

#### Lesson 4: Makot and Crossing the Yam Suf

A. Learning:

- a. **The Makot:** As we have learned, there were 10 makot, plagues that were sent to Mitzrayim because Pharaoh would not allow the Jews to leave. The makot are dam (blood); tzfardeyah (frogs); kinim (lice); arov (wild beasts); dever (pestilence that kills animals); shechin (boils); barad (hail); arbeh (grasshoppers); choshech (darkness); makat bechrot (death of the first-born son).
- b. The first three makot (dam, tzfardeyah, and kinim) were actually started by Aaron and not Moshe. The blood and the frogs effected the water. Since water saved Moshe when he was a baby, he did not want to hurt the water by putting a plague on it. Likewise, the sand saved Moshe when he hid the Egyptian that he killed for beating a Jewish slave. Because the sand saved Moshe, he did not want to bring the plague of kinim from the sand. The rest of the makot were started by Moshe.
- c. Rabbi Yehuda groups the makot into three parts: dt"ch, ad"sh, bac" av. This is done so that they are easier to remember. In the Torah they were also split into three groups- after each makah, Moshe asked Pharaoh to allow the Jews to go free. After the first two makot in each group Pharaoh said no, then Hashem brought the third makah without a warning as a punishment.
- d. While the makot were happening to the Egyptians, nothing happened to the Jews. For instance, there was no blood in the waters where the Jews lived. During the makah of choshech, darkness, the Jews were able to see even where the Mitzrim lived. They were able to go and take gold and other treasures that Hashem gave them permission to take during that makah.
- e. The rabbis then continue in a discussion about how each makah really equaled a greater number of makot that befell the Mitzrim. Rabbi Yosi says there were a total of 10 makot in Mitzrayim but 50 on the Yam Suf; Rabbi Eliezer says 40 makot in Mitzrayim and 200 on the Yam Suf; and Rabbi Akiva says that there were 50 makot in Mitzrayim and 250 on the Yam Suf. They derive the numbers from how they interpret a pasuk from the Torah. The question we should ask is why each rabbi wanted to prove

that so many makot befell the Mitzrim? The answer is that we are taught that whatever makah happened to the Mitzrim would not happen to Bnei Yisrael. The more makot that happened in Mitzrayim, the less would happen to Israel.

- f. There is a custom when you say the names of the makot to dip out A drop of wine for each makah. We do this because Egyptian people were being killed during the makot. Since wine is a sign of happiness and we should not be happy when any people that Hashem created die, we need to symbolically reduce our happiness by spilling off some of our wine.
- g. Right after we read the makot, we sing Dayenu, the song that expresses gratitude to Hashem for all of the many miracles He has done for us to save the Jewish people from slavery, crossing the Yam Suf, taking us through the desert and feeding us, giving us the Torah, giving us Shabbat, bringing us to Eretz Yisroel, and finally building the Beit Hamikdash. We enumerate many of the miracles to show our gratitude towards Hashem and to remember all the good He has done for us.

B. Cooking Project:

**Edible Makot (10 Plagues)**

Each makah is represented by a type of candy. Make sure the food is pareve as this is during the Seder!

**Dam-** Blood- small cups of red Jell-O or strawberry applesauce.

**Tzfardeyah-** Frogs- 3 Thin cookies, red fruit leather (2 pieces cut in circles same size as cookies and 1 in a strip to make the tongue), 1 grape cut in half for eyes. Stack cookie, fruit leather circle, cookie, fruit leather circle, and cookie. From beneath top cookie place tongue fruit leather strip coming out. Top with grape halves for eyes

**Kinim-** Lice- you can use chocolates with white sprinkles on top or shredded coconut.

**Arov-** Wild animals- gummies shaped like animals, right side up.

**Dever** sick animals- gummie animals or you can get chocolate lollypops shaped as animals

**Shechin-** boils- small round candies like “buttons”

**Barad-** hail- use large marshmallows or gum balls

**Arbeh-** grasshoppers- line up 3 marshmallows. Use 2 raisons for eyes in the first one. Stick small slivers of chocolate jutting out of the other marshmallows for legs.

**Choshech-** darkness- chocolate covered matzah or pareve chocolate pudding

**Makot Bechorot-** killing of the first born: kosher for Passover lady fingers dipped in chocolate spread. 2 raisons or chocolate chips for eyes.



C. Crafts Project:

**Lego Crossing the Yam Suf**

Supplies:

- a. Lots of blue Legos
- b. Lots of flat brown Legos
- c. Lots of people Legos

Directions:

- a. Form a flat floor of brown Legos
- b. On both sides of the floor, attach a wall of blue Legos.
- c. Place people walking through the wall if blue Legos on dry land.

**Felt or Material Crossing the Yam Suf**

Supplies:

- a. A piece of brown felt or material
- b. 2 pieces of blue material that can be bunched up to form walls
- c. Dolls to become the Jewish people

Directions:

- a. Place the brown material you are using down as the seabed.
- b. Bunch the walls of the Yam Suf on both sides of the brown material.
- c. Have the dolls walking through the sea.

Either of these projects could be used as center pieces for the Seder table if there is room.