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.

Shanah 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 programing!
Moshe starts off the Parsha by describing the existence of Hashem in nature as being as obvious as the rain or dew that sustain the fields and gardens. Hashem is completely fair, always good, always compassionate and forgiving. Therefore, all damage and negativity must be credited directly to the bad decisions and actions that we make.

We must always remember that we were chosen from among all the other nations to be directly taken care of by Hashem. Unfortunately, its human nature to forget how much we really depend on Hashem and to make ourselves think that we were completely self-sufficient and independent.

If we do this, we will then be punished with exile and persecution. We will be chased from our land and sold into slavery, and we will experience what it means to be independent of Hashem's direct protection and kindness.

However, the other nations will also fail in the same way that we did. They will assume that their ability to enslave the Jewish people and destroy Israel is proof of Hashem’s helplessness and their own ability and strength. Therefore, they will be punished and destroyed and the Jewish people will again recognize Hashem’s superiority and control.

Moshe's song ends with the Jewish people singing about their acceptance and understanding of Hashem’s purpose and justice.

Moshe presents the entire "song" to the nation and reemphasizes that the condition for keeping the Land is by following the Torah and serving Hashem.

**LEADER TIP:** Haazinu is written in a very unique way, its written like a song. Feel free to teach a new song in honor of Parshat Haazinu!
PARSHA QUESTIONS

Questions
1. When Moshe warned Bnei Yisrael not to leave the Torah, he called for two special eidim (witnesses). What were they?
2. What word did Moshe use to call these witnesses?
3. Why did Moshe select these two eidim (two answers)?
4. Moshe reminded the Bnei Yisrael that when Hashem took them out of Mitzrayim, HaShem protected them like an eagle protects its babies. How does an eagle carry its babies differently than all other birds?
5. Why does the eagle carry its babies on its wings?
6. What did HaShem do to protect the Bnei Yisrael that was like an eagle?
7. What is Bnei Yisrael’s key to life?
8. Why did HaShem tell Moshe to go up to the top of Har Nevo?
9. What incident is the reason for Moshe not being able to enter Eretz Yisrael?
10. How was Moshe going to die?

Answers
1. Shamayim and Aretz (heaven and earth)
2. Haazinu (listen, lend an ear)
3. a. Because they will be around forever
   b. They can deliver rewards and punishments to the Bnei Yisrael
4. An eagle carries its babies on its wings
5. To protect them from the arrows of hunters on the ground
6. At the Yam Suf, the cloud of the shechinah went between the Bnei Yisrael and the Egyptians to absorb the arrows and stones of the Egyptians
7. Torah
8. To see Eretz Yisrael from there, and then he would die on Har Nevo
9. The incident of Mei Merivah, in which Moshe hit the rock instead of speaking to it
10. With a kiss (neshikah)

LEADER TIP: Sticking with the song theme, come up with a game show theme song when you ask your group questions!
**GOAL:** To make the kids realize that being “The Best” isn’t always about showing off. Moshe was “The Best” because he was humble. Also, to recognize that no one would be anything, nevertheless “The Best”, if not for Hashem.

**ACTIVITY: “The Best”**

Have each kid stand up in the middle of the circle or front of the room and for 15 seconds explain to the group why they think they’re “The Best”. Have them talk about how smart, funny, cute, good at sports, etc they are and why they think that they are “The Best”. Then once everyone goes, have them each pick a partner and then each person will come up and for 15 seconds do the same thing, this time telling everyone why they think their friend is “The Best”. If there’s time, you can even do a few extra different rounds such as best athlete, best food, best movie, etc. For the last round, the kids will each have 15 seconds to tell everyone why HASHEM is THE BEST. After everyone goes, discuss with the kids who “Really is the best”? What makes someone or something “The Best”? Where do all of our “Best” qualities eve come from?

**DISCUSSION:** In this week’s Parsha Moshe is about to pass away after being our greatest leader for so many years. Moshe is considered the “Best Leader” for many reasons. He is known for his humility, which is part of the reason he was so great. Being humble is super important because it means you know that all your strengths and gifts come from a greater power who is REALLY the “Best”, Hashem. Moshe tells Bnei Yisrael in this week’s parsha never to forget that everthing we have is from Hashem. Hashem is really in control of everything that happens in the world and all the reasons we think we’re the best or our friends are the best, really come from Hashem and He is the reason we have everything So in reality HASHEM is the One who is the best!

**LEADER TIP:** Bring a medal or trophy as the winner of the “I’m the Best” competition!
Before you read: What's more precious than diamonds or gold? A person's word of honor. Yet it isn't always easy to keep to our word, and we may even feel tempted at times to go back on what we've promised. This week's Parsha teaches us how great it is to be reliable and keep our commitments. We learn this from God, who is described as the "faithful God" who always keeps to His word, and is 100% reliable. He is an unchanging "Rock" of stability who fulfills everything He says, even if it takes time before we are able to see it happen. The Torah urges us to make our word into gold, and become the type of person that people know they can count on.

"SOMETHING PROMISED..."

It was the usual rush as the kids all sprinted from their lockers out to the parking lot where the line of yellow school busses were waiting to take them home. Amy Stern felt a tap on the shoulder just as she had closed her locker and was about to dash.

"Amy, what are you doing this afternoon?" asked a girl in large wire-rimmed glasses.

"Not really anything, Lori, I guess," answered Amy offhandedly.

"Well, um, would you mind if we got together to do homework this afternoon? You see, I'm a little behind in math, and, um ... I could really use some help."

Amy shrugged her shoulders. She wasn't really looking forward to spending the afternoon doing homework with Lori, but why not? Nothing else was going on. "Okay," she finally said. "I can meet you at the Hallmark Library at 3:30 if you want."

The girl's face lit up. "Gee thanks so much! I can't wait. 3:30 it is!" And with that she grabbed her book bag and rushed down the corridor of their school building.

When Amy got home she was surprised to see a note on the door to her room. "Jennifer called," it said.

"Jennifer?" thought Amy, delighted to see the name of an old friend who had moved away a few months ago. Quickly she dialed the local phone number scribbled on the bottom of the note.

"Hello?" answered Jennifer's familiar voice.

"Jenny, is that you? What's up? Where are you?" Amy felt excited just hearing her friend's voice.

"Guess what?" said Jennifer. "I'm in town! My mom was flying in for her monthly business meeting and I got to tag along. But we're only here for a few more hours. I'm staying at the Siesta Hotel downtown. I called to invite you to join us for lunch. We have so much to catch up on. Whatdya say, Ames?"

"What do I say?" answered the thrilled girl. "It's a dream come true!"

Just then Amy glanced down at her book bag. "Oh no!" she groaned, remembering her promise to Lori. She looked at her watch. It was 3:00. "Um... Jenny, let me call you right back, okay?"

"Okay. Is everything all right? I really hope we can get together."

"Me too!" said Amy, sounding a little panicked as she hung up the phone. She quickly dialed Lori's number.
"Maybe I can reach her to cancel before she leaves for the library," Amy thought. But to her chagrin, Lori’s mother told her that Lori had just gotten on the bus and was on her way, and she hadn't taken her cell phone. Amy looked up the phone number of the library to leave Lori a message.

No luck. Her heart sank when a recording came on the line that the library's phone was temporarily out of order. "Now what do I do?" thought Amy. "Lori’s going to be waiting for me, I've tried everything to reach her, and there's no time to get to the library to tell her, and to get to the hotel way across town in time. But I guess Lori will just have to understand. After all how often do I get a chance to see Jennifer?"

She started to dial up Jennifer to tell her she’d come. But then Amy had a second thought. "But I promised Lori I'd meet her. She'll be sitting there just waiting for me. And even if I could reach her and let her know I can't make it, she's counting on me to come. How can I just not show up?" The girl stood there almost trance-like as she pondered her decision. After a moment she took a deep breath. It wouldn't be easy, but she knew what she had to do.

Hesitantly, Amy dialed her friend in the hotel. "Jenny, I'd love to see you ... but I just can't. I gave my word."

She explained the whole story, and kept apologizing.

"Amy, there's nothing to be sorry about," assured Jennifer. "I'll miss you terribly, but I respect you for what you're doing. That reliability is just the kind of thing that made me want to be your friend and makes me want to stay friends with you forever. Hopefully it will work out next month, when my Mom comes back."

The two old friends enjoyed a quick chat, then Amy grabbed her books, and headed for the library, confident and happy that she had made the right choice.

**Discussion Questions:**

Q. How would you feel if somebody was supposed to come to your house to play with you but in the end he never came?
A. I would feel sad that they didn't do what they said they would.

Q. Is it okay to promise somebody something and then change your mind and not keep your word just because you don't feel like it? Why or why not?
A. It's not okay, because it's important to be reliable and keep all promises whenever possible.

**LEADER TIP:** Is it better to make promises all the time and sometimes keep them and sometimes not keep them or not promise anything ever but still help out when you can?
Hannah Senesh
(July 17, 1921- November 7, 1944)

Hannah Senesh was a paratrooper, poetess, and hero, during WW II. She parachuted behind Nazi lines to warn Hungarian Jews of the Nazis. As a young, passionate Zionist, Hannah moved to Palestine, writing, “I am fulfilling a mission.” In 1943, she was the first woman Britain trained as a paratrooper. While trying to free people, Hannah was captured, sent to Budapest, and tortured. Refusing to reveal her radio code, Hannah was executed on November 7, 1944 and buried in the military cemetery, Her Herzl in Jerusalem.

LEADER TIP: If you had the opportunity to give up your life on Kiddush Hashem, would you?
“Happy/fortunate is the nation for whom this is so, Fortunate is the nation that has Hashem as their G-d.” Interestingly this verse is also not from the same psalm as the rest of the prayer. It is the last Pasuk in Psalm 144. Why then is it inserted at this point? It is explained that with the addition of this verse the word Ashrei is then mentioned three times demonstrating that we say the Ashrei prayer three times a day.

**LEADER TIP:** Do we say Ashrei every day? Let’s try saying it if we don’t! Let’s say it as a group!
Moshe starts off the Parsha by describing the existence of Hashem in nature as being as obvious as the rain or dew that sustain the fields and gardens. Hashem is completely fair, always good, always compassionate and forgiving. Therefore, all damage and negativity must be credited directly to the bad decisions and actions that we make.

We must always remember that we were chosen from among all the other nations to be directly taken care of by Hashem. Unfortunately, its human nature to forget how much we really depend on Hashem and to make ourselves think that we were completely self-sufficient and independent.

If we do this, we will then be punished with exile and persecution. We will be chased from our land and sold into slavery, and we will experience what it means to be independent of Hashem's direct protection and kindness.

However, the other nations will also fail in the same way that we did. They will assume that their ability to enslave the Jewish people and destroy Israel is proof of Hashem’s helplessness and their own ability and strength. Therefore, they will be punished and destroyed and the Jewish people will again recognize Hashem’s superiority and control.

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Questions

1. When Moshe warned Bnei Yisrael not to leave the Torah, he called for two special eidim (witnesses). What were they?
2. What word did Moshe use to call these witnesses?
3. Why did Moshe select these two eidim (two answers)?
4. How does Moshe remind the people to stay loyal to HaShem?
5. Moshe reminded the Bnei Yisrael that when Hashem took them out of Mitzrayim, HaShem protected them like an eagle protects its babies. How does an eagle carry its babies differently than all other birds?
6. Why does the eagle carry its babies on its wings?
7. What did HaShem do to protect the Bnei Yisrael that was like an eagle?
8. Why do all other birds carry their babies between their feet?
9. HaShem said that He would never destroy the Bnei Yisrael, even if they do aveirot. Why not?
10. Who is HaShem’s chelek (portion)?
11. What is the only way Bnei Yisrael could defeat their enemies?
12. What is Bnei Yisrael’s key to life?
13. Why did HaShem tell Moshe to go up to the top of Har Nevo?
14. What incident is the reason for Moshe not being able to enter Eretz Yisrael?
15. How was Moshe going to die?

Answers

1. Shamayim and Aretz (heaven and earth)
2. Haazinu (listen, lend an ear)
3.
   a. Because they will be around forever
   b. They can deliver rewards and punishments to the Bnei Yisrael
4. By teaching them the song of Haazinu
5. An eagle carries its babies on its wings
6. To protect them from the arrows of hunters on the ground
7. At the Yam Suf, the cloud of the shechinah went between the Bnei Yisrael and the Egyptians to absorb the arrows and stones of the Egyptians
8. To protect them from the eagle that flies above them
9. Because the nations of the world would boast about their power and the power of the avodah zarah to destroy the Bnei Yisrael
10. Bnei Yisrael
11. By placing their total trust in HaShem
12. Torah
13. To see Eretz Yisrael from there, and then he would die on Har Nevo
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Leader Tip: Sticking with the song theme, come up with a game show theme song when you ask your group questions!
**PARSHA ACTIVITY**

**ACTIVITY: “The Greatest Leader Debate”**

Split up the group into a number of different teams. Depending on how many kids there are, you can either split up into two teams or a bunch of teams. Come prepared to groups with a list of leaders. Give each group a picture of one leader and a list of fun facts about them. Each group will discuss together why they think their leader is the best leader to ever live. Each group will present their leader and why they think they’re the best and there will be a chance for a debate. Depending on how long it lasts, you can have each group present one leader and debate them the whole time, or you can do a number of different rounds of debates with each group getting a different leader each round. You can also make a “Leader Bracket” and have everyone split up into their own sides which they think is the better leader. For example, have a bracket of leaders and go pair by pair asking the group, anyone who thinks Avraham was a better leader go to this side, whoever thinks Aharon was a better leader go to this side. Then have the kids debate between the sides they took. Let’s say Avraham wins, he will go to the next round until you make it to the final round between two leaders. Try and make it that Moshe lasts to the final round if possible. Also, try to encourage as much conversation and thinking as possible as to what makes someone a great leader.

**DISCUSSION:** Moshe was the greatest leader we’ve ever had. What exactly makes him a great leader? His never ending commitment to Hashem and the Jewish people? His ability to take a nation to Israel even if he wasn’t able to enter himself? Moshe is known for many things, especially being so humble. How do we find a balance of being humble and stepping up to be a leader? Can anyone be a leader? Why or why not? As Moshe’s life comes to an end in this week’s Parsha, take a chance to talk to the kids about the life Moshe lived and how much we can learn from him.

**LEADER TIP:** Bring in costumes and have kids or group leaders dress up as the leaders you’re talking about. Feel free to even throw in names of your group leaders into the discussion!
Before you read: What's more precious than diamonds or gold? A person's word of honor. Yet it isn't always easy to keep to our word, and we may even feel tempted at times to go back on what we've promised. This week's Parsha teaches us how great it is to be reliable and keep our commitments. We learn this from God, who is described as the "faithful God" who always keeps to His word, and is 100% reliable. He is an unchanging "Rock" of stability who fulfills everything He says, even if it takes time before we are able to see it happen. The Torah urges us to make our word into gold, and become the type of person that people know they can count on.

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The two old friends enjoyed a quick chat, then Amy grabbed her books, and headed for the library, confident and happy that she had made the right choice.

**Discussion Questions:**

Q. Do you think Amy did the right thing by not going to see Jennifer? Do you think it would have been okay for Amy to phone Lori at the library to tell her that she has to cancel?

A. Amy was certainly in a tough situation. She really wanted to see her old friend, but she had already promised Lori to meet her. Had she been able to reach Lori, she could have tried to explain how something unexpected had come up, and most likely Lori would have understood. But in the case as it was, where she would have left the girl just waiting there, she really did do the ethical thing by keeping her appointment.

Q. Is it a good idea to promise things that we don't intend to keep and to tell people what they want to hear, or is it preferable to only say the truth even if the other person doesn't like it?

A. We may think that we're making somebody happy by telling him or her what he or she wants to hear, but in the end they will likely feel worse when we don't come through than if we never committed ourselves in the first place. Of course, we should attempt to be agreeable with others when we really can. But when people realize that we say what we mean, and mean what we say, they will come to respect us.
Q. What are some ways that you can practice being reliable in your daily lives?
A. You can be careful to keep appointments and to come on time. You should hand in your school assignments when they are due. At home you can act reliably by doing your chores regularly without having to be reminded too many times.

Q. What other traits do you think are important to have in a friend?

**LEADER TIP:** Is it better to make promises all the time and sometimes keep them and sometimes not keep them or not promise anything ever but still help out when you can?
JEWISH LEADER OF THE WEEK

Hannah Senesh
(July 17, 1921 - November 7, 1944)

Hannah Senesh was a paratrooper, poetess, and hero, during WW II. She parachuted behind Nazi lines to warn Hungarian Jews of the Nazis. As a young, passionate Zionist, Hannah moved to Palestine, writing, “I am fulfilling a mission.” In 1943, she was the first woman Britain trained as a paratrooper. While trying to free people, Hannah was captured, sent to Budapest, and tortured. Refusing to reveal her radio code, Hannah was executed on November 7, 1944 and buried in the military cemetery, Her Herzl in Jerusalem. My God. My God, may these things never end: the sand and the sea, the rush of the waves, the lightning of the sky, the prayers of humankind. – Hannah Senesh. These words, part of a poem, became a Hebrew song. She died at 23 on Kiddush Hashem.

LEADER TIP: If you had the opportunity to give up your life on Kiddush Hashem, would you?
Happy/fortunate is the nation for whom this is so, Fortunate is the nation that has Hashem as their G-d.” Interestingly this verse is also not from the same psalm as the rest of the prayer. It is the last Pasuk in Psalm 144. Why then is it inserted at this point? It is explained that with the addition of this verse the word Ashrei is then mentioned three times demonstrating that we say the Ashrei prayer three times a day.

“Fortunate is the nation for whom this is so..” For whom what is so?

The Etz Yosef explains that this is referring to the previous verse in the prayer i.e. we are fortunate that we are able to be ישבים ביתיים – those that may dwell in the house of G-d. He also writes that “We are fortunate that to have Hashem as our G-d” refers to the fact that the Jewish people are intertwined with G-d i.e. that even our name Israel is graced with a name of G-d – E-L.

**LEADER TIP:** Do we say Ashrei every day? Let’s try saying it if we don’t! Let’s say it as a group!
Moshe starts off the Parsha by describing the existence of Hashem in nature as being as obvious as the rain or dew that sustain the fields and gardens. Hashem is completely fair, always good, always compassionate and forgiving. Therefore, all damage and negativity must be credited directly to the bad decisions and actions that we make.

We must always remember that we were chosen from among all the other nations to be directly taken care of by Hashem. Unfortunately, it’s human nature to forget how much we really depend on Hashem and to make ourselves think that we were completely self-sufficient and independent.

If we do this, we will then be punished with exile and persecution. We will be chased from our land and sold into slavery, and we will experience what it means to be independent of Hashem’s direct protection and kindness.

However, the other nations will also fail in the same way that we did. They will assume that their ability to enslave the Jewish people and destroy Israel is proof of Hashem’s helplessness and their own ability and strength. Therefore, they will be punished and destroyed and the Jewish people will again recognize Hashem’s superiority and control.

Moshe’s song ends with the Jewish people singing about their acceptance and understanding of Hashem’s purpose and justice.

Moshe presents the entire "song" to the nation and reemphasizes that the condition for keeping the Land is by following the Torah and serving Hashem.

**LEADER TIP:** Haazinu is written in a very unique way, its written like a song. Feel free to teach a new song in honor of Parshat Haazinu!
Questions

1. When Moshe warned Bnei Yisrael not to leave the Torah, he called for two special eidim (witnesses). What were they?
2. What word did Moshe use to call these witnesses?
3. Why did Moshe select these two eidim (two answers)?
4. How does Moshe remind the people to stay loyal to HaShem?
5. What two things are the Torah compared to?
6. In the song of Haazinu, what three things did Moshe compare HaShem to?
7. Moshe reminded the Bnei Yisrael that when Hashem took them out of Mitzrayim, HaShem protected them like an eagle protects its babies. How does an eagle carry its babies differently than all other birds?
8. Why does the eagle carry its babies on its wings?
9. What did HaShem do to protect the Bnei Yisrael that was like an eagle?
10. Why do all other birds carry their babies between their feet?
11. HaShem said that He would never destroy the Bnei Yisrael, even if they do aveirot. Why not?
12. Who is HaShem’s chelek (portion)?
13. How does HaShem act toward us?
14. How did we act in return to HaShem?
15. How will HaShem repay us?
16. What is the only way Bnei Yisrael could defeat their enemies?
17. What is Bnei Yisrael’s key to life?
18. Why did HaShem tell Moshe to go up to the top of Har Nevo?
19. What incident is the reason for Moshe not being able to enter Eretz Yisrael?
20. How was Moshe going to die?

Answers

1. Shamayim and Aretz (heaven and earth)
2. Haazinu (listen, lend an ear)
3. a. Because they will be around forever b. They can deliver rewards and punishments to the Bnei Yisrael
4. By teaching them the song of Haazinu
5. Rain and dew
6. A father, a rock, and an eagle
7. An eagle carries its babies on its wings
8. To protect them from the arrows of hunters on the ground
9. At the Yam Suf, the cloud of the shechinah went between the Bnei Yisrael and the Egyptians to absorb the arrows and stones of the Egyptians
10. To protect them from the eagle that flies above them
11. Because the nations of the world would boast about their power and the power of the avodah zarah to destroy the Bnei Yisrael
12. Bnei Yisrael
13. With great kindness and care
14. We were not loyal and did not follow Him
15. He will punish us instead of blessing us
16. By placing their total trust in HaShem
17. Torah
18. To see Eretz Yisrael from there, and then he would die on Har Nevo
19. The incident of Mei Merivah, in which Moshe hit the rock instead of speaking to it
20. With a kiss (neshikah)

LEADER TIP: Sticking with the song theme, come up with a game show theme song when you ask your group questions!
GOAL: For the kids to recognize that unfortunately there are many things that happen in life that were not happy about, either individually in our own lives or as the Jewish people as a whole, but it’s important to remember if we do our part in life we can prevent bad things from happening.

ACTIVITY: “We Didn’t Start the Fire”

Teach the kids the Shlock Rock version of “We Didn’t Start the Fire”.

We've Got A Strong Desire (To Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire")

*Words: Lenny Solomon and Shlock Rock*

Adam, Eve, Abel, Cain, Noah's Ark, Flood of Rain, Terach, Idols, Haran dies, Abraham leaves home.
Sarah, Isaac, Brit Milah, Angels visit, Akeida, War of Kings, Salty Wife, Rescue in Sodom.

Yitzchak, Rivkah, Twins inside, Jacob, Birthright, Isaac's Blind, Stolen Blessing, Esav Cried, Angel's ladder to the sky. Rachel's beauty, Yaakov's hitched, Lavan, Leah, daughter switched, Four Wives, twelve Tribes, Near Beit Lechem, Rachel Dies.

Chorus: We've got a strong desire, We are always yearning for the Torah's Learning. We've got a strong desire, We will stay united, never be divided.

Colored Coat, Brothers hate, Sold to Egypt, Head of State, Famine, grain, Goblet Test, Brothers Reunite. New King, Jews are slaves, Moshe's born, princess saves, Yitro's daughters, burning bush, Aaron joins the fight. Ten Plagues, Jews free, Splitting of the Red Sea, Amalek, Torah given, Golden Calf Jews Forgiven, Korach, forty years, Balak, Bilaam, Pinchas spears. Moshe Leaves, Jews Grieve, Joshua's the new chief.

Chorus

Jordan river, Jericho, Walls fall, Shofar Blow, Devorah, Shimshon, Shmuel, Saul, David, Stone, Goliath Fall. Solomon, Temple built, Civil war, blood spilt, Eliyahu, Elisha, Yishayahu, Yirmiyah.

Purim, Esther, Mordechai, Beit Hamikdosh second time, Antiochos, bad decrees, Judah and the Macabees. Temple Two burnt down, Exile all around,
Shamai, Hillel, Betar, Bar Kochva, Akiva’s star.

Chorus


Chorus


Now bring in everyone for a discussion about the song.

**Question:** If you were living at any point in history, when would it be? Why? This should get some interesting responses.

**Question:** If we were rewriting the song today, what would it look like? What events in the past fifty years have shaped the Jewish people? What great events have we lived through?

**If there are so many things that have happened to the Jewish people, what have we done to help the world and prevent bad things from happening?** You can ask the kids why THEY don’t do more? (Obviously not in an accusing way, just as a casual question.) Even if some kids may help out here and there, donate time to doing chesed, etc., it isn’t a huge part of their lives like it ought to be. Four reasons why: 1. Belief – when you’re young, it’s hard to have faith in what you believe in enough to sacrifice for it. 2. If you do have strong belief, you might still not follow it vigorously. 3. Unwillingness to work hard. It takes a long time to see results, and this requires a lot of patience and hard work with little to show for it. Not an easy thing to ask of young people. 4. Lack of causes. While last generation had many concrete things to work towards, the establishment of Israel, civil rights, etc, this one has less concrete goals.

**So how do we solve this problem?** A. How do we stay ideological? B. How do we act on our ideology? You don’t necessarily need to give an answer, but perhaps have the kids make some real suggestions for what they could do, both now and in the future, both individually or as a group. As a youth group, feel very strongly about the power of the youth, our power collectively, to change the world. One major way that we can keep from losing our ideology is through the strength of the group. As a part of a group, you have people who support you and give you strength. You see the ideology of your friends, and it gives you strength in your own beliefs. It pushes you, but also encourages you and lets you know that you don’t have to give up the struggle, because your friends are in it with you.
**DISCUSSION:** Our Sidra ends with Hashem’s instructions to Moshe to ascend Mt. Nevo to see the Promised Land for he will not enter there physically. The Torah says: Hashem spoke to Moshe, "...on this very day..." (Deut. 32,48). Of course this was the day Moshe was to die. Rashi points out the three places in Scriptures that the expression "on this very day" is found. It is used, in the story of the flood, at the time the Israelites left Egypt and at the death of Moshe. In each of these cases the people said they would not allow it to happen. Hashem then carried out His intention, which means in broad day light. He thwarted their intentions. We can understand that the intent of the people during the flood was to prevent the people from entering the Ark and destroying it. During the Exodus their objective was to prevent the people from leaving even if they had to resort to killing them. What could they have done to prevent Moshe from dying? The answer is they could have prayed. We know prayer can annul an evil decree. That is why when a person is sick we recite a מַעְרָךְ. They could have done so but did not. Hence Moshe died on that day in broad day light. In our day we see many atrocities throughout the world and we often can prevent them but we don’t. We must be more sensitive and every individual must do as much as one can to avert them.

**LEADER TIP:** Take upon yourselves as a group something you’re going to work on together this year.
Before you read: What's more precious than diamonds or gold? A person's word of honor. Yet it isn't always easy to keep to our word, and we may even feel tempted at times to go back on what we've promised. This week's Parsha teaches us how great it is to be reliable and keep our commitments. We learn this from God, who is described as the "faithful God" who always keeps to His word, and is 100% reliable. He is an unchanging "Rock" of stability who fulfills everything He says, even if it takes time before we are able to see it happen. The Torah urges us to make our word into gold, and become the type of person that people know they can count on.

"SOMETHING PROMISED..."

It was the usual rush as the kids all sprinted from their lockers out to the parking lot where the line of yellow school busses were waiting to take them home. Amy Stern felt a tap on the shoulder just as she had closed her locker and was about to dash.

"Amy, what are you doing this afternoon?" asked a girl in large wire-rimmed glasses.

"Not really anything, Lori, I guess," answered Amy offhandedly.

"Well, um, would you mind if we got together to do homework this afternoon? You see, I'm a little behind in math, and, um ... I could really use some help."

Amy shrugged her shoulders. She wasn't really looking forward to spending the afternoon doing homework with Lori, but why not? Nothing else was going on. "Okay," she finally said. "I can meet you at the Hallmark Library at 3:30 if you want."

The girl's face lit up. "Gee thanks so much! I can't wait. 3:30 it is!" And with that she grabbed her bookbag and rushed down the corridor of their school building.

When Amy got home she was surprised to see a note on the door to her room. "Jennifer called," it said.

"Jennifer?" thought Amy, delighted to see the name of an old friend who had moved away a few months ago. Quickly she dialed the local phone number scribbled on the bottom of the note.

"Hello?" answered Jennifer's familiar voice.

"Jenny, is that you? What's up? Where are you?" Amy felt excited just hearing her friend's voice.

"Guess what?" said Jennifer. "I'm in town! My mom was flying in for her monthly business meeting and I got to tag along. But we're only here for a few more hours. I'm staying at the Siesta Hotel downtown. I called to invite you to join us for lunch. We have so much to catch up on. Whatdy a say, Ames?"

"What do I say?" answered the thrilled girl. "It's a dream come true!"

Just then Amy glanced down at her book bag. "Oh no!" she groaned, remembering her promise to Lori. She looked at her watch. It was 3:00. "Um... Jenny, let me call you right back, okay?"

"Okay. Is everything all right? I really hope we can get together."

"Me too!" said Amy, sounding a little panicked as she hung up the phone. She quickly dialed Lori's number.

"Maybe I can reach her to cancel before she leaves for the library," Amy thought. But to her chagrin, Lori's mother told her that Lori had just gotten on the bus and was on her way, and she hadn't taken her cell phone. Amy looked up the phone number of the library to leave Lori a message.

No luck. Her heart sank when a recording came on the line that the library's phone was temporarily out of order. "Now what do I do?" thought Amy. "Lori's going to be waiting for me, I've tried everything to reach her,
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Q. Why is it so important to keep to our word?
A. While somebody's word may seem like a very tenuous and intangible thing, it is in fact a major indicator of the person's character and spiritual makeup. It shows how much respect he has for others - and for himself. A person who keeps to his word is indicating that he is honest, serious, and worthy of trust. Words can be rock-solid, more solid than gold.

Q. Which type of friendship would you value more, one based on excitement and spontaneity or one based on reliability and trust, even if it isn't as exciting? Why?
A. The second type because, while we may feel attracted to friends who seem to be "living for the moment" and who change their minds easily, these types of friendships tend to fade. It is only when we know we can trust a friend does the friendship grow deeper. Life always has its ups and downs, and it's the stable faithful friendship that will carry us through them all.

Q. What other traits do you think are important to have in a friend?

LEADER TIP: Is it better to make promises all the time and sometimes keep them and sometimes not keep them or not promise anything ever but still help out when you can?
Hannah Senesh
(July 17, 1921- November 7, 1944)

Hannah Senesh was a paratrooper trained to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Captured and killed by the Nazi’s, she is still a national heroine in Israel. Through her brief but noteworthy life, Senesh became a symbol of optimism and self-sacrifice. She wrote many poems about having hope even when times are tough.

She parachuted into enemy territory in order to try and save her fellow Jews. She was caught almost immediately and no matter how much she was tortured she wouldn’t tell the Hungarian police anything. She died on Kiddush Hashem trying to protect her people.

Senesh kept a diary from age 13 until shortly before her death. Although her family was assimilated, anti-Semitic acts in Budapest led her to leave Hungary for Eretz Yisrael in 1939. She studied first at an agricultural school, and then settled at Kibbutz Sdot Yam. While there she wrote poetry, as well as a play about kibbutz life.

In 1943, Senesh joined the British Army and volunteered to be parachuted into Europe. The purpose of this operation was to help struggling Jewish communities. Senesh trained in Egypt and was one of the thirty-three people chosen to parachute behind enemy lines. With the goal of reaching her native Budapest, Senesh parachuted into Yugoslavia in March 1944, and spent three months there.

On June 7, 1944, at the height of the deportation of Hungarian Jews, Senesh crossed the border into Hungary.

She was caught almost immediately by the Hungarian police, and tortured cruelly and repeatedly over the next several months. Despite these conditions, Senesh refused to give over any information about her mission. Even the knowledge that her mother was at risk and that she too might be harmed did not get Senesh to cooperate with the police. At her trial in October 1944, Senesh loyally defended her activities and she refused to request mercy. Throughout her trial she remained firm in her courage, and when she was executed by a firing squad on November 7, she refused the blindfold, staring squarely at her executors and her fate. Senesh was only 23 years old.

In 1950, Senesh’s remains were brought to Israel and re-interred at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

**LEADER TIP:** If you had the opportunity to give up your life on Kiddush Hashem, would you?
LEADER TIP: Do we say Ashrei every day? Let’s try saying it if we don’t! Let’s say it as a group!

Ashrei—Fortunate is the nation that has Hashem as their G-d.” Interestingly this verse is also not from the same psalm as the rest of the prayer. It is the last Pasuk in Psalm 144. Why then is it inserted at this point? It is explained that with the addition of this verse the word Ashrei is then mentioned three times demonstrating that we say the Ashrei prayer three times a day.

“Fortunate is the nation for whom this is so..” For whom what is so?

The Etz Yosef explains that this is referring to the previous verse in the prayer i.e. we are fortunate that we are able to be ישבים Beanır – those that may dwell in the house of G-d. He also writes that “We are fortunate that to have Hashem as our G-d” refers to the fact that the Jewish people are intertwined with G-d i.e. that even our name Israel is graced with a name of G-d – E-L.

The Gaon of Vilna advances a different idea to interpret the verse. He states that since the Gematria/numerical equivalent of the Hebrew word 444=שככה is the same as the Hebrew word of our Teacher 444=משה, the implication of the verse at hand is that we are thankful for our leaders from the time of Moses and Mt. Sinai until today.

The Radak at the end of Psalm 144 explains the latter part of the verse in its most simple form. “Fortunate is the nation that has Hashem as their G-d” states clearly that we the Jewish people should feel happy, fortunate, and privileged that Hashem is our G-d. He is our Source; He is the origin and cause of all blessing and success for everyone and everything on this earth.

It is the combination of all three approaches to this verse that provides us with a richer understanding of this prayer. Ashrei—Fortunate are those who have such a beautiful liturgy to approach G-d; and fortunate are those who understand well the prayers they are reciting.
This Week in Jewish History
September 28, 2000

Start of the Second Intifata

On the morning of September 28, 2000, a six-member Likud Knesset delegation led by the then-leader of the Israeli opposition, Ariel Sharon, paid a visit to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. From the moment the plans for the visit had been made public four days earlier, there was concern among Israeli security officials that the heavily media-covered visit might inflame some Palestinian nationalist sentiments because it would be viewed as a deliberately provocative symbol of Israeli control of all of Jerusalem, east and west. These concerns prompted consultations on the matter between Israeli and Palestinian officials, culminating in a telephone conversation between Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami and the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Organization, Jibril Rajoub, in which Rajoub indicated, "If Mr. Sharon refrains from entering the Mosques on Temple Mount, there will not be any problem." Only then did the Israeli police agree to permit the visit—along with a 1,500 member police escort, just in case. Sharon's visit was relatively brief, avoiding the mosques. It was completed by 8:30 a.m. and was followed by a vocal demonstration of about 1,000 Palestinians led by Israeli Arab Knesset members who hurled stones at Israeli policemen. But this too was relatively brief and not unprecedented in the context of previous Palestinian-Israeli clashes in that religiously and emotionally charged area of Jerusalem. By the afternoon, despite sporadic flare-ups of further clashes between police and demonstrators, Israeli security officials concluded that the matter was behind them. They turned out to be seriously wrong. Within hours, the Voice of Palestine was broadcasting denunciations. Sharon was said to have conducted "a serious step against Muslim holy places." Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority chairman, called upon the entire Arab and Islamic world to "move immediately to stop these aggressions and Israeli practices against holy Jerusalem." By the morning of September 29, Palestinian public opinion was inflamed in way that Israeli intelligence had failed to predict. In the West Bank town of Qalqilya a Palestinian police officer participating in a joint security patrol with Israeli police opened fire and killed his Israeli counterpart, leading to the permanent suspension of all joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols.
TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK

WHAT WAS THE BURNT HOUSE?

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!

- More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in aircrashes.
- Certain frogs can be frozen solid, then thawed, and survive.
- Cat’s urine glows under a black light.
- A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

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

Parsha Points to Ponder...

Our Sidra ends with Hashem’s instructions to Moshe to ascend Mt. Nevo to see the Promised Land for he will not enter there physically. The Torah says: Hashem spoke to Moshe, ‘הֶזַה הֶיַּה הֶזַעַה… ‘on this very day…” (Deut. 32,48). Of course this was the day Moshe was to die. Rashi points out the three places in Scriptures that the expression ‘הֶזַה הֶיַּה הֶזַעַה,’ “on this very day” is found. It is used, in the story of the flood, at the time the Israelites left Egypt and at the death of Moshe. In each of these cases the people said they would not allow it to happen. Hashem then carried out His intention ‘הֶזַעַה הֶזַה הֶיַּה,’ which means in broad day light. He thwarted their intentions. We can understand that the intent of the people during the flood was to prevent the people from entering the Ark and destroying it. During the Exodus their objective was to prevent the people from leaving even if they had to resort to killing them. What could they have done to prevent Moshe from dying? The answer is they could have prayed. We know prayer can annul an evil decree. That is why when a person is sick we recite a מְרֵס. They could have done so but did not. Hence Moshe died on that day in broad day light. In our day we see many atrocities throughout the world and we often can prevent them but we don’t. We must be more sensitive and every individual must do as much as one can to avert them.
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