

# Parashat Re'eh for Kids

Torah reading: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Read on Shabbat: August 8, 2026 · August 28, 2027 · August 19, 2028 (diaspora)

## THE STORY IN TWO MINUTES

### What happens in this parasha?

Moshe gathers the whole nation, looks out at all the children and grown-ups, and says one bright word: Re'eh — “See!” See, he tells them, today I am putting in front of you a blessing and a choice. It is like opening your eyes in the morning to a brand-new day. Hashem gives us good paths to walk and the freedom to choose them — and the wonderful secret is that we don't choose just once. Every single day we get to choose kindness, choose mitzvot, choose the good way. That is the gift hiding inside the word “See.”

So what does choosing good look like? Moshe gives one of the gentlest, clearest mitzvot in the whole Torah. When you see someone who has less than you — someone hungry, someone who needs help — open your hand to them, and do not harden your heart. This is tzedakah: sharing what we have so that everyone has enough. A little tzedakah box on the kitchen counter, a coin dropped in before Shabbat, a sandwich shared — these are small hands opening wide, exactly the way the Torah asks.

Then Moshe talks about simchah — joy — and he makes the joy big enough for everyone. When we celebrate Hashem's holidays, the Torah says: you shall rejoice — you, and your children, and the helper in your house, and the stranger, and the child with no parents, and the grandmother all alone. Nobody is left outside the happiness. Real Jewish joy always saves a seat at the table. When we make sure the person beside us is smiling too, our own simchah grows even brighter.

Moshe also names three special times each year when the whole people would travel up to the place Hashem chose — later, this is Yerushalayim, our heart-home. These are the shalosh regalim, the three pilgrimage festivals: Pesach in the spring, Shavuot when the Torah was given, and Sukkot in the fall. Families packed up and went together, singing on the road. We don't live in Israel, but when these holidays come around our calendar, our hearts still turn toward Yerushalayim — and we celebrate, full of joy and gratitude, right where we are.

#### THE ONE BIG IDEA

Every single day, Hashem lets us choose good — and Re'eh shows us exactly what good looks like: opening our hand to someone who has less, and making our joy big enough to include everyone. We don't choose once; we get to choose again every morning.

## READY TO TEACH · AGES 5–9

## The 30-minute lesson

- 1 Tell the story** 6 MIN

Start with Moshe's big word — "Re'eh! See!" — and the gift of choosing good every day. Then the two pictures of what good looks like: opening your hand (tzedakah) and joy that includes everyone. Finish with the three festivals when families traveled up toward Yerushalayim.
- 2 Wonder together** 5 MIN

Ask: "Moshe says we get to choose good every single day, not just once. What is one good thing you already chose today — and what is one you could still choose before bedtime?"
- 3 Learn the Hebrew word** 4 MIN

This week's word: tzedakah — giving to someone who has less. Say it slowly together. Talk about the Torah's picture: "open your hand, do not harden your heart." Open your own hand wide as you say it.
- 4 Make a tzedakah box** 10 MIN

Decorate an empty jar or box together and cut a coin slot in the lid. Write (tzedakah) on the front. Drop in the first coin right away, and pick a spot — the kitchen counter is perfect — where the whole family can "open their hand" before Shabbat each week.
- 5 Wrap up with a wide-open hand** 5 MIN

End with the week's gentle promise: tomorrow is a brand-new day to choose good again. Ask each child to name one person they could include or help this week — and remind them that making someone else's simchah bigger makes ours bigger too.

## HEBREW, ONE WORD AT A TIME

## This week's Hebrew words

SAY IT	WHAT IT MEANS	HEBREW
<i>Re'eh</i>	See! — Moshe's big opening word: see, you get to choose good	רָאָה
<i>berachah</i>	A blessing — the good Hashem sets in front of us	בְּרָכָה
<i>bechirah</i>	A choice — every day we get to choose the good way	בְּחִירָה
<i>tzedakah</i>	Giving to someone who has less — "open your hand"	צְדָקָה
<i>simchah</i>	Joy — the kind big enough to include everyone	שִׂמְחָה
<i>shalosh regalim</i>	The three festivals — Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot	שְׁלוֹשׁ רִגְלִים

## AT THE SHABBAT TABLE

## Three questions to ask

- Moshe says we get to choose good every single day. What good thing will you choose tomorrow morning?
- The Torah says to "open your hand" to someone who has less. Who is one person you could open your hand to this week?
- At the holidays, the Torah makes sure everyone is invited to the joy. Who is someone you would want to make sure isn't left out of the fun?

### A GENTLE NOTE FOR PARENTS

Re'eh opens with the literal words "a blessing and a curse" — but for K–3 we frame it warmly and truthfully as "a blessing and a choice," keeping the spotlight on the joyful side: every day we get to choose good. The portion also includes grown-up instructions warning the people to stay far away from anything that would pull them away from Hashem. That part isn't for young children, and you can skip it with a clear conscience — the heart of Re'eh for kids is choosing good, tzedakah, and joy that includes everyone. If your child asks, "the Torah is reminding the grown-ups to stay close to Hashem and stay away from things that pull us away — we'll learn more about that part when we're older" is a calm, honest answer.

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