

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



Parsha: Naso

Title: Blessing Our Children

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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

This *parsha* continues to detail the jobs in the *Mishkan*, as well as punishments for violating certain laws. One part of *Parshat Naso* discusses a blessing God tells Moshe about. God says that Aharon and his children, who are *kohanim* (priests), should bless *Bnei Yisrael* with these special words.



Zooming In:

<p>24 May God bless you and watch over you.</p>	<p>כד יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.</p>
<p>25 May God's face shine on you and favor you.</p>	<p>כה יָאֵר יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּחַנְּךָ.</p>
<p>26 May God raise His face towards you and give you peace.</p>	<p>כו יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.</p>

Kohanim today still use this blessing, *Birkat Kohanim*, to bless the congregants in a synagogue in some communities! This blessing is also used on Friday nights before Shabbat. It is said by parents giving their children a blessing.

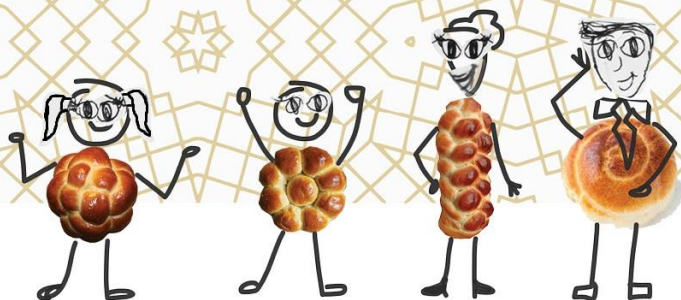
There are three parts to this blessing:

- Protection/feeling safe physically
- Having a safe spirit
- Feeling complete/at peace

After saying the words of the blessing, some parents also take a moment to tell their children something they did during the week that they are proud of.

Questions for Consideration:

- In addition to the traditional words of the blessing, what three-part blessing do you think you would like to receive from your parents before Shabbat?
- Would you want it to be the same words every week for routine and tradition, or would you want the blessing to be different each week?
- Why is Shabbat a good time to be given a blessing for peace? Why is Shabbat a good time to be told something positive about yourself?
- Why is it special that the blessing used for children before Shabbat is the same group of words from the Torah, used to bless Bnei Yisrael?



The Parsha Through Another Lens

The Parsha in Practice:

Part 1: Design your own three-part blessing that you would want to receive as a child using the words that make you feel safe and ready for Shabbat.

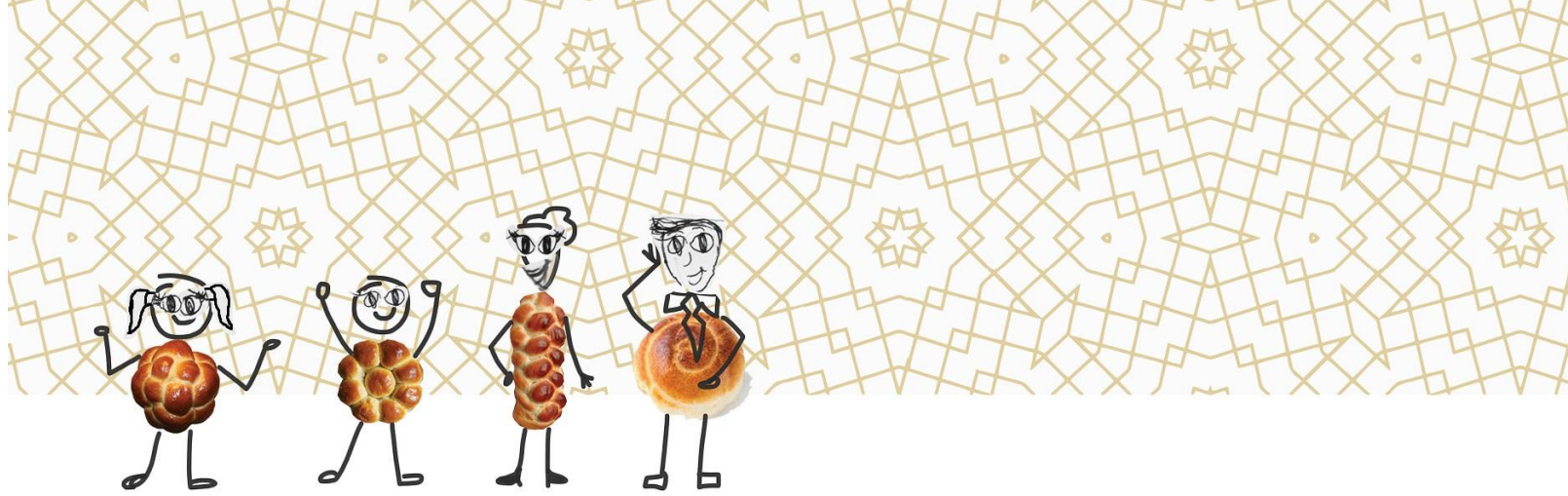
Part 2: Now, design your own three-part blessing that you would want to give your parents to make them feel safe and peaceful.

Here are some optional sentence ideas to get you started:

May you feel _____ and _____.
(emotion or feeling word) (emotion or feeling word)

May you be blessed to have plenty of _____ and _____
(object/idea/ thought/feeling)
_____ in your life.
(object/idea/ thought/feeling)

May you have lots of peace in your life, full of _____ and _____.
(noun or verb) (noun or verb)

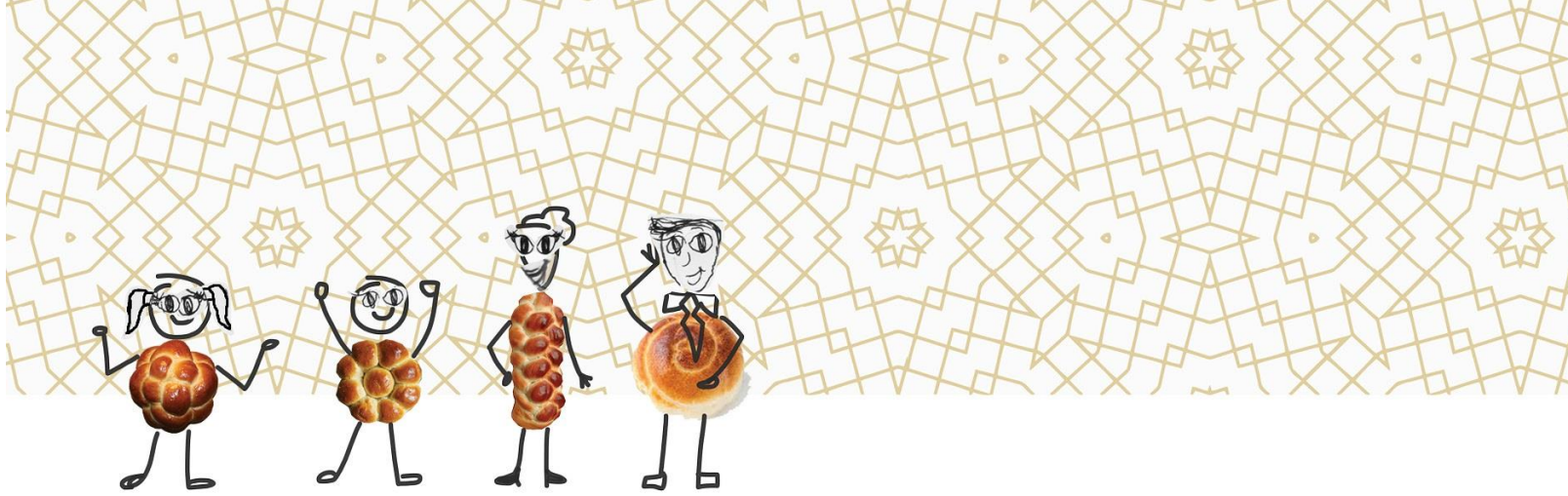


Picture This:

The pictures below depict people giving or receiving blessings for Shabbat, through the ages.

- Which picture do you like the most, and why?
- Which picture do you have a question about?





Where are the picture from? Who made these pictures?

Top left: taken from ritualwell.com

Middle right: Alphonse Levy, 1914

Bottom right- Anton Peczely B 1891, D 1963

Bottom Left- from the JTS library

Shabbat Shalom!