

Statement of purpose

Shalom, and thanks for purchasing one of our “Torah Time Live!” *Parashah* play programs [TTL]. The teaching materials you’ll find inside is just one of Kikayon Productions’ “turn-key solutions” to Jewish education. This means we strive to provide you all the tools you need at your fingertips for a successful lesson or program geared toward Hebrew school children grades 5 and up.

Writer and producer David J. Smolar began writing and crafting the “Torah Time Live!” plays as early as 1995, and these plays have been performed by generations of students and participants, kids and adults, ever since, in synagogues, Hebrew schools, summer camps, and community fundraisers. By performing the Torah stories rather than have a teacher stand in front and teach them to a group, participants and students absorb the story, internalizing it in a way that allows them to recall it later.

Each play covers a different Torah portion, providing a funny yet informative teleplay that students love to perform. At the start, you’ll see a chart listing useful information, all the characters’ names, both in English and in the transliterated form used throughout the play along with proper pronunciation guides for each name. This way, you can be sure that everyone is pronouncing the names of the characters exactly as they appear in the Torah.

Inclusion and outreach are paramount in our minds in creating our plays and programs. We know that not every student is a strong reader or feels like participating every time there’s a fun play to perform. In the opening chart, you’ll also learn in which scenes each character appears and how many lines of dialogue they have, making it simple to divvy up the parts. There are even suggestions of non-speaking roles for kids who just want to pantomime. And throughout the play, you’ll see that each line of dialogue is numbered, making it that much easier to indicate where the group is during a reading in case someone comes in late or an actor loses their place.

As for the material, in addition to the play covering various stories or *mitzvot* taught by in the *parashah*, each play includes a “public service announcement” [PSA] in the middle. This break from the action provides another episode in the continuing adventures of Mitzvah Man, who appears

each time to break up a spat between two siblings, Tzipi and Shlomo. When one's obnoxious behavior pushes the other's breaking point, Mitzvah Man appears to stop the selfishness, wisely point out what's wrong with this picture, then teach the kids about a *middah*, a moral lesson or ethic that seem to be missing. This part of the play may go by quickly but can provide a great opportunity for further discussion afterwards.

Following each TTL play are a series of thought questions, touching on aspects of the stories covered in the play as well as the ethical lesson of the PSA. Feel free to use these questions as you like, either as a review of the Torah story to make sure the participants absorbed the information or as a jumping off point for deeper dives into the moral lessons of the *parashah*. We hope you'll see how these plays can be used for various types of programming, covering anything from a fun ½ hour diversion to a full Torah-oriented activity.

Variations of use

As you'll find out at our website, the TTL *Parashah* play programs can serve a variety of venues:

- Synagogue, as the centerpiece of Shabbat or holiday junior congregation services;
- Hebrew school, as a great classroom teaching tool where kids can just grab the play, figure who's playing what, and act it out with no preparation needed;
- Jewish summer camps and retreat centers, as a fun drama activity that can happen anywhere, for the group or for an audience, especially as a great RAINY DAY ACTIVITY;
- Retirement and convalescent homes, where teens or grown-ups can use the materials with little or no preparation as fun and respectful entertainment for residents and patients;
- Or at home, for holiday parties or family celebrations or just a fun way for kids to act out and burn off energy while learning Torah all the while.

At Kikayon Productions, we create experiential and interactive products for Jewish learning, holidays, and special events. We call our method "Education through Entertainment." And we use plays, improv, art, song, and even food as non-frontal tools for learning. Our teaching materials guide adult leaders and teen mentors through fun and engaging activities while maintaining decorum within an age-appropriate context. Our holiday texts and prayer books offer engaging and insightful elements for worship and celebrations. And we offer all kinds of products and services for your shul's special events, from custom-made original plays and musicals to leading interactive and creative learning workshops at your institution.

This week's *parashah*: "*K'doshim*" including Torah stories told in Leviticus 19:13-14, 19:36, 20:27

Mitzvah Man *middah*: *T'nuva* – Intuition

TTL play synopsis:

In this episode, Israelites learn that treating each other fairly makes the world better all around. And in our PSA, the kids learn to think before they act.

CAST

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Hebrew Name</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Scenes</u>	<u>Lines</u>	<u>Cast Member</u>
Moshe	Mo-SHEH	מֹשֶׁה	Moses	The Israelite leader	1, 2	31	
Aharon	AH-ha-ron	אַהֲרֹן	Aaron	Head of the <i>Kohanim</i>		26	
Elazar	el-aZAR	אֶלְעָזָר		Aharon's sons		13	
Itamar	ee-ta-MAR	אִיתָמָר				18	
Tzipi	TZI-pee	צִפִּי	Birdie	The sister	PSA	25	
Shlomo	SH'LO-mo	שְׁלֹמֹה	Solomon	The brother		24	
Mitzvah Man			Mitzvah Man	The hero		15	
Greg				Various Israelites	1, 2	17	
Neal						23	
Amber					1	10	
*Melted Cheese Shekels				Useless type of money	2		

* Non-speaking role, for kids who don't feel like reading but want to be part of the show.



Preferred Transliteration Key

Note re: Vowels – the first letter in each option is standard, the second is phonetic.

For anything, consistency within a document or set of documents is the highest priority.

A or AH	אָ אַ		L	ל		(nothing)	א
	אַ		M	מ/ם		B	ב
AI or IE	אֵי		N	נ/ן		V	ב
	אֵי		S	ס		G	ג
I or EE	אִי אֵי		' or (nothing)	ע		D	ד
	אִי אֵי		P	פ		H	ה
EI or AY	אֵי אֵי		F	פ/ף		V	ו
	אֵי אֵי		TZ	צ		Z	ז
E or EH	אֵי אֵי		K	ק		CH or <u>H</u>	ח
	אֵי אֵי		R	ר		T	ט
O or OH	אֹו אֹו		SH	שׁ		Y	י
	אֹו אֹו		S	שׂ		K	כ
U or OO	אֹו אֹו		T	ת		KH or CH or <u>H</u>	כ/ך
Standard: ' or (nothing) Phonetic: ih or (nothing)	אֵי						

NOTES:

* Silent Hei (at the end of the word): Including the H is preferred (*lamah*) but if you leave it off (*lama*), be consistent.

** Dagesh: Doubling mid-word letters with a dagesh is optional (*k'hillah* / *k'hilah* are both acceptable), but be consistent throughout.

Narrator: And now, hold onto your Torah...it's TORAH TIME` LIVE!!! [*raucous applause*]

Opening theme: to the tune of “On Top of Old Smoky”

We'll read from the Torah	Before we get antsy	So if you love the Torah
We'll learn from the scrolls	Let's take a new look	From the books one through five
And hear the best story	At what we find this week	Let's act out together
We've ever been told	When we open the Book	At Torah Time Live! [applause]

1 **Scene 1**

2 Narrator: When last we left our heroes, the idea of Torah law was just starting to
3 kick in.

4

5 Moshe: This day is just getting longer.

6 Aharon: I think it's wonderful. The people are really getting into it.

7 Moshe: Would be great if they could just get it together.

8 Greg: Oh, I did not!

9 Elazar: Yes, you did! And you're going to tell them all about it.

10 Aharon: Son, what is this all about?

11 Elazar: Greg did a bad thing.

12 Greg: Oh, come on.

13 Moshe: I take it you don't think you did anything wrong.

14 Elazar: He said his grandpa is old.

15 Greg: He *is* old.

16 Elazar: And fat.

17 Greg: But he is fat! It's true.

18 Moshe: Still, it's not nice to insult people.

19 Aharon: What did your gramps say when you called him those names?

20 Greg: Nothing.

21 Elazar: And why is that, Greg?

22 Greg: He's deaf. He can't hear, OK?

23 Moshe: Ah, but you see, that's the thing.

24 Aharon: He couldn't hear what you said, so he couldn't possibly defend himself,
25 could he?

26 Greg: Well, not if he can't see where I am.

- 1 Moshe: You mean –
- 2 Elazar: His grandpa is blind, too.
- 3 Moshe: OK, let's get this straight. It's a sin to insult a deaf person or put an
4 obstacle in front of a blind person.
- 5 Greg: Oh. If only I had known –
- 6 Elazar: OK, we're done here. Let's go apologize. [exit]
- 7 Moshe: Aharon, you'd hope by now that people would just act the way they
8 should without it being a sin to be mean to other people.
- 9 Itamar: Alright, get in there.
- 10 Neal: You'll get your money, OK?
- 11 Amber: This is atrocious. I worked hard for nothing!
- 12 Aharon: Oh, this sounds bad.
- 13 Itamar: Amber, how long have you been working for Neal?
- 14 Neal: She's been with our family for about a month.
- 15 Amber: Yeah? Try two years, buddy.
- 16 Itamar: Amber helps carry Neal's tote bags through the desert.
- 17 Aharon: A toter?
- 18 Moshe: I hear that's good business.
- 19 Amber: It is when you get paid. That's a guess.
- 20 Neal: Are you saying I'm a cheap boss who didn't pay you the 10 shekels I
21 owed you?
- 22 Amber: I'm getting 10 shekels an hour! And I've been lugging your stuff for 2
23 years!
- 24 Moshe: Neal, how much do you owe Amber?
- 25 Neal: Uh, I'd say, about, maybe...
- 26 Aharon: You know what? That's not even the point.
- 27 Moshe: The Torah says you must pay her immediately, that the sun shouldn't
28 rise in the morning without them getting their due.
- 29 Neal: I'm so sorry. I just didn't think it was all that bad.
- 30 Amber: Well, it was terrible for you to do that to me.
- 31 Itamar: That is true. You should really –
- 32 Amber: You are a horrible, horrible person.
- 33 Moshe: Well, let's just calm –
- 34 Amber: I curse you forever! I will always hate you, and your children, and your
35 children's children...
- 36 Itamar: Oops.
- 37 Aharon: Carrying such hatred of your fellow Israelite is a sin, too.
- 38 Moshe: You really must treat others like you would want to be treated.

1 Amber: But he's a jerk.

2 Itamar: Then forgive him, calm down, and make sure you're not wearing wool
3 and linen at the same time. Because that's now a sin, too.

4 Neal: I'm sorry, I don't see the connection.

5 Itamar: Now THAT I believe.

6

7 Narrator: Will anyone see the connection? Will anyone get it? Is anyone out
8 there? More on the way from TTL after this word from Mitzvah Man.

9

10 **Mitzvah Man PSA**

11 Shlomo: Tzipi, can you get the flour for me, please?

12 Tzipi: Shlomo, how wonderful! You're asking me to help you. That's so
13 encouraging.

14 Shlomo: I know how much we need to help each other, and I'm hoping
15 that, one day, I can do something nice for you too.

16 Tzipi: OK, well, here's the flour jar, but it's almost empty.

17 Shlomo: Oh, that's not good. I need the flour for the cake.

18 Tzipi: Well, isn't that nice! You're making a cake for my birthday?

19 Shlomo: No.

20 Tzipi: Oh, is it for Mom and Dad, because they're so nice to us?

21 Shlomo: No.

22 Tzipi: Who is the cake for?

23 Shlomo: It's for me.

24 Tzipi: For you? What's the special occasion?

25 Shlomo: It's the occasion that I am special and I like cake.

26 Tzipi: Fine. I'll get you a cup of flour.

27 Shlomo: But the recipe says I'll need 5 pounds of flour.

28 Tzipi: Shlomo, I'm not getting you 5 pounds of flour. I can't even lift that
29 much, and it's way on the top shelf.

30 Shlomo: But it says, "5 pounds of flour, 5 pounds of sugar, and about 30
31 eggs."

32 Tzipi: Oh no. You're not going to ask me to get you 30 eggs, are you?

33 Shlomo: Of course not! I can reach the eggs. They're in the fridge. Well,
34 they *were* in the fridge before I took them out and scrambled them
35 all.

36 Tzipi: Shlomo, there's something missing here.

37 Shlomo: You're right. Do we have any pineapples?

38 Mitzvah Man: *fwoorsh* Oh, you'll need more than pineapple for this cake.

1 Both: MITZVAH MAN!
2 Shlomo: I just had a craving for pineapple cake, that's all.
3 Tzipi: You really have no idea what's going on, do you?
4 Mitzvah Man: Shlomo, why do you need so much flour and sugar?
5 Shlomo: Because the recipe said I need it.
6 Tzipi: And did the recipe tell you to use up all the eggs in the house?
7 Mitzvah Man: If you were just to cook 30 eggs and eat them on their own, you
8 think that would be food for just one person?
9 Shlomo: Like the world's most awesome omelet?
10 Tzipi: Uh oh. I've seen that look before.
11 Mitzvah Man: Shlomo, the recipe lists the ingredients for the cake and how to
12 prep and bake the cake. But what does it say at the very top of
13 the recipe?
14 Shlomo: Hmm...it says, "serves 20." Wait, does that mean –
15 Tzipi: It means we're all having cake.
16 Mitzvah Man: What's missing from your recipe is *t'vunah*, insight.
17 Tzipi: Isn't that the same as understanding? I think you've given us
18 that before.
19 Shlomo: How is this different?
20 Mitzvah Man: It's like baking a cake. When you have the recipe, you have
21 knowledge of how to make the cake. When you see how to
22 make it – first you mix all the ingredients, then put the batter in
23 the oven – then you have understanding.
24 Tzipi: Oh, but what if I wanted a chocolate cake instead of vanilla?
25 Strawberry instead of pineapple?
26 Shlomo: Wait, you mean we can bake something without a recipe?
27 Mitzvah Man: When you have *t'vunah*, you can take what you know, what
28 you've learned, and just run with it. Make anything you want!
29 *floorsh*
30 Tzipi: We still have to explain to Mom and Dad what happened to all
31 the eggs.
32 Shlomo: Great. You do that, I'll start working on the next cake.
33 Tzipi: Oh, wonderful! I really don't like pineapple anyway.
34 Shlomo: Well then, how do you feel about crayons? It's your favorite
35 flavor: purple!
36 Tzipi: I refuse to answer that on the grounds that it may make me
37 nauseous.
38
39

1 **Scene 2**

2 Narrator: We now return you to *Parashat K'doshim*, already in progress. The
3 wackiness continues.

4

5 Greg: Anyone home?

6 Aharon: I think we need a door on this tent.

7 Elazar: Sorry, Dad, he just snuck by me.

8 Greg: No problem. Here's a gold piece.

9 Moshe: Why does that gold smell like cheese?

10 Elazar: We've had complaints, Greg.

11 Greg: Oh? About going back to Egypt, right?

12 Aharon: No, we're getting complaints about you.

13 Moshe: People say you're paying them unfairly.

14 Greg: Really? I pay them what they ask for.

15 Elazar: What about that shirt? The seller told me he charged you 2 shekels for
16 that shirt.

17 Greg: I paid him 2. I don't understand.

18 Aharon: You paid him 2 shekels?

19 Greg: Yes. Two CB shekels.

20 Moshe: I'm sorry, I'm unfamiliar with –

21 Elazar: He means “cheese-based” shekels.

22 Aharon: Whoa, that's not kosher.

23 Greg: Well, they're dairy.

24 Moshe: You may not falsify weights or measures. The Torah says that a shekel
25 is a shekel and that's that.

26 Aharon: We all have to agree on what we'll use for money. Anything else is
27 cheating.

28 Greg: I see your point. But still –

29 Elazar: What?

30 Greg: My shekels are good with crackers.

31 Aharon: Son, can you please get him out of here?

32 Moshe: Now, who's next?

33 Neal: I am next!

34 Aharon: Oh great.

35 Neal: I knew I was next. I've always known.

36 Itamar: Neal, you're just freaking us all out here.

37 Moshe: What is this all about? Haven't we already –

38 Neal: Seen me today? Yes, you have.

1 Itamar: We have had complaints –
2 Neal: About me? So I have heard.
3 Moshe: You know, that's –
4 Neal: So annoying when I finish people's sentences? It is my talent, for I can
5 see the future.
6 Aharon: Really?
7 Neal: In fact, right now you're thinking I'm blowing your mind.
8 Itamar: That's mind-reading, not prognostication.
9 Neal: Progn – huh?
10 Aharon: That's when you can –
11 Neal: Tell the future? Actually, to be perfectly honest –
12 Moshe: Good start...
13 Neal: I can't tell the future.
14 Itamar: *sigh* Then why did you embarrass me by making me bring you back
15 here?
16 Neal: It is not I who reads the future! It is...the spirits!
17 Aharon: The spirits? You mean, you have ghosts come and tell you what's
18 going to happen?
19 Neal: They whisper the great secrets of the universe to me.
20 Moshe: OK, give us one. I'd like to hear one secret of the universe.
21 Itamar: I'm not sure that's such a good idea.
22 Aharon: Just one, please.
23 Neal: If you stay out in the sun too long, you'll burn.
24 Moshe: I'm waiting for the great secret.
25 Itamar: I think that was it.
26 Aharon: You know what? We're just going to get everyone together again, all
27 the heads of the tribes, and give them copies of everything, and then
28 everyone will know what's right and what's wrong.
29 Moshe: Starting with, "Don't talk to ghosts or do witchcraft or stuff like that."
30 Because it's wrong, that's why.
31 Itamar: There is only one Almighty Creator, so going and looking for another is
32 nutty in so many ways.
33 Neal: Gentlemen, I have sinned, again, and I am sorry.
34 Moshe: Now you'd better go or your pomegranate pie will burn.
35 Neal: *gasp* How did you know?
36 Aharon: He's the prophet, kid.
37 Itamar: And your tunic is totally stained with crimson-color, yummy-smelling
38 blotches.

- 1 Neal: Guess I've been caught "red-handed."
- 2 Moshe: *pause* Get out.
- 3
- 4 Narrator: And so, a simple sense of right and wrong began to sink in.
- 5 Hopefully.
- 6 Next week: Is the world to be blind and toothless?

Closing theme: to the tune of "On Top of Old Smoky"

We read from the Torah	But we have to move on now	So if you love the Torah
We learned from the scrolls	This <i>parashah</i> is done	From the books one through five
We heard the best story	We bet that the next one	Come join us here next week
We've ever been told	Will be even more fun	For Torah Time Live!

QUESTIONS:

1. What do say to a non-Jewish friend to explain a *mitzvah* that has no obvious explanation beyond "God said so"?
2. How can false prophecy become dangerous?
3. How is insight different from telling the future?