Dear Youth Directors, Youth chairs, and Youth Leaders,

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

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

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

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

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

We are looking forward to hearing great things from everyone.

Our doors are always open.

Shana Tova.

**National Council of Young Israel Department of Synagogue Services**

rabbis@youngisrael.org

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Program Guide Breakdown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader Tip- Each section has some great tips for leaders and how they should conduct that section.
## Shabbat Morning Groups Lesson Plan

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

**Total Time:** 2 hours & 40 min of programming!
Nitzavim

1st & 2nd Aliyot: Moshe presented the entire nation with the foundation of our covenant with Hashem. Starting with the promise to the avot and stretching across 500 years of history, our relationship with Hashem had been kept through miracle after miracle. Yet, future generations might deny their personal obligation to continue the relationship and its connected responsibilities. Therefore, Moshe made it absolutely clear that each generation is obligated to educate their children and train them to accept the covenant with Hashem. Future generation should not be able to excuse their responsibilities for Torah and Mitzvot due to ignorance.

3rd Aliya: The next excuse Moshe challenged was the modernization of Torah. In every generation there are people who see Torah as old and outdated. This excuse for changing Torah's eternal truths will result in the compromise of Torah observance, our land, and our people.

4th & 5th Aliyot: As history will prove, Moshe's warnings would be ignored. Future generations would wonder about the destruction and sadness and, in their search for answers, return to the truths and practices of their forefathers.

6th Aliya: As a generation of Baalei Teshuva find their way back, many will be overwhelmed by the seemingly inaccessibility of Torah knowledge. Moshe reassures us that Torah is accessible to all those who truly want it. Ignorance and a lack of opportunity for learning should never be an excuse.

7th Aliya: Finally, Moshe presented the bottom line. Given free will we must choose properly. In the end, we are responsible for what happens.

Vayelech

1st & 2nd Aliyot: Moshe emphasizes Hashem's continued presence and protection, even though, Moshe himself would not be with Bnei Yisrael any longer. Ever since becoming the leader of Bnei Yisrael, Moshe had the difficult job of raising the nation’s reliance upon Hashem while downplaying their dependency upon him as a leader and provider. Now, as he prepared his final good-bye, it was clear that with Moshe's death, the nation would have no other choice but to reevaluate their dependency on Moshe and direct their attention to Hashem.
However this was much more difficult than it seemed. True, Moshe's death would be a strong cutting of ties, but living in Israel by the laws of nature instead of miracles would de-emphasize Hashem’s clear part in all aspects of their lives.

**3rd & 4th Aliyot:** By writing the entire Torah, giving it to the Kohanim, and explaining the special mitzvah of Hakhel, Moshe hoped that Bnei Yisrael would keep their dependency upon Hashem. The Kohanim represented the continued presence of "Hashem" within the nation as teachers and role models, they kept Bnei Yisrael focused on their national and individual missions.

Once every 7 years, all of Bnei Yisrael gathers in the Beit Hamikdash in a recreation of the giving of the Torah. This national expression of devotion would serve as an important reminder that following the Torah is the reason why the nation occupied and retained the Land.

**5th, 6th & 7th Aliyot:** Moshe and Yehoshua were brought to the Ohel Moed and told the harsh future of their responsibilities. In spite of all the warnings, Bnei Yisrael would sin and lose sight of their dependency upon Hashem. They would be punished, and instead of accepting responsibility for the consequences, they would have the chutzpah to blame Hashem’s absence and neglect for the tragedies and disasters that had befallen them. Yehoshua was encouraged to be strong and courageous and lead Bnei Yisrael with the same devotion that Moshe had. The Torah was then placed in the Aron as proof of the conditions by which the Jewish people live or die.

**LEADER TIP:** As Moshe gets closer to passing away, he makes sure he leaves Bnei Yisrael with as many inspiring messages as he can. What would be the one message you'd want to leave the world with before you pass away?
Nitzavim

Questions
1. When did Moshe gather the Bnei Yisrael to bring them into the Brit?
2. With whom does HaShem make this Brit?
3. What would happen to Eretz Yisrael if Bnei Yisrael sin?
4. If the Bnei Yisrael sin and HaShem sends them out of Eretz Yisrael, what do they have to do to return to Eretz Yisrael?
5. If the Bnei Yisrael do teshuvah, where will HaShem place His curses?
6. Why is this parsha always read the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah?
7. What does Lo Bashamayim Hee teach us?
8. What choice do each of us have?
9. What did Moshe tell the Bnei Yisrael to choose?
10. Why can Hashem never "swap" the Jewish people for another nation?

Answers
1. Zayin Adar; the day that Moshe was going to die
2. All future generations
3. Eretz Yisrael will become empty of its inhabitants
4. Teshuvah (repentance)
5. On the enemies of Bnei Yisrael
6. It reminds us to do teshuvah
7. 
   a. The Torah is not in some far away place, but is rather right here before us
   b. Even if a voice comes from heaven to teach a law we do not listen to it!
8. To do good and be rewarded or to do bad and be punished
9. Life
10. Because Hashem swore to their ancestors that He would never do so.
Questions
1. On which day does this Parsha take place?
2. Who leads the Bnei Yisrael after Moshe dies?
3. Who stood as witnesses when Moshe passed on leadership to Yehoshua? Why?
4. On which year do we perform the Mitzvah of Hakhel?
5. During which time of the year is hakhel performed?
6. How was hakhel performed?
7. The last mitzvah in the Torah is that everyone should write a...
8. What is one way that we can do the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah?
9. Which Shirah (song) was Moshe commanded to write?
10. How will this shirah help the Bnei Yisrael?

Answers
1. On Moshe’s 120th birthday; the day he was going to die
2. Yehoshua
3.
   a. All of Bnei Yisrael
   b. So that there should be no doubt how Yehoshua became the next leader
4. Destroy them
5. Sukkot
6. The entire Bnei Yisrael were assembled in the Beit Hamikdash and the king would read from the Torah in public
7. Sefer Torah
8. By buying sefarim
9. The shirah of Haazinu
10. It will serve as a constant reminder to keep the Torah and listen to HaShem

LEADER TIP: Gather everyone together for “Parsha Questions” as if you’re the King gathering Bnei Yisrael for hakhel!
**PARSHA ACTIVITY**

**GOAL:** To teach the kids about the value of free choice and choosing to follow in Hashem’s ways and do the right thing.

**ACTIVITY: “Punch or Shake”**
Split up the group into two teams on two sides of the room. Each team will send a representative into the middle of the room to “battle”. On the count of three, each kid must put out either a “fist” or a “hand shake”. Their teams are allowed to help them decide if they’d like as well. If they both put out a hand shake, both teams win. If there’s one fist and one hand shake, the fist wins and the hand shake loses. If they both put out a fist, both teams lose. You can play with a time limit and give out points or candies to the team that wins each round or you can play like the card game war and whenever a team loses that player must go to the other team. If both teams win the round, each player returns to their team. If both teams lose the round, the players switch teams.

**DISCUSSION:** In this week’s Parsha, Moshe tells Bnei Yisrael that they are given free choice to choose between good and evil, following Hashem’s mitzvoth or not. That choice will decide whether we will be blessed or cursed by Hashem. We all face challenges and don’t always know what to do. Sometimes making the right decision and doing the right thing is difficult, and sometimes we don’t even know what the right decision is. As long as we try our best and work really hard to be the best people we can, Hashem will always be there to help us every step of the way.

**LEADER TIP:** If you have extra time, start a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament as well!
Before you read: Making excuses can seem like the easy way out, but in the end, it never gets us anywhere. This week's portion (30:12-13) acknowledges how tempting it is to find excuses to avoid doing something positive, and urges us to overcome them and reach our goals.

NO EXCUSE

Debby, Gail and Amy sat beneath the gray, darkening sky at the corner, waiting for the volunteer van that was going to take them to their weekly after-school ‘cheer-up’ visit to the local nursing home.

"You know, I really have a ton of homework to do this afternoon," Gail complained. "I wish I hadn't agreed to do this visiting thing."

"Yeah, I know what you mean," Amy chimed in. "I know it's a good deed and everything, but I'd really rather go check out the clearance sale at Best-Dressed. I hear they have some really good clothes on sale cheap."

As they were speaking, they noticed the familiar, blue volunteer van approach, but instead of slowing down it drove right past them.

"Hey, what happened?" Amy called out.

"I'll bet it's that new driver again who forgot we were part of the pick-up route!" Gail huffed. "Now what do we do?"

"We go bargain hunting!" Amy's face lit up like a light bulb.

"Huh?"

"Well, look, it's not our fault the van didn't stop for us, and now we're off the hook. Come on, guys, let's go across the street to the mall!"

"I guess really I don't have that much homework, why not?" Gail smiled.

"C'mon, Debby," Amy called. "You said you wanted a new fall outfit."

Debby crossed her arms, then scrunched her face and shook her head. "You know, I just don't think we should miss our nursing home visit. The old people really enjoy it," Debby said, thinking of Mrs. Katz, the patient who'd she'd been assigned to visit.

"Maybe, but the van drove right by us. So we have a good excuse not to show this week," Amy scowled.

"I don't know. My mom always says 'a good excuse is still an excuse.' It's really only a ten-minute walk away. Why don't we just go for it?"

Debby's two friends looked at her like she was out of her mind.

"Walk it? It's enough that we agree to go at all. Forget it - you coming or not?"
"Um, no," Debby said. "You guys go ahead if you want. I'm going to keep trying."

Debby watched her friends walk off, sighed, and started on her way. After a moment, she felt a drop of rain on her face, which soon grew into a light but steady rain.

_Hmm, maybe I should forget about this crazy idea?_ Debby thought. _After all, no one would expect me to walk in the rain. I do have a legitimate excuse._

She was about to do an about-face and join her friends at the mall when the thought crossed her mind: _But a legitimate excuse is still an excuse._

Pulling her hood up over her head, Debby valiantly marched on through the rain until she arrived. She'd barely had a chance to take off her coat when Sharon, the home manager, came running her way.

"Oh, Debby! You made it after all! Mrs. Katz was so disappointed when the van showed up without you. She said she waits all week for your visit." The young woman lowered her voice to a whisper and added, "You know, it's unfortunately the only visit she ever gets ... her family never comes."

Suddenly, despite her wet clothing, Debby felt a sunny, warm feeling inside and knew she'd done something very good by not letting an excuse - even a good one - stop her.

**Discussion Questions:**

Q. How did Debby's friends feel when the van didn't stop for them?
A. They felt that since they had a good excuse not to go to the nursing home, they didn't have to go.

Q. How did Debby feel?
A. She felt that even if you have a good excuse, you should still do what's right.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever made excuses when you don’t want to do something? How does it feel as your making the excuse? How does it feel afterwards? Do you ever regret it?
Anne Frank

(June 12, 1929 - Early March, 1945)

Anne Frank was one of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust. She kept a diary while she was in hiding during the Holocaust that has become the basis for many plays and movies. Born in Frankfurt, Germany she lived most of her life in or near Amsterdam. Born a German national, Frank lost her citizenship in 1941. She gained international fame after she died after her diary was published. Her diary talks about her experiences hiding during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.

On August 4, 1944, the secret room where Frank and her family were hiding was discovered and raided by the Grüne Polizei (Security Police). Anne and her family were arrested and quickly taken to concentration camps in Holland, Poland, and Germany.

**LEADER TIP:** Challenge your kids to write in a diary for a week! Write about your day as well as how it feels to be a proud Jew.
Ashrei means, "Happy are they (who live in your house, Lord)." The Rabbis taught that whoever says Ashrei three times a day is promised a part in Olam Haba (Berachot 4b). Ashrei is an alphabetical acrostic; meaning every line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet. This symbolizes every possible praise to Hashem, from "A to Z." The only letter that is missing is nun, because it starts the word nofel, which means to fall or disaster. The highlight of Ashrei is the line that says, "You [Hashem] open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing," which refers to Hashem's power to help all life in the world live.

**LEADER TIP:** Go around and say a way or word to praise Hashem using every letter of the Alphabet

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Nitzavim

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3rd Aliya: The next excuse Moshe challenged was the modernization of Torah. In every generation there are people who see Torah as old and outdated. This excuse for changing Torah's eternal truths will result in the compromise of Torah observance, our land, and our people.

4th & 5th Aliyot: As history will prove, Moshe's warnings would be ignored. Future generations would wonder about the destruction and sadness and, in their search for answers, return to the truths and practices of their forefathers.

6th Aliya: As a generation of Baalei Teshuva find their way back, many will be overwhelmed by the seemingly inaccessibility of Torah knowledge. Moshe reassures us that Torah is accessible to all those who truly want it. Ignorance and a lack of opportunity for learning should never be an excuse.

7th Aliya: Finally, Moshe presented the bottom line. Given free will we must choose properly. In the end, we are responsible for what happens.

Vayelech 1st & 2nd Aliyot: Moshe emphasizes Hashem's continued presence and protection, even though, Moshe himself would not be with Bnei Yisrael any longer. Ever since becoming the leader of Bnei Yisrael, Moshe had the difficult job of raising the nation's reliance upon Hashem while downplaying their dependency upon him as a leader and provider. Now, as he prepared his final good-bye, it was clear that with Moshe's death, the nation would have no other choice but to reevaluate their dependency on Moshe and direct their attention to Hashem.
However this was much more difficult than it seemed. True, Moshe's death would be a strong cutting of ties, but living in Israel by the laws of nature instead of miracles would de-emphasize Hashem's clear part in all aspects of their lives.

**3rd & 4th Aliyot:** By writing the entire Torah, giving it to the Kohanim, and explaining the special mitzvah of Hakhel, Moshe hoped that Bnei Yisrael would keep their dependency upon Hashem. The Kohanim represented the continued presence of "Hashem" within the nation as teachers and role models, they kept Bnei Yisrael focused on their national and individual missions.

Once every 7 years, all of Bnei Yisrael gathers in the Beit Hamikdash in a recreation of the giving of the Torah. This national expression of devotion would serve as an important reminder that following the Torah is the reason why the nation occupied and retained the Land.

**5th, 6th & 7th Aliyot:** Moshe and Yehoshua were brought to the Ohel Moed and told the harsh future of their responsibilities. In spite of all the warnings, Bnei Yisrael would sin and lose sight of their dependency upon Hashem. They would be punished, and instead of accepting responsibility for the consequences, they would have the chutzpah to blame Hashem's absence and neglect for the tragedies and disasters that had befallen them. Yehoshua was encouraged to be strong and courageous and lead Bnei Yisrael with the same devotion that Moshe had. The Torah was then placed in the Aron as proof of the conditions by which the Jewish people live or die.

**LEADER TIP:** As Moshe gets closer to passing away, he makes sure he leaves Bnei Yisrael with as many inspiring messages as he can. What would be the one message you'd want to leave the world with before you pass away?
Nitzavim
Questions
1. When did Moshe gather the Bnei Yisrael to bring them into the Brit?
2. With whom does HaShem make this Brit?
3. What would happen to Eretz Yisrael if Bnei Yisrael sin?
4. If the Bnei Yisrael sin and HaShem sends them out of Eretz Yisrael, what do they have to do to return to Eretz Yisrael?
5. Where is the hint to Chodesh Elul in this week’s Parsha?
6. If the Bnei Yisrael do teshuvah, where will HaShem place His curses?
7. Why is this parsha always read the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah?
8. “The hidden things are for HaShem and the revealed things are for us.” What does this mean?
9. From where will HaShem gather us?
10. What does Lo Bashamayim Hee teach us?
11. Moshe warned the Bnei Yisrael not to leave the Torah. He did this in front of two eidim (witnesses). Who were those two eidim?
12. What choice do each of us have?
13. What did Moshe tell the Bnei Yisrael to choose?
14. Why can Hashem never "swap" the Jewish people for another nation?
15. How do the earth and sky remind us to keep the mitzvot?

Answers
1. Zayin Adar; the day that Moshe was going to die
2. All future generations
3. Eretz Yisrael will become empty of its inhabitants
4. Teshuvah (repentance)
5. “Oomal HaShem Elokecha Es Levavcha Va’es Levav Zarecha”
6. On the enemies of Bnei Yisrael
7. It reminds us to do teshuvah
8. There is a collective culpability only for open sins, but not for hidden ones
9. Everywhere
10. a. The Torah is not in some far away place, but is rather right here before us
     b. Even if a voice comes from heaven to teach a law we do not listen to it!
11. The shamayim and the aretz (heaven and earth)
12. To do good and be rewarded or to do bad and be punished
13. Life
14. Because Hashem swore to their ancestors that He would never do so.
15. The earth and heavenly bodies, although receiving neither reward nor punishment, always obey Hashem's will. How much more should we, who stand to receive reward or punishment, obey Hashem
Vayelech Questions

1. Was Moshe allowed to go to Eretz Yisrael?
2. On which day does this Parsha take place?
3. Who leads the Bnei Yisrael after Moshe dies?
4. What did Moshe say to Yehoshua?
5. Who stood as witnesses when Moshe passed on leadership to Yehoshua? Why?
6. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to do to the seven nations?
7. What were they warned not to do with them?
8. What did Moshe give the Kohanim and Zekeinim on that day?
9. On which year do we perform the Mitzvah of Hakhel?
10. During which time of the year is hakhel performed?
11. How was hakhel performed?
12. The last mitzvah in the Torah is that everyone should write a:
13. What is one way that we can do the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah?
14. Which Shirah (song) was Moshe commanded to write?
15. How will this shirah help the Bnei Yisrael?

Answers

1. NO
2. On Moshe’s 120th birthday; the day he was going to die
3. Yehoshua
4. Chazak Ve’ematz (be strong and courageous)
5. a. All of Bnei Yisrael
   b. So that there should be no doubt how Yehoshua became the next leader
6. Destroy them
7. Not to make agreements with them or intermarry with them
8. A Sefer Torah that he wrote
9. On the year after Shemittah
10. Sukkot
11. The entire Bnei Yisrael were assembled in the Beit Hamikdash and the king would read from the Torah in public
12. Sefer Torah
13. By buying sefarim
14. The shirah of Haazinu
15. It will serve as a constant reminder to keep the Torah and listen to HaShem

LEADER TIP: Gather everyone together for “Parsha Questions” as if you’re the King gathering Bnei Yisrael for hakhel!
GOAL: To teach the kids about the importance of the Mitzvah of Hakhel.

ACTIVITY: “Remember Me?”

Have the kids all sit in one big circle. If the group is too big, feel free to split them up into smaller groups. Have each person introduce themselves along with two other things about them. They must say their name and then using the first letter of their name a word that describes them and something they like to do. For example, my name is Jeremy, I’m Jewish, and I like to jog; or My name is Rebecca, I’m ruach-filled, and I like to read. The next person in the circle must repeat what everyone before them said before they introduce themselves. So Jeremy would introduce himself, then before Rebecca goes she’d have to repeat what Jeremy said and then introduce herself. Then after Rebecca, Yoni would go. But before Yoni introduces himself, he’d have to repeat what Jeremy AND Rebecca said before him. As each person goes, they must repeat everyone’s answers before them. The more people that go, the harder it is to remember!

DISCUSSION: This week’s Parsha discusses the mitzvah of Hakhel. Once every seven years on Sukkot, following the end of the shmittah year, the King would gather all of Israel (who were already in Yerushalayim to celebrate Sukkot) and read to them parts of Sefer Devarim. Rav Hutner says that the essence of Hakhel is supposed to be the reenactment of the giving of the Torah at Har Sinai. It is the reenactment of the Kabalat HaTorah. The Accepting of the Torah is THE groundbreaking event in Jewish History. In order to impress upon the people the importance of what Torah means to the Jewish People, every seven years we are to reenact Kabalat HaTorah. We want the people to feel as though they’ve gone through another Kabalat HaTorah. In this game, in order for the important information to stick with us we need to every round constantly repeat and review it. If we don’t review it and make it new every so often, it won’t be fresh and we’re going to forget it all. Just like in the game we needed to review all the information so as to make it new and remind ourselves how important the information is, so too with Hakhel we review and remind ourselves how important the Torah is and we never want to forget it.

LEADER TIP: Come dressed up as a King getting ready to gather the nation all together!
Before you read: Making excuses can seem like the easy way out, but in the end, it never gets us anywhere. This week's portion (30:12-13) acknowledges how tempting it is to find excuses to avoid doing something positive, and urges us to overcome them and reach our goals.

NO EXCUSE

Debby, Gail and Amy sat beneath the gray, darkening sky at the corner, waiting for the volunteer van that was going to take them to their weekly after-school 'cheer-up' visit to the local nursing home.

"You know, I really have a ton of homework to do this afternoon," Gail complained. "I wish I hadn't agreed to do this visiting thing."

"Yeah, I know what you mean," Amy chimed in. "I know it's a good deed and everything, but I'd really rather go check out the clearance sale at Best-Dressed. I hear they have some really good clothes on sale cheap."

As they were speaking, they noticed the familiar, blue volunteer van approach, but instead of slowing down it drove right past them.

"Hey, what happened?" Amy called out.

"I'll bet it's that new driver again who forgot we were part of the pick-up route!" Gail huffed. "Now what do we do?"

"We go bargain hunting!" Amy's face lit up lit a light bulb.

"Huh?"

"Well, look, it's not our fault the van didn't stop for us, and now we're off the hook. Come on, guys, let's go across the street to the mall!"

"I guess really I don't have that much homework, why not?" Gail smiled.

"C'mon, Debby," Amy called. "You said you wanted a new fall outfit."

Debby crossed her arms, then scrunched her face and shook her head. "You know, I just don't think we should miss our nursing home visit. The old people really enjoy it," Debby said, thinking of Mrs. Katz, the patient who’d she’d been assigned to visit.

"Maybe, but the van drove right by us. So we have a good excuse not to show this week," Amy scowled.

"I don't know. My mom always says 'a good excuse is still an excuse.' It's really only a ten-minute walk away. Why don't we just go for it?"

Debby's two friends looked at her like she was out of her mind.

"Walk it? It's enough that we agree to go at all. Forget it - you coming or not?"
"Um, no," Debby said. "You guys go ahead if you want. I'm going to keep trying."

Debby watched her friends walk off, sighed, and started on her way. After a moment, she felt a drop of rain on her face, which soon grew into a light but steady rain.

_Hmm, maybe I should forget about this crazy idea?_ Debby thought. _After all, no one would expect me to walk in the rain. I do have a legitimate excuse._

She was about to do an about-face and join her friends at the mall when the thought crossed her mind: _But a legitimate excuse is still an excuse._

Pulling her hood up over her head, Debby valiantly marched on through the rain until she arrived. She’d barely had a chance to take off her coat when Sharon, the home manager, came running her way.

"Oh, Debby! You made it after all! Mrs. Katz was so disappointed when the van showed up without you. She said she waits all week for your visit." The young woman lowered her voice to a whisper and added, "You know, it's unfortunately the only visit she ever gets ... her family never comes."

Suddenly, despite her wet clothing, Debby felt a sunny, warm feeling inside and knew she'd done something very good by not letting an excuse - even a good one - stop her.

**Discussion Questions:**

Q. What life-lesson do you think someone could learn from this story?
A. Many times when we set out to do something worthwhile, it won't be easy and it is tempting to quit, especially if there seems to be a good excuse to do so. But we gain and grow so much by pushing on, nevertheless.

Q. Do you think Debby would have been wrong not to have gone to the nursing home visit after the van passed them, etc.?
A. No, she would have been within her rights. It really was a legitimate excuse. But she became great - and we can too - by not letting 'good excuses' stop us from reaching our goals.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever made excuses when you don't want to do something? How does it feel as your making the excuse? How does it feel afterwards? Do you ever regret it?
Anne Frank

(June 12, 1929 - Early March, 1945)

Anne Frank was one of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust. She kept a diary while she was in hiding during the Holocaust that has become the basis for many plays and movies. Born in Frankfurt, Germany she lived most of her life in or near Amsterdam. Born a German national, Frank lost her citizenship in 1941. She gained international fame after she died after her diary was published. Her diary talks about her experiences hiding during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.

On August 4, 1944, the secret room where Frank and her family were hiding was discovered and raided by the Grüne Polizei (Security Police). Anne and her family were arrested and quickly taken to concentration camps in Holland, Poland, and Germany.

Otto Frank, the only survivor of the family, returned to Amsterdam after the war to find that Anne's diary had been saved, and his efforts led to its publication in 1947. It has since been translated into many languages. It was translated from its original Dutch and first published in English in 1952 as The Diary of a Young Girl. The diary, which was given to Anne on her thirteenth birthday, chronicles her life from 12 June 1942 until 1 August 1944.

**LEADER TIP:** Challenge your kids to write in a diary for a week! Write about your day as well as how it feels to be a proud Jew.
Ashrei is so important that the Gemara (Berachos 4b) says that whoever says it three times a day is worthy to be a ben olam haba— one earns a part in the World to Come. Ashrei is said twice during Shacharit (in Pesukei D’Zimrah and after Shemoneh Esrei) and once at the beginning of Mincha. Birkei Yosef explains that by saying Ashrei three times a day, one will start to say it with kavannah at least once a day, allowing him to be able to become a ben olam haba. Rabbeinu Bachya clarifies that this refers to one who says it with concentration on its meaning. By thinking about the the teachings of the verses in Ashrei three times a day, such a person will deserve olam haba because he will come to recognize and understand the wonders of Hashem, thereby strengthening his emunah, belief in Hashem.

**LEADER TIP:** Go around and say a way or word to praise Hashem using every letter of the Alphabet
NITZAVIM-VAYELECH REVIEW

Nitzavim

1st & 2nd Aliyot: Moshe presented the entire nation with the foundation of our covenant with Hashem. Starting with the promise to the avot and stretching across 500 years of history, our relationship with Hashem had been kept through miracle after miracle. Yet, future generations might deny their personal obligation to continue the relationship and its connected responsibilities. Therefore, Moshe made it absolutely clear that each generation is obligated to educate their children and train them to accept the covenant with Hashem. Future generation should not be able to excuse their responsibilities for Torah and Mitzvot due to ignorance.

3rd Aliya: The next excuse Moshe challenged was the modernization of Torah. In every generation there are people who see Torah as old and outdated. This excuse for changing Torah's eternal truths will result in the compromise of Torah observance, our land, and our people.

4th & 5th Aliyot: As history will prove, Moshe’s warnings would be ignored. Future generations would wonder about the destruction and sadness and, in their search for answers, return to the truths and practices of their forefathers.

6th Aliya: As a generation of Baalei Teshuva find their way back, many will be overwhelmed by the seemingly inaccessibility of Torah knowledge. Moshe reassures us that Torah is accessible to all those who truly want it. Ignorance and a lack of opportunity for learning should never be an excuse.

7th Aliya: Finally, Moshe presented the bottom line. Given free will we must choose properly. In the end, we are responsible for what happens.

Vayelech

1st & 2nd Aliyot: Moshe emphasizes Hashem's continued presence and protection, even though, Moshe himself would not be with Bnei Yisrael any longer. Ever since becoming the leader of Bnei Yisrael, Moshe had the difficult job of raising the nation’s reliance upon Hashem while downplaying their dependency upon him as a leader and provider. Now, as he prepared his final good-bye, it was clear that with Moshe's death, the nation would have no other choice but to reevaluate their dependency on Moshe and direct their attention to Hashem.
However this was much more difficult than it seemed. True, Moshe's death would be a strong cutting of ties, but living in Israel by the laws of nature instead of miracles would de-emphasize Hashem’s clear part in all aspects of their lives.

3rd & 4th Aliyot: By writing the entire Torah, giving it to the Kohanim, and explaining the special mitzvah of Hakhel, Moshe hoped that Bnei Yisrael would keep their dependency upon Hashem. The Kohanim represented the continued presence of "Hashem" within the nation as teachers and role models, they kept Bnei Yisrael focused on their national and individual missions.

Once every 7 years, all of Bnei Yisrael gathers in the Beit Hamikdash in a recreation of the giving of the Torah. This national expression of devotion would serve as an important reminder that following the Torah is the reason why the nation occupied and retained the Land.

5th, 6th & 7th Aliyot: Moshe and Yehoshua were brought to the Ohel Moed and told the harsh future of their responsibilities. In spite of all the warnings, Bnei Yisrael would sin and lose sight of their dependency upon Hashem. They would be punished, and instead of accepting responsibility for the consequences, they would have the chutzpah to blame Hashem’s absence and neglect for the tragedies and disasters that had befallen them. Yehoshua was encouraged to be strong and courageous and lead Bnei Yisrael with the same devotion that Moshe had. The Torah was then placed in the Aron as proof of the conditions by which the Jewish people live or die.

LEADER TIP: As Moshe gets closer to passing away, he makes sure he leaves Bnei Yisrael with as many inspiring messages as he can. What would be the one message you’d want to leave the world with before you pass away?
PARSHA QUESTIONS

Nitzavim

Questions

1. When did Moshe gather the Bnei Yisrael to bring them into the Brit?
2. With whom does HaShem make this Brit?
3. With whom does HaShem become angry with?
4. What would happen to Eretz Yisrael if Bnei Yisrael sin?
5. The destruction of Eretz Yisrael is compared to the destruction of which two cities?
6. If the Bnei Yisrael sin and HaShem sends them out of Eretz Yisrael, what do they have to do to return to Eretz Yisrael?
7. Where is the hint to Chodesh Elul in this week’s Parsha?
8. Will the nations of the world understand why the Bnei Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael were punished so severely?
9. If the Bnei Yisrael do teshuvah, where will HaShem place His curses?
10. Why is this parsha always read the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah?
11. “The hidden things are for HaShem and the revealed things are for us.” What does this mean?
12. From where will HaShem gather us?
13. Is the Torah we need to learn very far away from us?
14. What does Lo Bashamayim Hee teach us?
15. Moshe warned the Bnei Yisrael not to leave the Torah. He did this in front of two eidim (witnesses). Who were those two eidim?
16. What choice do each of us have?
17. What did Moshe tell the Bnei Yisrael to choose?
18. Why can Hashem never "swap" the Jewish people for another nation?
19. How do the earth and sky remind us to keep the mitzvot?
20. How do we cling to HaShem?

Answers

1. Zayin Adar; the day that Moshe was going to die
2. All future generations
3. Anyone who goes astray and worships Avodah Zarah (idols)
4. Eretz Yisrael will become empty of its inhabitants
5. Sedom and Amorah
6. Teshuvah (repentance)
8. YES! At first they will wonder, then they will realize that it was because the Bnei Yisrael broke their brit.
9. On the enemies of Bnei Yisrael
10. It reminds us to do teshuvah
11. There is a collective culpability only for open sins, but not for hidden ones
12. Everywhere
13. NO
14. a. The Torah is not in some far away place, but is rather right here before us
   b. Even if a voice comes from heaven to teach a law we do not listen to it!
15. The shamayim and the aretz (heaven and earth)
16. To do good and be rewarded or to do bad and be punished
17. Life
18. Because Hashem swore to their ancestors that He would never do so.
19. The earth and heavenly bodies, although receiving neither reward nor punishment, always obey Hashem's will. How much more should we, who stand to receive reward or punishment, obey Hashem.
20. By loving Him and doing His mitzvot

LEADER TIP: Gather everyone together for “Parsha Questions” as if you’re the King gathering Bnei Yisrael for hakhel!
Vayelech

Questions

1. The parsha begins: Vayelech Moshe (and Moshe went). Where was he going?
2. Was Moshe allowed to go to Eretz Yisrael?
3. On what day was Moshe born? On what day did Moshe die?
4. How old was Moshe when he died?
5. On which day does this Parsha take place?
6. What happened to Moshe on that day?
7. Who leads the Bnei Yisrael after Moshe dies?
8. What did Moshe say to Yehoshua?
9. Who stood as witnesses when Moshe passed on leadership to Yehoshua? Why?
10. What were the Bnei Yisrael commanded to do to the seven nations?
11. What were they warned not to do with them?
12. What did Moshe give the Kohanim and Zekeinim on that day?
13. On which year do we perform the Mitzvah of Hakhel?
14. During which time of the year is hakhel performed?
15. How was hakhel performed?
16. Why were the very young children included in hakhel?
17. The last mitzvah in the Torah is that everyone should write a:
18. What is one way that we can do the mitzvah of writing a Sefer Torah?
19. Which Shirah (song) was Moshe commanded to write?
20. How will this shirah help the Bnei Yisrael?

Answers

1. To each tribe to teach them the words of Hashem
2. NO
3. Zayin Adar (The seventh day of the month of Adar)
4. 120 years old
5. On Moshe’s 120th birthday; the day he was going to die
6. He began to be blocked in some of his knowledge and understanding
7. Yehoshua
8. Chazak Ve’ematz (be strong and courageous)
9.
   a. All of Bnei Yisrael
   b. So that there should be no doubt how Yehoshua became the next leader
10. Destroy them
11. Not to make agreements with them or intermarry with them
12. A Sefer Torah that he wrote
13. On the year after Shemittah
14. Sukkot
15. The entire Bnei Yisrael were assembled in the Beit Hamikdash and the king would read from the Torah in public.
16.
   a. To give a reward to their parents for bringing them
   b. So that they too can hear the words of the Torah and be influenced
17. Sefer Torah
18. By buying sefarim
19. The shirah of Haazinu
20. It will serve as a constant reminder to keep the Torah and listen to HaShem
PARSHA ACTIVITY

**GOAL:** To teach the kids the idea that sometimes it’s important to stand up and take a step forward for something and sometimes it’s just as important, if not more important, to take a step back and recognize when someone else should be the one to take the lead.

**ACTIVITY: “Countdown Conundrum”**

The kids are given 7 numbers spelled out in different languages, i.e. Hebrew, Yiddish, Japanese, Hieroglyphics, etc. They must try and figure out the order of which the numbers go. Chances are they won’t know exactly what the words mean but they’ll have to be creative and reason on their own. This will serve as an introduction game to get them ready for the next one.

“**The Counting Game**”

Everyone stands in a circle looking at their feet. If the group is too big, feel free to make more than one group. The aim is for the group to count to 10 by having someone shout out the next number in sequence. However, if two people shout out a number at the same time, the group has to start from 1 again. This is an extremely hard task and takes a lot longer than one would think. Here's something to try: time how long it takes for the group to complete the task. Then get them to hold hands (be mindful of shomer negiya of course) and see how long it takes. Surprisingly, it always takes a lot quicker when the group is holding hands.

**DISCUSSION:** In this game, sometimes it’s important to step up and scream the number, but sometimes it’s necessary to stay quiet and let someone else accomplish the task of screaming the number.

We have two Parshas coming up, one – Nitzavim, which means to stand and one – VaYelevch which means to go. There are times in life when we have to stand firm and times when we have to go or act. Different situations confront us in life. What we do about them makes all the difference in defining what kind of a person we are. The Netziv refers to the opening verse of Nitzavim which says: אַתֶּם נִצָּבִים הַיּוֹם כֻּלְּכֶּם, “You are standing today, all of you...the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers – all the men of Israel; your small children, your women, and your proselyte who is in the
midst of your camp, from the hewer of your wood to the drawer of your water.” The question he raises is why was it necessary to mention all the different types of Jewish people? When the Torah states: You are standing today, all of you, everyone is included. Why elaborate and itemize everyone separately? The reason, he suggests, is that everyone’s obligation is different. The elders cannot do what the leaders can, and the children cannot do what their fathers can, and the elders cannot accomplish what the young can, and the reverse is also true. We all have our own abilities to fulfill the Mitzvot and our individual strengths to carry out the dictates of the Torah. We are responsible for what we can do and what we actually do. The second Parsha we will read soon begins with the words: VAYELECH MOSHE, “And Moshe went”. The Torah does not say where he went. In the very next verse Moshe says he is 120 years old and: LO UCHAL OD LATZET VELAVO: “I can no longer go out and come in...”. A Biblical commentary explains, that is why the Torah states in the first verse: VAYELECH MOSHE, “And Moshe went”. He walked around demonstrating that physically he is still sound but since Joshua was appointed his successor and was given the leadership position, Moshe can no longer act in that capacity. The message is that a person should know when it is time to give up his position and let someone else take over the reign. It is to be regretted that many people of authority hold on tenaciously to their positions and instead of continuing the good service they provided previously, their efforts begin to deteriorate and they do more harm to the cause than good.

LEADER TIP: If the group is able to accomplish the task of counting till 10, have them keep going as far as they can. Compete between the groups to see who can count the highest.
PARSHA STORY

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"You know, I really have a ton of homework to do this afternoon," Gail complained. "I wish I hadn't agreed to do this visiting thing."

"Yeah, I know what you mean," Amy chimed in. "I know it's a good deed and everything, but I'd really rather go check out the clearance sale at Best-Dressed. I hear they have some really good clothes on sale cheap."

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"Hey, what happened?" Amy called out.

"I'll bet it's that new driver again who forgot we were part of the pick-up route!" Gail huffed. "Now what do we do?"

"We go bargain hunting!" Amy's face lit up lit a light bulb.

"Huh?"

"Well, look, it's not our fault the van didn't stop for us, and now we're off the hook. Come on, guys, let's go across the street to the mall!"

"I guess really I don't have that much homework, why not?" Gail smiled.

"C'mon, Debby," Amy called. "You said you wanted a new fall outfit."

Debby crossed her arms, then scrunched her face and shook her head. "You know, I just don't think we should miss our nursing home visit. The old people really enjoy it," Debby said, thinking of Mrs. Katz, the patient who’d she'd been assigned to visit.

"Maybe, but the van drove right by us. So we have a good excuse not to show this week," Amy scowled.

"I don't know. My mom always says 'a good excuse is still an excuse.' It's really only a ten-minute walk away. Why don't we just go for it?"

Debby's two friends looked at her like she was out of her mind.

"Walk it? It's enough that we agree to go at all. Forget it - you coming or not?"
"Um, no," Debby said. "You guys go ahead if you want. I'm going to keep trying."

Debby watched her friends walk off, sighed, and started on her way. After a moment, she felt a drop of rain on her face, which soon grew into a light but steady rain.

_Hmm, maybe I should forget about this crazy idea?_ Debby thought. _After all, no one would expect me to walk in the rain. I do have a legitimate excuse._

She was about to do an about-face and join her friends at the mall when the thought crossed her mind: _But a legitimate excuse is still an excuse._

Pulling her hood up over her head, Debby valiantly marched on through the rain until she arrived. She’d barely had a chance to take off her coat when Sharon, the home manager, came running her way.

"Oh, Debby! You made it after all! Mrs. Katz was so disappointed when the van showed up without you. She said she waits all week for your visit." The young woman lowered her voice to a whisper and added, "You know, it’s unfortunately the only visit she ever gets ... her family never comes."

Suddenly, despite her wet clothing, Debby felt a sunny, warm feeling inside and knew she’d done something very good by not letting an excuse - even a good one - stop her.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Q. Who do you think lives a happier life - someone who allows good excuses stop her or one who doesn't? Why?

A. There is no dream, no worthwhile accomplishment, that doesn’t at some point present itself with a good excuse to give up. Only a person who keeps going anyway will achieve the great joy of accomplishing her dreams.

Q. What does it mean to rationalize?

A. It is a process of using our mind to generate excuses to allow us to do what we want even if it’s not right. This type of excuse-making can really hold a person back from spiritual growth and we should always be on the lookout to avoid it.

**LEADER TIP:** Have you ever made excuses when you don’t want to do something? How does it feel as your making the excuse? How does it feel afterwards? Do you ever regret it?
Anne Frank was a Jewish victim of the Holocaust most well-known for the diary she kept while in hiding which has since become one of the world’s most widely read books.

Frank was born in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1933, when Adolf Hitler came to power, Frank’s parents - Edith and Otto - realized that there was no future in Germany for the Jewish people. They quickly fled to the Netherlands that same year. Until around age eleven, Anne grew up without a care in a relatively safer Holland. In 1940, however, the Netherlands was occupied by Germany and the protection that Holland was able to provide to its Jewish citizens came to an end.

Beginning in 1942, the first Jews in Holland received call-up notices to report for the so-called “work” camp Westerbork. The majority of Jews obeyed the call-up to report for the “work” camps since escaping was almost impossible and refusing to obey could lead to death or shipment to prison camps. To avoid deportation or exile to the camps, Anne’s parents went into hiding in the annex of the building that houses Otto’s business. In order to protect Anne from the danger that threatened them, Anne’s father told her only a few days before that the family was not going to a camp but were instead going to hide from the Germans.

On July 6, 1942, the Frank family went into hiding. Even though Anne saw hiding as an exciting adventure, the hiding place quickly became too small for her restless character. For more than two years, Frank described her daily life in hiding through writing.

On August 4, 1944, the secret annex where Frank and her family were hiding was discovered and raided by the Grüne Polizei (Security Police). Anne and her family were arrested and quickly sent to concentration camps in Holland, Poland, and Germany. The eight people of the secret annex were transported to Auschwitz on the last train leaving the transit camp Westerbork. After a month at Auschwitz, Anne and her sister Margot were transported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where thousands of people died every day from hunger and sickness. Margot and Anne both got typhus and died within a short time of each other in March 1945, only a few weeks before the liberation. Of all those in hiding in the secret annex, only Anne’s father - Otto Frank - survived the camps.

**LEADER TIP:** Challenge your kids to write in a diary for a week! Write about your day as well as how it feels to be a proud Jew.
Ashrei

‘Ashrei yishbi betekha vod yehalek selah’ – Happy are those that dwell in Your house – they shall praise You forever.”

This verse is interestingly not from the same chapter of Psalms as the rest of Ashrei. It is actually found in Psalms 84:5; and the rest of the prayer is Psalms 145. The Sefer Hearot Letefilla points out that the reason for this opening verse is that the early holy and righteous Jews used to meditate and prepare themselves for an hour before starting to daven. Since the saying of this Psalm is so significant, chachamim put this verse in as an introduction to inspire better concentration and focus.

The Gemara explains “Happy are those who dwell in Your house” to mean in this world. “They shall praise You forever” means in the World To Come. Happy in this prayer implies spiritual happiness. The Hebrew word for happy is Ashrei which is always in plural. Someone who is happy, is generally happy about many things. The Maharsha says that what we accomplish in this world spiritually is our passport to the World to Come. When someone accomplishes spiritual happiness through learning and living Torah and Mitzvot in this world, they will merit continuing in this way in the World To Come.

LEADER TIP: Go around and say a way or word to praise Hashem using every letter of the Alphabet
This Week in Jewish History
September 20, 1944

Jewish Brigade Established

The only military unit to serve in World War II in the British Army as an independent, national Jewish military formation, the Jewish Brigade Group comprised mainly of Jews from Eretz Yisrael and had its own emblem. The establishment of the Brigade was the final outcome of prolonged efforts by the yishuv and the Zionist Movement to achieve recognized participation and representation of the Jewish people in the war against Nazi Germany. The Jewish soldiers demanded to participate in the fighting and the right to display the Jewish flag. In a letter to Chaim Weizmann in 1944, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated that his government was prepared “to discuss concrete proposals” in the matter of the formation of a Jewish Fighting Force. While Jews were dispersed throughout the British army, the Jewish Agency wished to concentrate them into one unit, flying the Jewish national flag. It was not until September 1944, after six years of prolonged negotiations, that the British government agreed to the establishment of a Jewish Brigade. It consisted of Jewish infantry, artillery, and service units.

After a period of training in Egypt, the Jewish Brigade Group — approximately 5,000 soldiers — took part in the final battles of the war on the Italian front under the command of the Canadian-born Jew, Brigadier Ernest Benjamin. In May 1945, the Brigade was moved to North East Italy where, for the first time, it encountered survivors of the Holocaust. In the summer of 1946, the British authorities decided to disband the Brigade. Skills gained in the Jewish Brigade and in the British army in general was experience that would be put to use again during Israel's War of Independence. More than its military value, however, the Jewish Brigade served as a symbol of hope for renewed Jewish life in Eretz Israel. The soldiers of the Jewish Brigade met with survivors of the Holocaust in Displaced Persons camps, bringing them Jewish and Zionist culture.

FIND...
- Zayin Adar
- Teshuvah
- Torah
- Hakhel
- Yehoshua
- Free Choice
- One Hundred Twenty

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK- NITZAVIM & VAYELECH
Of 54 sedras 51st 52nd, of 11 in D’varim 8th 9th
Lines in a Torah 87, 72: 159 Rank 52, 53: 41
P’sukim 40, 30: 70
Rank 53/10 54/11
Words 65,7 553: 1210
Rank 51/8 53/10
Letters 2575, 2123: 4698
Rank 51/8 53/10
MITZVOT 0*, 2: 2
Positive 0*, 2: 2
Prohibitions 0, 0: 0
*Some count T’shuva from Nitzavim
N & V are the shortest sedras in the Torah, but their p’sukim are the longest in the whole Torah.
TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS HEICHAL SHLOMO?

Email your answers to RABBIS@YOUNGISRAEL.ORG along with your NAME and AGE for a chance to win AWESOME PRIZES! Each correct answer will enter your name into a raffle that will happen once a month. Behatzlacha!

THIS JUST IN!

- It was discovered on a space mission that a frog can throw up. The frog throws up its stomach first, so the stomach is dangling out of its mouth. Then the frog uses its forearms to dig out all of the stomach's contents and then swallows the stomach back down again.
- If NASA sent birds into space they would soon die; they need gravity to swallow.

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

Parsha Points to Ponder...

The second Parsha we will read begins with the words: VAYELECH MOSHE, “And Moshe went”. The Torah does not say where he went. (Deut. 31,1) In the very next verse Moshe says he is 120 years old and: LO UCHAL OD LATZET VELAVO: “I can no longer go out and come in...”. When Moshe says he can no longer go or come, Rashi explains, it could be understood in two ways. It can mean that because of his advanced years he is physically unable to get around. It can also mean he no longer has the authority from Hashem to lead the people. A Biblical commentary explains, that is why the Torah states in the first verse: VAYELECH MOSHE, “And Moshe went”. He walked around demonstrating that physically he is still sound but since Joshua was appointed his successor and was given the leadership position, Moshe can no longer act in that capacity. The message is that a person should know when it is time to give up his position and let someone else take over the reign. It is to be regretted that many people of authority hold on tenaciously to their positions and instead of continuing the good service they provided previously, their efforts begin to deteriorate and they do more harm to the cause than good.
ACHVA
EAST - WEST - ALASKA/HAWAII - ISRAEL

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