads *tzitzit* on its corners. Laws regarding illicit relationships are detailed. When Israel goes to war, the camp must be governed by rules of spiritual purity. An escaped slave must not be returned to his master.

Taking interest for lending to a Jew is forbidden. *Bnei Yisrael* are not to make vows. A worker may eat of the fruit he is harvesting. Divorce and marriage are legislated. For the first year of marriage, a husband is exempt from the army and stays home to make rejoice with his wife. Tools of labor may not be impounded, as this prevents the debtor from earning a living. The penalty for kidnapping for profit is death. Removal of the signs of the disease *tzara'at* is forbidden. Even for an overdue loan, the creditor must return the collateral daily if the debtor needs it. Workers' pay must not be delayed. The guilty may not be subjugated by punishing an innocent relative. Because of their vulnerability, converts and orphans have special rights of protection. The poor are to have a portion of the harvest. A court may impose lashes. An ox must not be muzzled while threshing. It is a *mitzvah* for a man to marry his brother's widow if the deceased left no offspring. Weights and measures must be accurate and used honestly. The *parsha* concludes with the *mitzvah* to erase the name of Amalek, for, in spite of knowing about the Exodus, they ambushed the Jewish People.

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## Parsha Songs

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

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/573783/jewish/Parshah-Song.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/573783/jewish/Parshah-Song.htm)

Lyrics:

MISSING

## Parsha Questions & Answers

Selected from the following websites:

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=7078](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=7078)

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=4158](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=4158)

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=4041](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=4041)

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=391](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=391)

[http://www.chinuch.org/item\\_details.php?mid=1685](http://www.chinuch.org/item_details.php?mid=1685)

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/1199>

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

K-2

### Questions

1. What must the finder of a lost object do?
2. What is this mitzvah called?
3. What must one do if he wants to take chicks or eggs from a nest?
4. What is this mitzvah called?
5. What reward is mentioned in the Torah for sending away the mother bird?
6. What do we call the prohibition of not wearing clothing that has wool and linen woven together?
7. Is a man allowed to wear something that only women wear, or is a woman allowed to wear something that only men wear?
8. What did Miriam do and what happened to her?
9. Why must we always remember what happened to Miriam?
10. What are we commanded to remember at the end of the Parsha?

### Answers

1. One must watch it, take care of it, and return it to its rightful owner
2. Hashavat Aveidah
3. First send away the mother bird
4. Shiluach Hakan

5. Arichat Yamim (long life)
6. Shaatnez
7. NO! The name of this prohibition is Lo Tilbash
8. She spoke Lashon Hara about Moshe and she got Tzoraat
9. So that we will be careful about lashon hara
10. The evil of amalek and how they attacked Bnei Yisrael when they left Egypt.

3-4

## Questions

1. What must the finder of a lost object do?
2. What is this mitzvah called?
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6. What do we call the prohibition of not wearing clothing that has wool and linen woven together?
7. Is a man allowed to wear something that only women wear, or is a woman allowed to wear something that only men wear?
8. How does one get married?
9. How does one get divorced?
10. What is a Mamzer?
11. Why may a Mitzri (Egyptian) or Edomite marry into Klal Yisrael, but a Moabite or an Ammonite may not?
12. What may a worker do in a vineyard?
13. What did Miriam do and what happened to her?
14. Why must we always remember what happened to Miriam?
15. What are we commanded to remember at the end of the Parsha?

## Answers

1. One must watch it, take care of it, and return it to its rightful owner
2. Hashavat Aveidah
3. First send away the mother bird
4. Shiluach Hakan
5. Arichat Yamim (long life)
6. Shaatnez
7. NO! The name of this prohibition is Lo Tilbash
8. Kiddushin – (the giving of the ring, the writing of document called a shtar, or Biah)
9. By writing a Get (Bill of Divorce)
10. A child born from a married woman who had relations with someone other than her husband

11. The Egyptians and Edomites tried to hurt Bnei Yisrael physically, whereas the Moabites and the Ammonites tried to hurt Bnei Yisrael spiritually
12. He may take as much as he wants to eat but he may not take any home with him
13. She spoke Lashon Hara about Moshe and she got Tzoraat
14. So that we will be careful about lashon hara
15. The evil of amalek and how they attacked Bnei Yisrael when they left Egypt.

## 5-6

### Questions

1. What is an Eshet Yefat Toar?
2. What is a Ben Sorer Omer?
3. What must the finder of a lost object do?
4. What is this mitzvah called?
5. What must one do if he wants to take chicks or eggs from a nest?
6. What is this mitzvah called?
7. What reward is mentioned in the Torah for sending away the mother bird?
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13. Who may a Mamzer marry?
14. Why may a Mitzri (Egyptian) or Edomite marry into Klal Yisrael, but a Moabite or an Ammonite may not?
15. What may a worker do in a vineyard?
16. What did Miriam do and what happened to her?
17. Why must we always remember what happened to Miriam?
18. What is the Mitzvah of Yibum?
19. What is Chalitzah?
20. What are we commanded to remember at the end of the Parsha?

### Answers

1. A beautiful woman who was captured in battle
2. A young son who refuses to listen to his parents, and is a glutton and a drunkard
3. One must watch it, take care of it, and return it to its rightful owner
4. Hashavat Aveidah
5. First send away the mother bird
6. Shiluach Hakan
7. Arichat Yamim (long life)
8. Shaatnez

9. NO! The name of this prohibition is Lo Tilbash
10. Kiddushin – (the giving of the ring, the writing of document called a shtar, or Biah)
11. By writing a Get (Bill of Divorce)
12. A child born from a married woman who had relations with someone other than her husband
13. Only another Mamzer or a Ger (convert), but not a regular woman from Klal Yisrael
14. The Egyptians and Edomites tried to hurt Bnei Yisrael physically, whereas the Moabites and the Ammonites tried to hurt Bnei Yisrael spiritually
15. He may take as much as he wants to eat but he may not take any home with him
16. She spoke Lashon Hara about Moshe and she got Tzoraat
17. So that we will be careful about lashon hara
18. Marrying a dead brother's wife (when the dead brother had no children).
19. Spitting in the shoe. This signifies that there will be no Yibum performed by the brother for the dead brother's wife
20. The evil of amalek and how they attacked Bnei Yisrael when they left Egypt.

## Parsha Stories

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/735430/jewish/Modern-Pirates.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/735430/jewish/Modern-Pirates.htm)

### Modern Pirates

By [Mendy Loewenthal](#)

"The pirates are attacking!" the captain screamed. "To your posts!"

Smoke filled the air as little men jumped from the dark and ominous dreaded pirate ship called the *Amalek*.

"Oh no..." the captain groaned when he realized that this wasn't just any group of pirates.

"Fire the 9 pounder demi-culverins!" he ordered his men.

"SUPPER!!!" the voice from downstairs could barely be heard over the din of battle.

The *Amalek's* men were gaining ground as they took control of the upper deck.

"David," Ben said, opening the door to his brother's room, "Mummy is calling you." Then he saw the large battle taking place between the Lego ships. "What's going on?" he asked.

"The Amaleks are attacking," David explained.

"Who are they?" Ben asked.

"We learned about them in the weekly Torah reading class this week," David said. "They were the first ones to attack the Jewish people in the desert after they came out of Egypt, and now they are a ferocious pirate gang who are terrorizing this innocent cargo ship!"

"Now I remember," Ben said, "except for the bit about the pirates. Did you know that we have a special mitzvah to destroy Amalek because of what they did?"

"Yes," David replied, "but in our days, my teacher told us, we can't observe it because we don't really know who Amalek is anymore."

"But," David said after a pause, "I heard there are still ways we can fight Amalek."

"But," Ben said, confused, "if we don't know who they are, how can we fight them?"

"Amalek represents feeling cold towards keeping mitzvot. All the other nations were excited to hear that the Jewish people had come out of Egypt with great miracles, like the Splitting of the Sea. They wouldn't dare attack them. But Amalek was cold to the wonders and miracles. They said 'So what!' and attacked the Jews. Like those wicked pirates attacking innocent people," David said, pointing to the black pirate ship.

"And we destroy Amalek by making sure that we are always excited to do a mitzvah, to study some Torah, to do what's right."

"Well," Ben said, "so in that case, let's go down for supper because Mummy is waiting for us and we don't want to let Amalek win this time!"

[http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/416652/jewish/Ki-Teitzei-Parshah-Lesson.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/416652/jewish/Ki-Teitzei-Parshah-Lesson.htm)

## Ki Teitzei Parshah Lesson

By [Malka Touger](#)

Eve came into the kitchen with a bright cheery smile on her face. "Mom, I'd like to help you prepare for dinner. Please tell me what I can do." Eve washed her hands and looked eagerly at her mom.

"I'm so proud to have such a helpful daughter," Eve's mom said, planting a kiss on her forehead. "Here, the first job I'll give you is to peel the cucumbers."

In a few minutes Eve presented the bowl of peeled cucumbers. "So fast?" her mom asked in surprise.

"That was so easy!" laughed Eve. "Can I have my next job now? As a matter of fact, Mom, would you tell me the next two jobs? I'll do them one right after the other." Soon, Eve had completed jobs number three, four and five, too.

Later, at the dinner table, Eve's mom praised her in front of all the children and guests. "It wasn't such a big deal," Eve said bashfully. "I was glad to do things for Mom."

"I think that the cucumbers had a lot to do with it," Eve's father said with a twinkle in his eye.

"What do you mean?" asked Eve's brother.

"We can learn a similar lesson from the Torah," he said.

Now everyone was really wondering. "Peeling cucumbers and the Torah?" someone exclaimed.

"Well, the lesson is not exactly about peeling cucumbers," his father replied. "I'll explain. Let's think about Eve and Mom in the kitchen this morning. Eve wanted to help, and the first job Mom gave her was peeling the cucumbers. That was an easy job and when Eve completed it, she felt happy and eager to do more. One job followed another, and everything was done.

"In the Torah we learn that if a person finds a bird's nest and wants to collect the eggs that are in it, he must first shoo away the mom. Once the mom bird is out of sight, he can take the eggs.

"Following this mitzvah, the Torah tells us about other commandments like building a fence around a house roof, commandments of the field and commandments about our clothing.

"Rashi tells us that these commandments are listed one after another because one good deed leads to another and another. Just like the first job Mom gave Eve -- the cucumbers - - was easy, and since it was easy, she finished quickly and was even more eager to continue to help.

"The Torah lists the commandment of shooing away the mom bird first in this group of commandments. It's an easy deed to do, and since one good deed leads to another, fulfilling this one makes it easier to perform other good deeds."

<http://ohr.edu/yhiy/article.php/Parshat-Ki-Tetzei.pdf?docid=3645&ie=1&showobject=1>

## LESSONS FROM THE PARSHA

### HONEST BUSINESSMAN

"Class, we have a treat for you today. We are bringing in a special guest speaker. He is a man who has merited much blessing from Hashem." "Please tell us about him, Rebbe." "He is one of the wealthiest men in our city. He owns a chain of stores. He uses his money to do many, many mitzvos. He is also over one hundred years old!" "Wow!" *The Rebbe steps outside the classroom. In a moment, he returns. At his side is a very elderly man. He is well dressed, and well groomed. The entire class stands up for him. He slowly walks to the chair in the front of the classroom and sits down. The Rebbe begins to speak.* "Class, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our special guest to you, Mr. Boruch Yashar. He has taken the time and effort to be with you today." "Shalom aleichem, boys. It gives me such *nachas* to see a class of fine young men learning Torah. When I was your age, we did not have this beautiful Talmud Torah. Hashem has been so kind and blessed you with this wonderful opportunity to learn His Holy Torah."

Mr. Yashar, we heard that you own a chain of stores. Can you please tell us how you started out and became so successful?" "With pleasure, boys. I began as a peddler. I could not afford to buy a store, so I put my goods on a wagon, pushed it through the streets, and sold to people in front of their homes." "What did you sell, Mr. Yashar?" "Foodstuffs. In those days, boys, sugar, oil, beans, grains, and coffee were not available in sealed packages. I went to the open market and bought my wares directly from the wholesalers. I carefully weighed out the merchandise, put it into my sacks, and paid for it. Then I loaded the sacks onto my wagon and went up and down the streets of the town. People would come out with their own bags and jars to buy my goods. I weighed them empty, filled them up, weighed them full, and charged them for what they bought. If I was fortunate enough to sell everything, I went to the market to replenish my supply." "Things sure were different in those days, Mr. Yashar." "They certainly were, boys. We had no electronic scales or calculators. All merchandise was weighed on old-fashioned balance scales with balance weights. The price was then calculated by hand. This took time and patience." "How did you become wealthy, Mr. Yashar?"

My business gradually grew and grew, until I could afford to buy a store. I opened up a little shop in the center of town. My goods sold well, so I expanded my selection. Pretty soon, the store was overcrowded with goods and customers, so I bought a bigger store. I hired employees to handle the increased volume of sales. That store also became too small so I bought another one. And so it went." "That is fascinating, Mr. Yashar. To what

do you attribute your great success?” “Boys, we all know that *parnassa* is from Hashem. I do not know why He chose to give me so much wealth. However, I am very careful to pray for *parnassa* and thank Him for His kindness in every *Amidah* prayer. There is one particular mitzvah that is actually found in this week’s parasha, which promises rewards of financial success and long life.” “You have merited both.”

The mitzvah is in chapter 25, verses 13 to 15. ‘You shall not have in your pouch diverse weights, a large one and a small one. And you shall not have in your house diverse measures, a large one and a small one. A perfect and honest weight shall you have; a perfect and honest measure shall you have; so that your days may be long upon the land that Hashem your G-d gives you.’ The verse itself states that the mitzvah grants long life. Rashi comments that one who has perfect and honest weights and measures will be blessed with much success.”

We see that blessing fulfilled in you Mr. Yashar. This is a mitzvah that is not so difficult to understand. An honest businessman does *chassodim* (acts of kindness) for his customers. He provides them with the goods they need at a fair price and honest measure. Hashem sees that this person is helping his fellow Jews. The Almighty has found in him a good business partner whom He can trust. Therefore, He gives the businessman more and more business and many years of life. With these twin blessings, he can help more and more people. Mr. Yashar, your name hints at the reason for your success – Boruch Yashar – blessed is the one who is straight.” “Thank you Rabbi. I sincerely hope that these wonderful young men will be scrupulously honest in all of their dealings. May Hashem shower you with all of His blessings.” “Amen!”

*Kinderlach . . .*

*Rav Shimshon Refael Hirsch, in his commentary on the Chumash, relates that honesty in business practices is one of the foundations of Jewish community life. The one who measures and calculates the price of his goods is a dayan (judge). Honesty in judgment brings great rewards, as we have seen. Corruption, and stealing, cholila (Heaven forbid), cause terrible curses. Kinderlach, we will all have business dealings in our lives. Bills need to be paid, items bought and sold, work will need to be done and workers paid. These and all monetary transactions must be done with the ultimate care and honesty. Be an honest judge! Uphold society! Merit great blessings! Boruch Yashar – Blessed is the one who is straight!*

<http://www.aish.com/torahportion/pArchive.asp?eventType=49&eventName=Ki+Tetzei>

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

[http://www.aish.com/torahportion/family/Finders\\_Keepers\\$.asp](http://www.aish.com/torahportion/family/Finders_Keepers$.asp)

**Ki Tetzei** (Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)

**Finders Keepers?**

## From this week's Torah Portion

What should we do if we find something that's not ours? Though it might be tempting to pocket it, especially if no one else would ever know, this week's Torah portion (22: 1-3) tells us that we should make the effort to find the owner and return it. "Finder's keepers, loser's weepers" is not the Torah way.

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### Story

*In our story, a kid has to decide whether finding means keeping.*

#### TIME KEEPER

Barry and Jack were roughhousing their way home from school as usual, enjoying the cool, sunny walk, when suddenly Barry saw something glimmering under a bush along the side of the road.

Ducking down, he stuck his arm in and let out a squeal of joy, as he pulled out a gleaming, gold pocket watch.

"Wow, what a find!" he said, beaming like an angler who'd just hooked a prize fish. "Check it out. It says 'fourteen carat gold' and even has some fancy initials carved into it."

"M. K.?" asked Jack.

"Well ... yeah. But how did you know?" Barry asked, surprised.

"'Cuz that's what it says on the note taped up to this telephone pole over here, written by the guy who lost it. It has the guy's phone number, too. He's gonna be real happy when you call him and tell you found his watch."

"Forget it, man. I'm not calling anyone! This watch is now in the proud possession of - me." As if to emphasize the point, the boy stuffed the watch deep into his jacket pocket.

"Come on, Barry!" Jack gave him a playful shove. "That's not right. Some guy lost his fancy, expensive watch - the note here describes it perfectly - you've gotta give it back."

"No way! Finders keepers, losers weepers," Barry shot back with a shove of his own "Is it my fault some guy happened to have butter-fingers and dropped his watch?"

Suddenly, Barry's cell phone rang. He answered it, but it was a wrong number. As he went to put the phone back in his pocket, it slipped and fell to the ground. Jack bent down and picked it up. "Thanks, man," Barry said, with his hand out. But instead of handing him his phone, Jack pocketed it.

"Hah-hah. Funny joke. Now give me back my phone."

But Jack shook his head. "Uh, uh. You don't have a cell phone any more. This is *my* phone, now."

Barry lunged to try to get it, but the bigger, stronger Jack jumped back.

"Hey, I'm serious, Jack. Give it!"

"Why should I? *You* lost it - *I* found it. Is it my fault you had butter-fingers?"

Barry realized what his friend was driving at, but didn't want to buy it. "Come on. It's not the same at all."

"Why not?"

"First of all, you *know* whose phone it is."

Jack just smirked and pointed to the note hanging up on the pole. "Barry, you know the watch is ... his."

"Second, it's a really expensive phone. My dad will kill me if..."

"I doubt it's worth more than a gold watch. Hmm ... who should I call first on my new phone? Alaska? ... China?"

Barry was turning red - not only because his buddy was teasing him, but because he was starting to make sense.

"And third of all..." Barry went on in a quiet voice, "I need to use the phone right now to make a very important call."

"Oh yeah, to who?"

"To ... um ... that number on the note over there. The guy must be going nuts hoping someone will find his watch and give it back."

Jack slapped his friend on the back and flipped him the phone.

"Now you're pushing the right button!"

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## Discussion Questions

### Ages 3-5

Q. How did Barry feel when he first found the watch?

A. He felt like he was allowed to keep it, no matter what.

Q. How did he feel in the end?

A. That when someone loses something and you find it, the right thing to do is to give it back.

### Ages 6-9

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

A. He'd felt that if someone lost something it was his tough luck and if you were fortunate enough to find it, it was rightfully yours. But Jack's fooling around and pocketing his phone, helped Barry realize that it hurts to lose something and how it's the right ethical choice to give back what you find.

Q. Is a person never allowed to keep something he or she finds?

A. It all depends on the details of the situation. The Talmud, or oral Torah, which God passed down through our sages, discusses these cases in fascinating detail and guides us concerning when it's fair and ethical to do what.

### Ages 10 and Up

Q. What is exactly wrong about keeping something of someone else's that we find?

A. Dealing fairly and ethically with each other's property is one of the cornerstones that creates the kind of peaceful and positive society God wants us to have for our own good. On a deeper, spiritual level, a person's property is connected to his soul and is in some way needed for him to complete his task in life. If he loses something and we ethically return it to him, we are doing him and the world a great service and if we don't ... the opposite.

Q. Our sages describe finding one's marriage partner as similar to finding something one has lost. What do you think this means?

A. Before each person was born they were together with their true marriage partner, or soul mate. Coming into this world, they became 'lost' from each other, living in different places, born at different times. By living a good, sincere life, they can 'find' each other and be together once again.

## Parsha Games

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

## K-2

The torah teaches us to be kind to animals

### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Kindness to animals**

### **Activity**

**Talk about how we care for our pets. Are there different ways that we care for different animals? Sing this song, Love Your Pets**

**Tune: Row, Row, Row the Boat**



Love, love  
Love your pets,  
Love them  
Every day.  
Give them food  
And water, too,  
Then let them  
Run and play.

## 3-4

The torah teaches us different ways of being kind to animals (Chapter 22 Verses 6,7 and 10) One of these is to make sure an animal is not made to carry or pull a load that is very heavy

### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Kindness to animals**

### **Activity**

**Do any children have pets?  
Do the children understand the term 'working animals'?  
What might these be?**

### **Discussion**

'How can we make sure that we are kind to animals?'

Some questions to get things going:

How do we treat our pets?

How are animals kept in zoos?

How do we treat animals that we use for food?

## 5-6

In biblical times all roofs were flat. In this parashah we are told that when building a house we must ensure that we make a fence around the roof to prevent anyone falling off (Chapter 22 Verse 8)

### **Middah/ Jewish Value**

- **Awareness of making things safe for ourselves and others**

### **Activity**

Although this is a biblical law and refers to building a house, nowadays this rule applies to all buildings.

### **Discussion**

What other regulations should builders be aware of with regards to safety?

What other areas can we personally make sure that we are not negligent with?

For example:

- leaving things around that people may trip over
- repairing loose carpet edges
- serving food that is not bad