

SHAVUOT-TO-GO

5766

Compiled and edited by
Rabbi Jonathan Mishkin

FOR
KIDS!

BIBLE HUNT

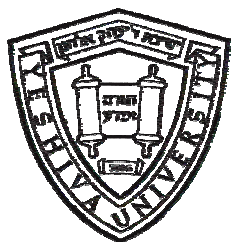
Learning to Use a Tanach

TIME TO PICK TEAMS

An Exercise in Mitzvah Categorization

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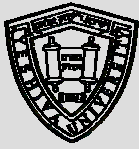
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ישיבת רבנו יצחק אלחנן
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary

Max Stern Division of Communal Services
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YESHIVA UNIVERSITY





From the Desk of Rabbi Kenneth Brander

Dean, Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future

Dear Friends,

It is my sincere hope that the Torah found in this virtual ספר may serve to enhance your יום טוב (holiday) and your לימוד (study).

We have designed this project not only for the individual, studying alone, but perhaps even more for a חברותא (a pair studying together) that wish to work through the study matter together, or a group engaged in facilitated study.

With this material, we invite you to join our Beit Midrash, wherever you may be, להגדיל תורה ולהאדירה (to enjoy the splendor of Torah) and to engage in discussing a matter that touches on a most contemporary matter, and which is rooted in the timeless arguments of our great sages from throughout the generations.

בברכת חג שמח,

Rabbi Kenneth Brander

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Please direct questions and comments to lectures@yu.edu

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Bible Hunt

Learning to Use a Tanakh



by Rabbi Jonathan Mishkin





Bible Hunt

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Educational Goal: to teach or reinforce the ability to find references in Tanakh.

Introduction: In our education of children we sometimes overlook the obvious. We teach our students the stories of אברהם and משה but don't emphasize that they live generations apart and that they appear in different books in the Torah. Bible Hunt is a fun and active game which simultaneously forces children to find their way around the Tanakh – a fitting exercise for שבועות when we celebrate receiving the first part of Tanakh.

The game is a straightforward treasure hunt using your shul as the playing board. This game is best played when services are not taking place, since some of the locations require use of the sanctuary. If you will be running this program during davening time, you can leave out some of the clues that will interfere with the adults, or rework the game to fit your site. For example, the most intrusive clue sends the kids to the שלחן – the table that's used to read the Torah. If you are unable to hide a clue there, you might be able to use a similar structure in the building's Beit Midrash, or even a plain old table that stands somewhere in the shul.

How to play: Below you will find two sets of 12 clues. Print up the two sets of clues - one set for each team (when it comes time to play – you will divide your kids into two teams). The clues are the same in each set, but they are presented in reverse order so that the two teams don't follow each other around – each team is working on a different clue at any given time. Color code the clues by rolling up set #1 and making a blue mark on the backs of the rolls; roll up set #2 and color code it by making a red mark. Half an hour before the program is set to begin hide the clues around the shul. Teams should only touch clues that are marked with their color. If they find the other team's clue they must leave it in place. Don't hide Clue #1 – it will be given to the two teams to start them off (each team getting a different clue). Once they solve it, Clue #1 will lead the team to location #1 where Clue #2 is hidden. The kids find Clue #2, solve the riddle and head off to location #2. At location #2, they will find Clue #3 which leads them to location #3 where they find #4 and so on. To help avoid confusion, there's a list following the actual clues telling you where to put each one.



Each clue has three parts:

- a. a Biblical citation.
- b. a riddle.
- c. a Hebrew letter.

The goal is to find the verse in the Tanakh and use the information in the pasuk to solve the riddle. The solution to each riddle is a spot in the shul, and each clue leads to another spot. Because you give the first clue to the kids, there are eleven hiding places altogether. In addition, each clue has a Hebrew letter on it. When all twelve clues are collected, the letters will spell out a message. Feel free to give hints or help the kids out if they have difficulty. The first team to solve all the riddles and piece the message together wins.

Preparation: You will need to prepare the clues by printing them up and marking them with a color. Roll the clues but do not tape them since you don't want the kids tearing the paper on יום טוב. Instead, use a paper clip to keep the clue folded. Gather Tanakhs for the kids to use. It's not necessary for each child to have their own book, but the team should have several so one or two kids don't dominate the game. It will be helpful to have at least one Tanakh with English translation. Hide the clues before the game starts but not that far in advance – you don't want curious shul members finding them and removing them from their spots. Having a prize ready for the winning team is always appreciated, but it is inadvisable to hand out cheese blintzes to the children without plates.

In addition to helping the kids learn their way around Tanakh, this game will help newcomers to your group become familiar with the shul itself – an added bonus!



Blue Team Clues

Clue #1: Genesis 37:3 בראשית לו: ג

He certainly felt very fancy in it, but he couldn't have worn it all the time.
Where do you think he put it when he came to shul?

?

Clue #2: Exodus 25:23 שמות כה: כג

This was made out of gold and was used for holding bread. The one in our shul often has people crowding around it looking at a holy object.

מ

Clue #3: Exodus 17:12 שמות יז: יב

משה was probably uncomfortable on his. Imagine if we invited משה to our shul - since he was so modest he would use the one in the back.

ן

Clue #4: Genesis 1:7 בראשית א: ז

We don't know how God did it without a big object in between. If He were to do it in shul, He might have used this to help Him.

מ



Clue #5: Deuteronomy 11:19 דברים יא:יט

It's not only your parents who have the job in this pasuk. Somebody else you know does this with you too.

ת

Clue #6: Joshua 2:15 יהושע ב:טו

A quick escape! I'll bet she wouldn't try that in our shul - they're too high up.

ן

Clue #7: Genesis 28:12 בראשית כח:יב

Kind of a cool way to travel, huh? Well, if they'd been in our shul, they'd have used these. Try the 6th one.

ת

Clue #8: Deuteronomy 23:14 דברים כג:יד

What do you expect? They lived in the desert. Here in our shul, we go here.

ן



Clue #9: Judges 16:3 שופטים טז:ג

If he tried that in our shul, we'd have to take away his membership!

ך

Clue #10: Jeremiah 36:23 ירמיה לו:כג

Wow! King Yehoyakim certainly has no respect for these objects. But we do - we have a special spot for storing them.

ת

Clue #11: Esther 1:3 אסתר א:ג

What an elaborate gathering this king had. Where would this pasuk take place in our shul?

נ

Clue #12:

Congratulations! You found the final clue! Your last letter is:

ן



For the Blue Team



Don't Hide Clue #1. Give that to the kids to start the game.

Hide Clue #2 in the coat room.

Hide Clue #3 on the שלחן (table) used to read the Torah.

Hide Clue #4 in the back bench or row of the men's section.

Hide Clue #5 on the מחיצה somewhere.

Hide Clue #6 on you. You're the teacher. If you can get the shul rabbi to participate, give him the clue to hold.

Hide Clue #7 on a window.

Hide Clue #8 in the sixth stair from the bottom.

Hide Clue #9 in the bathroom, or near the door.

Hide Clue #10 on the front door of the shul.

Hide Clue #11 on the bookcase.

Hide Clue #12 in the social hall or kiddush room.



Red Team Clues

Clue #1: Esther 1:3 אסתר א:ג

What an elaborate gathering this king had. Where would this pasuk take place in our shul?

?

Clue #2: Jeremiah 36:23 ירמיה לו:כג

Wow! King Yehoyakim certainly has no respect for these objects. But we do - we have a special spot for storing them.

מ

Clue #3: Judges 16:3 שופטים טז:ג

If he tried that in our shul, we'd have to take away his membership!

ו

Clue #4: Deuteronomy 23:14 דברים כג:יד

What do you expect? They lived in the desert. Here in our shul, we go here.

מ



Clue #5: Genesis 28:12 בראשית כח:יב

Kind of a cool way to travel, huh? Well, if they'd been in our shul, they'd have used these. Try the 6th one.

ת

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A quick escape! I'll bet she wouldn't try that in our shul - they're too high up.

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Clue #7: Deuteronomy 11:19 דברים יא:יט

It's not only your parents who have the job in this pasuk. Somebody else you know does this with you too.

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Clue #8: Genesis 1:7 בראשית א:ז

We don't know how God did it without a big object in between. If He were to do it in shul, He might have used this to help Him.

ן



Clue #9: Exodus 17:12 שמות יז: יב

משה was probably uncomfortable on his. Imagine if we invited משה to our shul - since he was so modest he would use the one in the back.

ך

Clue #10: Exodus 25:23 שמות כה: כג

This was made out of gold and was used for holding bread. The one in our shul often has people crowding around it looking at a holy object.

ת

Clue #11: Genesis 37:3 בראשית לו: ג

He certainly felt very fancy in it, but he couldn't have worn it all the time. Where do you think he put it when he came to shul?

נ

Clue #12:

Congratulations! You found the final clue! Your last letter is:

ף



For the Red Team



Don't Hide Clue #1. Give that to the kids to start the game.

Hide Clue #2 in the social hall or kiddush room.

Hide Clue #3 on the bookcase.

Hide Clue #4 on the front door of the shul.

Hide Clue #5 in the bathroom, or near the door.

Hide Clue #6 in the sixth stair from the top.

Hide Clue #7 on a window.

Hide Clue #8 on you. You're the teacher. If you can get the shul rabbi to participate, give him the clue to hold.

Hide Clue #9 the מחיצה somewhere.

Hide Clue #10 in the back bench or row of the men's section.

Hide Clue #11 on the שלחן (table) used to read the Torah.

Hide Clue #12 in the coat room.



Time to Pick Teams

An Exercise in Mitzvah Categorization



by Rabbi Jonathan Mishkin

Column A	Column B
~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~	~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~



## Time to Pick Teams



by Rabbi Jonathan Mishkin

**Educational Goal:** to examine a range of Mitzvot and to consider how they are similar and different from other Mitzvot.

**Introduction:** Shavuot is the holiday of Revelation. On this date, over 3000 years ago, God declared the Ten Commandments to the nation of Israel. But what's so special about the Aseret Ha'dibrot? Certainly the importance of these commandments lies in the fact that they comprise God's communication to the Children of Israel, but that's only begging the question: why did God choose these statements when addressing the nation at Sinai? Are the 13 verses in question holier than other parts of the Torah? Rabbi Yitzchak Abarbanel (15th century) explains that the Ten Statements were singled out for such special treatment because they include the 613 Mitzvot that God commanded His nation. Because God wanted Israel to recognize that He was the author of the entire gamut of Jewish law, He Himself introduced the Ten Statements which represent the rest of the Torah.

This idea that the Aseret Ha'Dibrot contain all the Torah's commandments is a fairly old one, finding expression in the midrashim. For example, Bamidbar Rabbah 13:16 states: "The 620 letters from 'Anochi' (Shmot 20:2) to 'kol asher le'rayecha' (20:14) are parallel to the 613 Mitzvot. The seven extra letters represent the seven days of creation, teaching that the world only exists for the fulfillment of the Torah." By linking the 10 Statements to the 613 commandments, the midrash explains why the Aseret Ha'Dibrot were given special treatment by God- their importance is concealed in their depth of meaning. In what way do the Aseret Ha'Dibrot contain the range of God's message?

Some scholars are quite specific in attributing the 613 Mitzvot to the 10 Statements. Ramban (Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman 13th century) wrote an essay called Taryag Mitzvot Ha'Yotzim Mi'Aseret Ha'Dibrot. This commentator moves Dibra by Dibra showing how the philosophy of each statement finds expression in numerous individual precepts. For example, Shabbat (Dibra #4) represents concepts of holiness and rest expressed in the holidays prescribed by the Torah which are also deemed holy. Also included within the general command of Shabbat are Shmita and the laws associated with it such as the release of the Jewish slave, as well as observance of the Jubilee year and its restructuring of land ownership. The reminder that "in six days the Lord made



heaven and earth" serves as a warning not to mess with God's creations through the hybridization of plants or animals. "You shall not do any work... your ox or your ass or any of your cattle" (Devarim 5:14) hints at the prohibition of plowing with an ox and a donkey together (ibid. 22:10).

What the Ramban has introduced here is the intellectual exercise of categorizing Mitzvot, a task undertaken by any scholar who makes lists of the 613 Jewish commandments. The challenge of dividing anything into groups is to find a common denominator where one might not be immediately apparent. For example- what do Ner Chanukah and Mezuzah have in common? They are both Mitzvot done in the doorway. Why put 'Reading Megillat Esther' with 'planting trees' and 'eating Matzah' in one category? They are all done on the fifteenth of the month. In the exercise provided here, participants are invited to examine a large set of Jewish customs ranging from Torah commandments to popular folk behaviour. They are then assigned the following task: divide the ideas into groups based on original rules of classification. Singing HaTikvah might be grouped with Planting trees in Israel because they both are connected to the land; or it might go with Saying Tehilim for a sick person because they are both activities of speech. The value of this exercise lies in asking students to examine different aspects of familiar practices. Note: some of the concepts presented here might be too obscure for the children in your group. Feel free to cater the set for your charges. Alternatively, you might take this opportunity to teach the kids about some Mitzvot they never knew.





## Time to Pick Teams

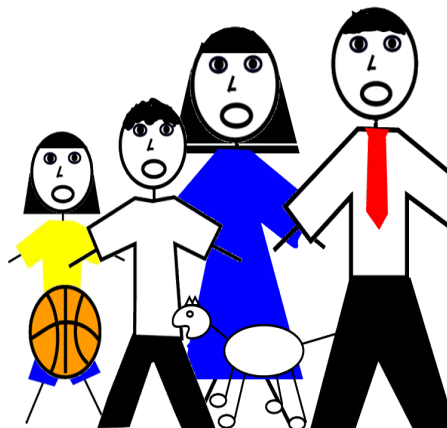


### An Exercise in Mitzvah Categorization

In this document you will find 45 boxes each one containing a picture and a title of a Mitzvah or Jewish practice. In preparation for your activity, print up several sets of these pictures and cut them into individual cards. If you have time and want to make them more durable, paste them onto cardboard. The number of sets you make is determined by how many groups you will divide your kids into. Explain the basic premise of the game to the children: in the time allotted they need to put the cards into categories that they make up. You might have to explain to younger kids what a “category” is. (You can do this with the kids themselves – divide them into groups based on hair color, shirt color, height.) Encourage the kids to be creative but they can use traditional groupings as well (things having to do with eating, holidays, positive vs. negative commandments). Tell the kids that they are allowed to have one “miscellaneous group” but it can contain no more than five items in it. After a period of time, have each group of children present and explain their choices.

For an alternative game, ask the children to rank the Mitzvot in terms of how important the activity is (stealing is worse than sleeping in shul), or perhaps based on frequency (washing Netilat yadayim comes along more often than shooining away a mother bird), or even level of difficulty (dipping apples in honey is easier than respecting parents).

Lastly, you can also discuss with your students which of the items are Mitzvot-commandments, which are Minhagim, and which are customs.



Respecting one's parents



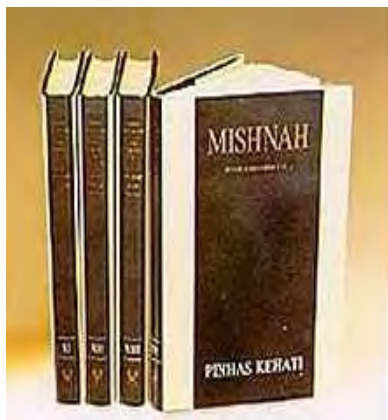
Not worshipping idols



Not turning on a light on Shabbos



Playing with a dreidel



Learning Mishnah



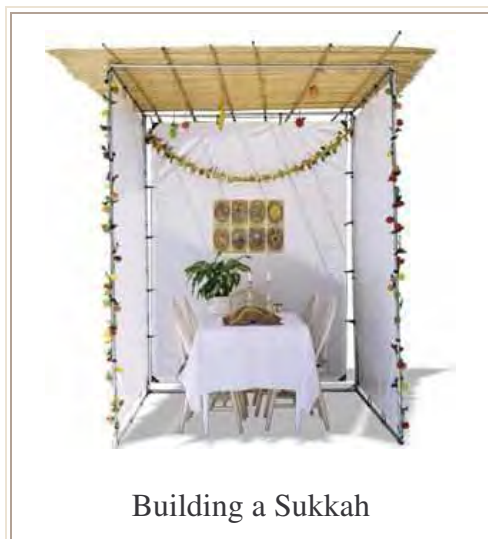
Eating Matzah



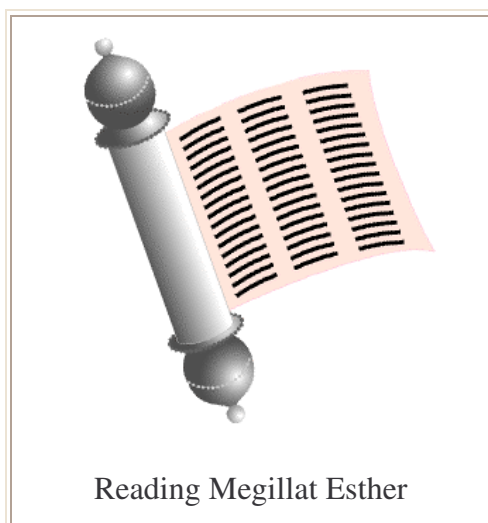
Celebrating a Bat Mitzvah



Planting a tree in Israel



Building a Sukkah



Reading Megillat Esther



Don't Kill



Washing hands before bread



Blowing Shofar on Rosh HaShana



Chasing a mother bird away





Eating only kosher food



Returning lost objects



Smacking Arovot on Sukkot



Smashing a glass at a wedding



Giving a baby a bris



Wearing Purim costumes



Lighting Shabbat Candles



Praying for rain



Hangin^g a Mezuzah



Paying adult fare if old but short



Not climbing trees on Shabbos



Greeting people kindly



Putting a Ma'akeh on a roof



Remembering Leaving Egypt



Saying Tehilim for a sick person



Visiting the sick

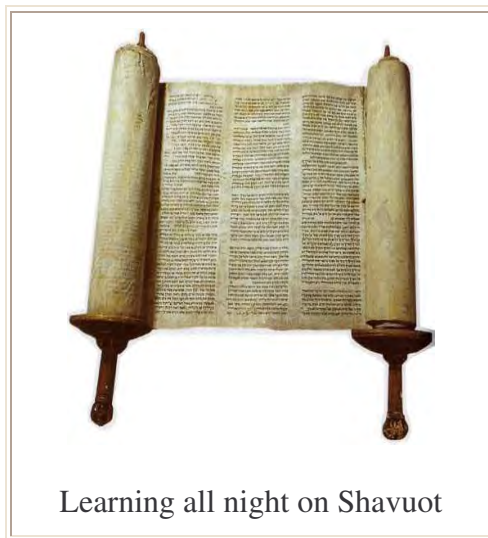




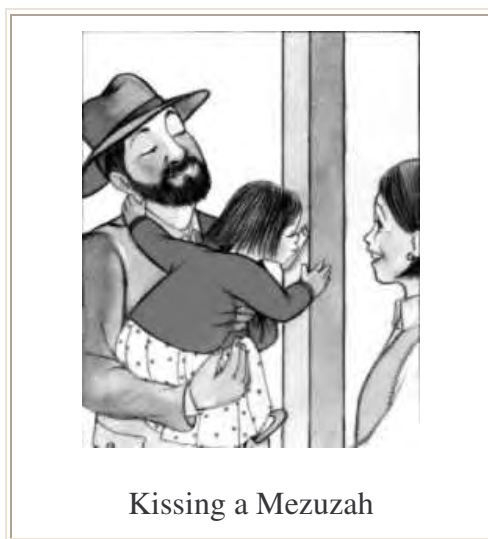
Singing HaTikvah



Naming a baby after a relative



Learning all night on Shavuot



Kissing a Mezuzah



Not stealing



Eating bagels and lox



Giving charity



Wearing a Magen David necklace



Not sleeping in shul



Putting on Tefilin



Saying a bracha when smell a rose



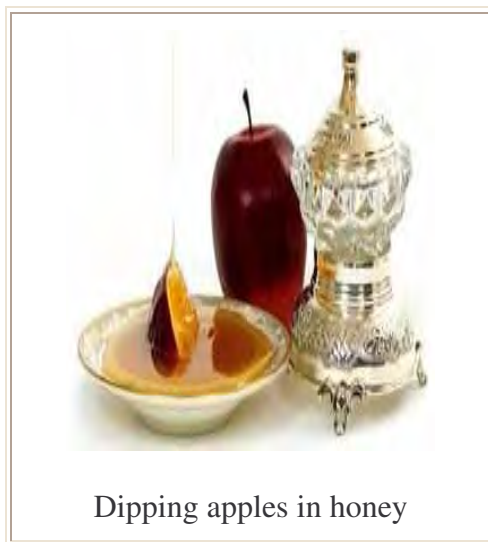
Tashlich



Waiting for Mashiach



Not gossiping



Dipping apples in honey