

תשפ"ד · Bnos 5784

Parshas

Beshalach

אָחינוּן כָּל בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים בְּצַרָּה וּבִשְׂבִיָּה הָעוֹמְדִים בֵּין בַּיִם וּבֵין בִּיבְשָׁה הַמְּקוּם יָרַחַם עֲלֵיהֶם יְיִוְצִיאֵם מִצְּרָה לְרוּחָה וּמֵאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹרָה וּמִשְׁעֶבֶד לְגֵאֲלָה הַשְּׂתָא בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמּוֹן קָרִיב וְנֹאמַר אָמוֹן:



Story

TRUE BELIEF IS REWARDED

One day, the Ari Hakodosh was sitting in the forest with his disciples and discussing how Hashem helps people who trust in Him.

“I do not refer to lip service only,” said the Ari Hakodosh, “but to a person who firmly believes with his heart and soul, with every ounce of strength in his body, that Hashem will not forsake him in his hour of need. This person, indeed, though he may walk in the valley of death, need not fear, for Hashem will always be near him.”

Nearby stood a laborer who would dig for clay and then sell it to builders in the city. Seeing the rabbi teaching his pupils, he walked over and became engrossed in the rabbi’s conversation. The man, although ignorant, was very religious and very poor. That night he told his wife what he had heard during the day.

“I listened to his holy man discussing the subject of faith in Hashem,” he said. “He told his pupils that if a person firmly believes in Hashem he will have nothing to worry about. Hereafter, instead of coming right home at nightfall, I will go to the Bais Hamedrash and say Tehillim and pray to Hashem with all my heart and soul. I am sure He will listen to me!”

“My dear husband,” replied his wife, “do as you think best, but I pray that Hashem should not forsake us, and He should give us sufficient food to eat.”

From that day onward the clay-digger would stay for hours every night, saying Tehillim, praying and studying the Torah. In the morning he would arise early to ply his trade. But instead of improving, his business became worse. It seemed that the more he prayed the worse it became. He found it very difficult to find clay, and when he did find it his customers had already purchased it from others.

When his children began to feel the pangs of hunger, the clay-digger sold his horse and wagon.

When this money ran out, he sold his bedding and even his good Shabbos suit. Soon he had nothing more to sell. His children, although suffering from hunger, did not complain. They whimpered quietly for they followed the example of their father and trusted in Hashem. The father never despaired. He still remained in the synagogue for hours, and he never once doubted that Hashem would help him.

One night, while his children and wife were asleep, he heard a knock on his door. Opening the door, he was surprised to see a lone mule, laden with many bags, knocking with its paw on the door.

Removing the saddle and bags from the mule, he placed the animal in the barn and gave it fodder to eat.

That morning he looked into the bags and was amazed to see that they contained gold and diamonds. Walking out to the stable to look for the mule, he was again surprised – the mule was gone, even though he had locked the stable door.

Seeing no identification marks on the bags, he soon realized that Hashem had listened to his pleas and sent him this fortune to reward him for his great Emunah – his faith in Him.

When this story became known to the Ari Hakodosh and to his disciples, one of his pupils exclaimed, “Dear Master, I will do the same thing! I will discard all earthly labor and devote all my time to saying Tehillim and praying to Hashem. Through my faith in Him, He will surely reward me in a similar fashion.”

“No, my son, it will not happen to you,” replied the Ari Hakodosh. “The clay digger was sincere in his trust and belief in Hashem. He did not discard his earthly labor, but undertook additional tasks of praying and studying, and it was all lshem shamayim. He firmly believed that Hashem would help him, and He did; whereas you are seeking wealth and riches. Since your thoughts and motives are not pure, Hashem will not help you.”

(Reprinted from Torah Thoughts, Book 3)

Parsha Quiz

**See how much
you know!**

1. Which was the way that was near Mitzrayim that Hashem did not lead Bnai Yisroel?
2. What did Moshe take with him?
3. With what did Hashem lead the Jews during the daytime?
4. With what did Hashem lead the Jews during the night-time?
5. When did the Mitzryim start running after the Jews?
6. Where did the Mitzryim meet the Jews?
7. Who fought for the Jews?
8. What did Moshe stretch forth on the Yam Suf?
9. What happened to the Yam Suf?
10. What happened to the water?
11. How many days after Yetzias Mitzrayim did this happen?
12. Who was the first one to jump into the Yam Suf?
13. What happened to the Mitzryim?
14. Which Mitzri remained alive?
15. Where were more nissim performed - in Mitzrayim or at the Yam Suf?
16. How much more miracles were performed?
17. What is this Shabbos called?
18. Who sang?
19. After what event did the Bnai Yisroel sing shirah?
20. Who was the leader of the women?
21. Whose sister was Miriam?
22. What did Miriam take into her hands while singing?
23. What is the food that came down from above while the Bnai Yisroel were in the desert?

Recipe

3-Ingredient Tu Bishvat Flower Planters

Equipment:

Mini muffin tins
Rolling pin
Round decorating dip (or very small circle cookie cutters)
Lollipop sticks

Ingredients:

1 box Kineret Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
Haddar Sandwich Cookies, crushed
Heaven and Earth Lil Taffy candies
Baking spray

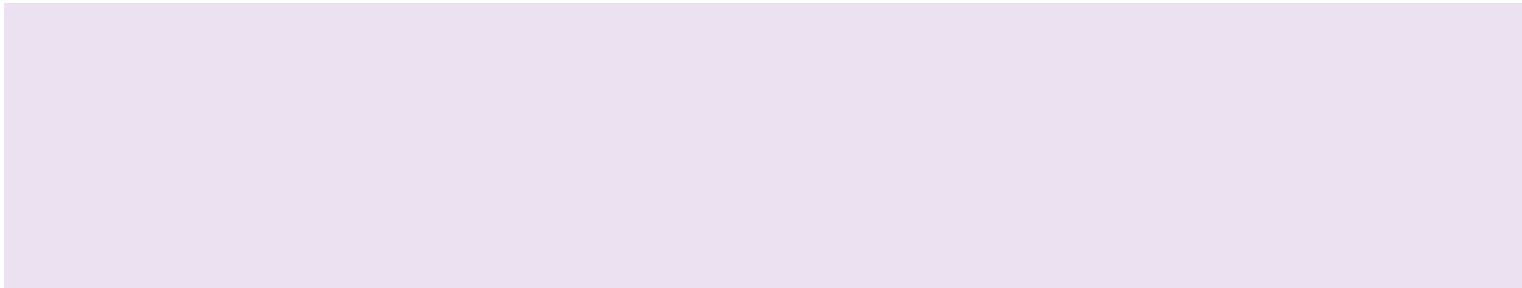
Directions:

1. Start by making the cookie planters/cups. Grease a mini muffin pan with baking spray and place balls of cookie dough in each. (The cookie dough should be straight from the freezer for best results.) Bake for 12 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and let it sit for 5 minutes.
2. Using the handle of a rolling pin, make an indentation in the center of each cookie. Let the cookie cups cool and harden for 15-20 minutes before removing from the pan.
3. To make the taffy flowers, remove a Lil Taffy from the packaging and microwave for 3 to 4 seconds (only!) on a piece of parchment paper. Add another piece of parchment paper on top of the taffy and gently roll it out with a rolling pin. (You can do this step while the cookie cups are baking.)
4. Cut circles out of the taffy for the flower petals. I used the large side for the petals and the top of the tip for the center of the flowers.
5. Gently pinch the bottom of each taffy circle to form a petal shape. Attach them together by pressing gently. Repeat with as many flowers and colored taffies as you'd like.
6. Attach each flower to a lollipop stick.
7. Assemble the cookie cups by filling them with crushed cookies and sticking the lollipop stick in the center.

Tip: To make the flowers sturdier, add chocolate spread filling to the center of the cookie cup before filling with the crushed cookies.

Tip: Microwaving the taffies ever so slightly warms them up and makes them easier to work with. Don't let them go any longer or they will melt!

Middah of the Week



We want to hear from you!!

Questions, comments, or suggestions?
Email us at bnos@agudah.org.
