

Parashat Pinchas for Kids

Torah reading: Numbers 25:10-30:1

Read on Shabbat: July 4, 2026 · July 24, 2027 · July 15, 2028 (diaspora)

THE STORY IN TWO MINUTES

What happens in this parasha?

The people are almost ready to enter the Land of Israel, so Moshe counts everyone — a great census, family by family — and begins dividing the land: each tribe and family will receive its own nachalah, its own portion to call home.

Then come five sisters: Machlah, Noa, Choglah, Milkah, and Tirtzah — the daughters of Tzlofchad. Their father had died, and they had no brothers. Under the rules so far, their family's portion would simply vanish. So they walk up to Moshe, in front of the Kohen and all the leaders, and ask: “Why should our father’s name disappear? Give us our portion of the land.”

Moshe doesn’t guess. He brings their question straight to Hashem — and Hashem says: the sisters are right. They receive their family’s portion, and the Torah’s law changes for every family like theirs, forever. A brave, respectful question — asked in the right way, in the right place — became part of the Torah itself.

Then Moshe, who knows he will not enter the land, asks Hashem to choose the next leader so the people will never be “like sheep without a shepherd.” Hashem chooses Yehoshua — the same Yehoshua who stood brave with Kalev when the scouts were afraid. Moshe places his hands on Yehoshua’s head in front of everyone, sharing his honor with a full and generous heart. The parasha closes with the calendar of offerings — the daily tamid, Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, and the holidays — the steady heartbeat of the Mishkan.

THE ONE BIG IDEA

Speaking up — bravely, respectfully, and in the right way — can change everything. The daughters of Tzlofchad didn't shout and didn't give up; they asked, and the Torah itself made room for them.

READY TO TEACH · AGES 5-9

The 30-minute lesson

1 Tell the story

6 MIN

Lead with the five sisters — use their names (Machlah, Noa, Choglah, Milkah, Tirtzah); kids love that the Torah remembers all five. Then Yehoshua's appointment.

2 Wonder together

5 MIN

Ask: “The sisters had a problem nobody had thought about. Why do you think they asked instead of staying quiet — and why did asking work?”

3 Learn the Hebrew word

4 MIN

This week's word: *nachalah* — a family's portion of the land, an inheritance. Every family got one; the sisters made sure theirs wasn't forgotten.

4 Play “The Fair Question”

10 MIN

Role-play: your child brings a “case” to the family (a rule that feels unfair — bedtime? whose turn?). They must ask the Tzlofchad way: calmly, with a reason. Grown-up listens and answers seriously — maybe the rule even changes.

5 Wrap up with hands on the head

5 MIN

Tell them how Moshe blessed Yehoshua with his hands — the same way parents bless children on Friday night. If it's your custom, practice the moment. End by asking: “What would YOU want to be brave enough to ask this week?”

HEBREW, ONE WORD AT A TIME

This week's Hebrew words

SAY IT	WHAT IT MEANS	HEBREW
<i>b'not Tzlofchad</i>	The daughters of Tzlofchad — the five brave sisters	בנות צִלְפַּחַד
<i>nachalah</i>	A family's portion of the land — an inheritance	נַחֲלָה
<i>Yehoshua</i>	Joshua — chosen to lead after Moshe	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ
<i>manhig</i>	A leader	מְנַהֵיג
<i>ro'eh</i>	A shepherd — Moshe asked that the people never be without one	רוֹעֵה
<i>tamid</i>	“Always” — the daily offering, the Mishkan's steady heartbeat	תָּמִיד

AT THE SHABBAT TABLE

Three questions to ask

- The sisters asked their question in front of everyone. What makes asking a hard question easier — and who would you bring yours to?
- Moshe blessed the person who would take his place, with a whole heart. Why is that hard? Why is it beautiful?

- What's one thing in our family that happens tamid — always, every single day — that we'd miss if it stopped?

A GENTLE NOTE FOR PARENTS

The parasha is named for Pinchas and opens by referring back to a grown-up, difficult episode at the end of last week's reading. For K–3, you can skip it entirely with a clear conscience — the heart of this portion for children is the census, the five sisters, and Yehoshua. If a child asks who Pinchas was, “a kohen who acted to protect the people, and Hashem gave him a blessing of peace” is a complete and honest answer at this age.

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