

ask your children questions!

# SUMMARY

At the beginning of this week's פְּרָשָׁה we see יִתְרוֹ, the father-in-law of מֹשֶׁה, come to join the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. He sent a message to מֹשֶׁה to let him know that he was on his way together with מֹשֶׁה's wife, צִפְרָה, and their two sons, גֵּרְשָׁם and אֶלְיָצָר.

מֹשֶׁה came out to greet יִתְרוֹ. They asked each other about their welfare and discussed the wonderful things that ה' had done for בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. יִתְרוֹ brought "עֹלֹת וְזִבְחִים" - burnt offerings and other sacrifices to ה'. אֶהְרֹן and all the elders of Israel came to share the meal with יִתְרוֹ, which he had prepared to celebrate his conversion to Judaism. ...but where was מֹשֶׁה? מֹשֶׁה cites a מִדְּרָשׁ which explains that מֹשֶׁה was serving the guests. The greatest people take more pleasure in the comfort of others than their own.

The next day יִתְרוֹ saw how מֹשֶׁה sat and judged the people who came to him from morning until evening. He told מֹשֶׁה that this job was too big for him to do by himself. He advised מֹשֶׁה to appoint capable leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens to judge more minor cases, while מֹשֶׁה would still be brought the more major cases. מֹשֶׁה took his father-in-law's advice, then יִתְרוֹ departed and returned to his land. רַמְבַּ"ן explains that יִתְרוֹ left at this point in order to go and convert his family to Judaism and then returned later.

Next, we read of בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל's arrival in מִדְבַּר סִינַי, their encampment opposite הַר סִינַי and their three day preparations for receiving the תּוֹרָה. A boundary was set up around the mountain. Nobody was permitted to climb the mountain or even touch its edge. On the third day the mountain was all in smoke because ה's presence was on it. The whole mountain trembled and there was the sound of the שׁוֹפָר. . .



- שְׁמוֹת
- וְאֶרָא
- בֵּא
- בְּשֵׁלַח
- יִתְרוֹ
- מִשְׁפָּטִים
- תְּרוּמָה
- תְּצַוֶּה
- כִּי תִשָּׂא
- וַיִּקְהַל
- פְּקוּדֵי

## עֲשֵׂוֹרַת הַדְּבָרוֹת

- (א) אָנֹכִי ה' אֶלְקֵיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים
- (ב) לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל-פְּנֵי
- (ג) לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת-שֵׁם-ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹא
- (ד) זְכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ
- (ה) כִּבֵּד אֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְךָ
- (ו) לֹא תִרְצַח (ז) לֹא תִנְאֹף (ח) לֹא תִגְנוֹב (ט) לֹא-תַעֲנֶה (י) לֹא תַחְמוֹד

They journeyed from רַפִּידִים and arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the Wilderness; and יִשְׂרָאֵל encamped there, opposite the mountain.

ב וַיֵּסְעוּ מִרַפִּידִים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַר סִינַי וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִדְבַר וַיַּחֲנֶה יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הַהָר:

The word "וַיַּחֲנֶה" is in the singular - יָחִיד - form, as if it was referring to only one man, but it is referring to the whole nation! רַשִׁי explains this is to teach us that all of the people encamped at הַר סִינַי in unity - אֶחָדוּת - "כְּאִישׁ אֶחָד בְּלֵב אֶחָד" - "as one man, with one heart."

תּוֹרָה stood at הַר סִינַי with one, shared goal - to receive the תּוֹרָה. They put aside their disagreements and disputes and joined together with complete unity, as they prepared themselves to receive the special gift of the תּוֹרָה from ה', Himself.

This teaches us how important it is to have אֶחָדוּת between people. Look in the עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרוֹת - which of these do you think will help us to make אֶחָדוּת if we keep them properly?

questions

1. Who comes to join בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל at the beginning of the פְּרָשָׁה?
2. What were the names of מֹשֶׁה's wife and sons?
3. What did מֹשֶׁה and his father-in-law discuss?
4. What advice did יִתְרוֹ give to מֹשֶׁה?
5. What was set up around the mountain?
6. What is the meaning of the first Commandment?
7. What can you do to fulfil the fifth Commandment?



questions

Parents please sign here if you discussed this Parashah sheet with your child: .....

שִׁבְתָּ שְׁלוֹמָם!