

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



Parsha: Pekudei

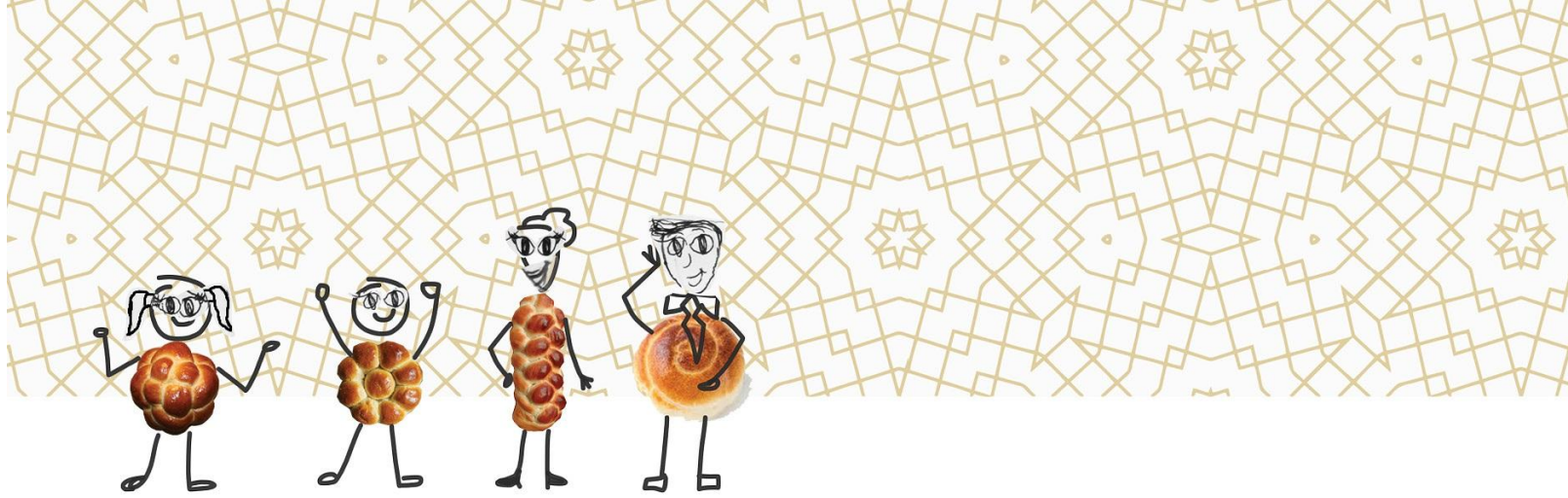
Title: Coming Together to Zoom Way Out

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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

As the book of *Shemot* comes to an end, God instructs *Bnei Yisrael* on the specifications needed to build the Tabernacle (*Mishkan*). This is where they will make sacrifices to God for the remainder of their journey, so it is important that it's built just right. These instructions include how to make the vest of the High



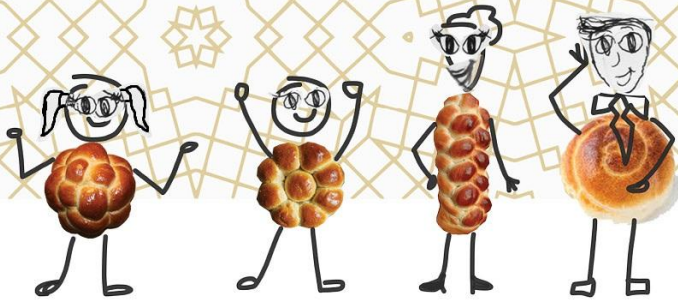
Priest, as well as the symbolic significance of the 12 stones in the vest. Each stone represents one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Israelites complete the work for the Tabernacle, just as God had commanded Moshe, and Moshe blesses them. Moshe then consecrates the Tabernacle and when the work is finished, a cloud of God covers the Tent of Meeting during the day, and a pillar of fire covers it during the night.

Zooming In:

The book of Shemot reverses a pattern that took place in all of *Bereishit*. Bereishit is a book about descent from Paradise (the Garden of Eden) to Egypt. Shemot works backward from that rock-bottom place, and begins the journey that returns the Israelites to a kind of paradise – the Land of Canaan. The difference in the original Paradise and the paradise that the Israelites are now striving towards is that the former is a work of God's perfect creation, while the latter is found in a human world created through a process of trial and error.

Questions for Consideration:

- Have you ever heard about the butterfly effect? The butterfly effect is an idea that the very smallest action can have major repercussions, or consequences, elsewhere in the world, by suggesting that a butterfly flaps its wing and something major happens on the other side of the globe because of it. It is a similar idea to dropping a rock in the water and watching the rings that form grow and continue out across the water's surface.
 - Have you ever done something small and then realized that it had a much greater effect on your family, your school community, or the world, than you thought it would?



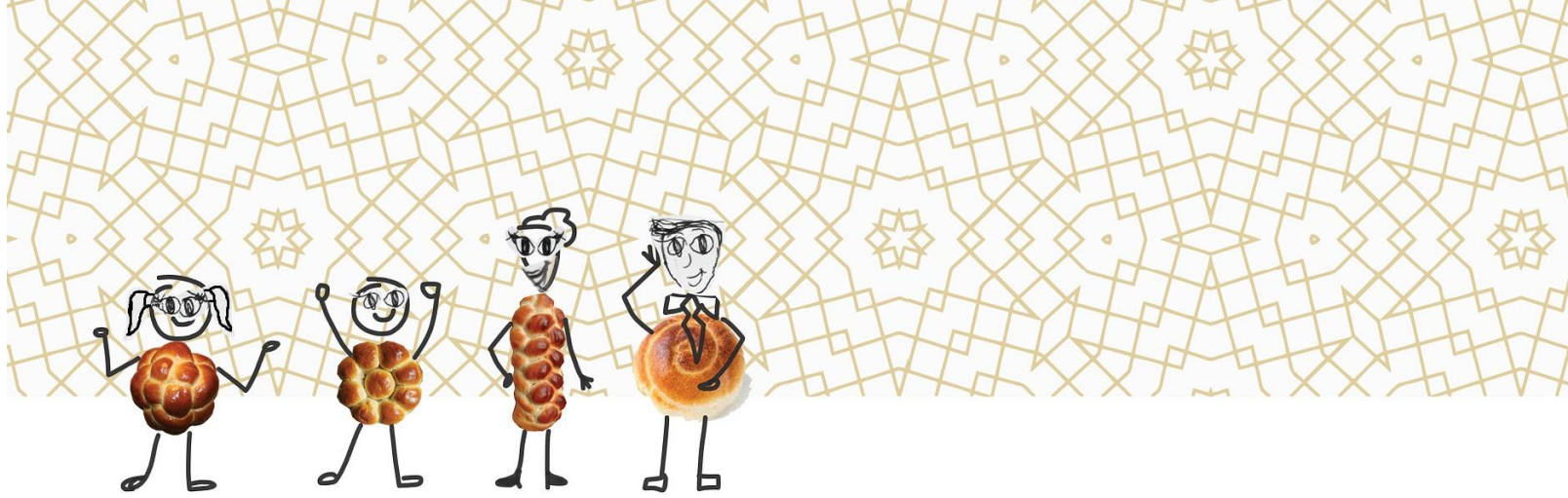
- What parts of the story before *Parshat Pekudei* might have had an impact on the story we read this week? What trial and error had to happen before the Israelites could succeed in the building of the Tabernacle and earn Moshe's blessing?
- In order to receive Moshe's blessing, the Israelites needed to work together as one united people. This unity is what pushes the Israelites to grow. (And this is why the different stones, representing the different tribes, are 'unified' on the High Priest's vest!)
 - What is a situation you've experienced that was challenging by yourself but easier when you worked with a group? Is there an opposite situation you've experienced where it was easier to work alone?

The Parsha Through Another Lens

Game On: Life Consequences

Have one person at your Shabbat table suggest a "small" action that could happen in daily life (for example, you decide to skip school, or you take your dog for a walk, or you take a photo of your best friend posing with her ice cream and forget to turn the flash off). Go around the table as many times as you can, with each person adding a consequence (either positive or negative) that could result from the original action and all of the actions that followed. For example:

1. You take that photo of your friend and her ice cream;
2. Because the flash was on, somebody walking by got distracted;
3. Because they got distracted they bumped into your friend;



4. When they bumped into your friend her ice cream fell on the sidewalk, etc.

Continue until you've zoomed so far out that everyone has a fun understanding of the impact small actions can have.

Shabbat Shalom!