

Parashah Noah

The one with Noah's Ark.

In a time when the world was filled with corruption and vice, one man stood out as a beacon of hope: Noah! He was righteous, a real standout in his generation. Drama unfolded when it was decreed that a great flood would cover the Earth, wiping out all living creatures. But Noah was given an incredible mission. He was told to build a huge ark, and it wasn't any regular ship. This vessel would be gigantic, a true marvel of its age.

Noah got to work and, with dedication and focus, constructed the ark from gopher wood. Designed to perfection, it had three decks and a roof, housing compartments to hold his family and a pair of every animal species. Imagine that: From towering giraffes to tiny insects, they were all aboard!

Then came the rain. It poured and poured for 40 days and nights, flooding the Earth. Yet inside the ark, life thrived. For a whole year, this ark was home to its residents as they sailed over the water-covered world below.

Finally, as floodwaters started to go down, the ark rested on Mount Ararat. Noah sent out a dove to scout the outside world. It returned with an olive branch in its beak. As the door opened, a new beginning awaited Noah and his entourage. The first thing Noah did was express his gratitude for their safe journey, and soon, life started blossoming again on Earth. There were promises made, ensuring that such a flood would never be caused by God again, but it did not promise that humans would not bring another Earth-destroying flood. The promise was marked by the breathtaking sight of a rainbow spanning the sky.

Hello Haftarah

Teen Takeaways from Parashah Noah

1. **Create harmony with nature:** The importance of living in balance with the world around us is clear; it's not just for our benefit, but for the sake of every living creature.
2. **Stay true to yourself:** Just as Noah remained righteous in a world gone astray, teens can stay true to themselves, even when peer pressure surrounds them. It's cool to be unique and stand by your beliefs! There are those who argue that Noah, who was not Jewish, was good only compared to the wicked people in his generation. Had he lived when Abraham lived, he would not be so great by comparison. They were bragging about being Jewish, but some commentators argued that Noah was greater than Abraham because it is more challenging to be good when everyone around you is not so good.
3. **Big projects need time & patience:** Just like building the ark wasn't an overnight task, meaningful projects, whether it's studying for exams or working on personal goals, need time and commitment. Break down big tasks, and tackle them one step at a time.
4. **Adaptability:** The world around Noah changed dramatically, and he had to adapt quickly. Teens, too, face a rapidly changing world, with tech advances, new social challenges, and academic pressures. Being adaptable and open to change can make all the difference!
5. **Value of preparation:** Noah was prepared for the flood. Similarly, when teens prepare for their future, whether it's by studying, learning life skills, or setting goals, they can weather any "storm" life throws at them.
6. **Seek guidance & lean on support:** Noah didn't go through his journey alone; he had his family. Teens should remember that seeking advice and leaning on loved ones during challenging times is not a sign of weakness, but one of strength.
7. **Every ending is a new beginning:** Mistakes, failures, and setbacks happen, but they don't define you. Like the receding waters gave way to a new world, every day presents a chance to start anew and redefine your path.
8. **Embrace the lessons, chase those rainbows,** and remember it's the journey - not just the destination - that shapes the person!