

BHKids

Lag b'Omer



ISSUE #3

 Be'Ezrat
HaShem
www.BeEzratHaShem.org

Hi, kids!

Baruch HaShem, the THIRD issue of BH Kids is here!
We've counted, and counted, and it's finally here: Lag b'Omer!
We've counted 33 days, that means that we're halfway through,
and are almost up to Shavuot!
While you're waiting for the bonfire to begin, you can enjoy
this magazine.

Have fun on Lag b'Omer!
Miriam Tamar

Questions or comments are welcome to be sent to
bhkids@beezrathashem.org



Learn with **Danny**
which Mitzvot
we can do when
eating breakfast **2**

Get ready to
celebrate in
Lag b'Omer Fun **3**

Dream about
candy together
with **Silly Gilly** **4**

Find out what
happened to
Rabbi Shimon Bar
Yochai in the Cave **5**

Learn How to
draw a Bonfire
in 6 simple
steps **8**

*And
much more...*

Doing Mitzvot with Danny



Kids, I'm going on a picnic with my school today in honor of Lag b'Omer. I'm so excited to get to school! But first, I have to eat breakfast. Join me, and let's learn a few new Mitzvot!



Mmm, cookies! Say the blessing of Mezonot before eating them, like this:



*Baruch Atah HaShem
Elokeinu Melech
HaOlam Borei Minei
Mezonot*



Now for the milk! Before drinking it, let's say the blessing of Shehakol, like this:



*Baruch Atah HaShem
Elokeinu Melech
HaOlam Shehakol
Nihiya Bidvaro*



That was easy!
If I can do it, you
can do it too!

TIP:
If you want an extra Mitzvah, help your mother by cleaning the table after yourself, and don't forget to thank her!

LAG B'OMER FUN

I'll grab the boards; you take the wood.
Lag b'Omer is done as it should.
Pile them up so big and so high,
In honor of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.
Daddy will light the fire now.
It catches first onto an old bough.
The flames jump and dance,
Die down for a minute, then leap and prance.
Thirty-three days we have counted to.
Before this day, some things we couldn't do;
get a haircut, an adult or a child,
listen to music, even if it's mild,
get married, wear brand new clothes,
we were not allowed yet, as everyone knows.
But now, turn up the volume full sound!
The fire is burning to the ground.
Lots of marshmallows to be found.
There's more wood to be thrown in,
and potatoes must be put in a tin.
The boys are dancing.
The fire's prancing.
Chairs lined up in a neat row,
then come guests with food in tow.
We dance and sing,
eat everything,
put out the fire, say goodbye,
all for Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai!



Silly Gilly

DREAMS ABOUT CANDY ON LAG B'OMER



Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai in the Cave

In a land where Romans reigned,
Rabbi Shimon and his kin,
faced a decree, a darkened din.
Rabbi Yehuda, with a sigh,
praised the Romans passing by.
But Rabbi Shimon, wise and brave,
spoke of justice, and would not be swayed.
His words, like whispers on the breeze,
spread afar, beyond the trees.
To the wicked Roman king they flew,
stirring anger, a fiery brew.
With their lives at stake,
Rabbi Shimon and his son escaped.

**They hid away from Roman wrath,
in a cave they found their path.**

**HaShem made a carob tree
and spring to sustain them,
staying safe with Torah study
and Emunah in HaShem.**

**Twelve long years,
they prayed and learned,
their faith was bold,
no complaints were heard.**

**Then Eliyahu HaNavi was sent from high.
He brought the news that made their spirits fly.**

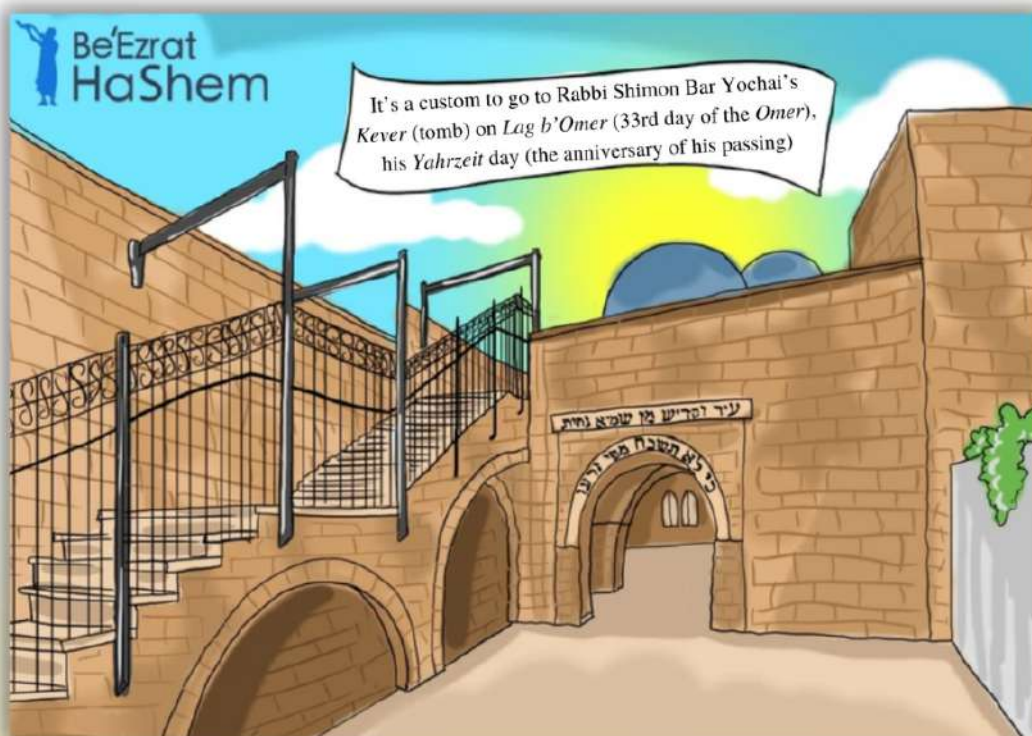
The emperor's reign had met its end.

Rabbi Shimon and his son could return again.

**They emerged from the cave,
to the world now free,**

**They saw men toiling,
how could it be?!**

**But a voice from above, strong and clear,
reminded them, why they were here.
Not to burn the world with ire,
but to kindle it with holy fire.
With hearts renewed, they understood,
the power of Torah, pure and good.
And as they journeyed, hand in hand,
they blessed the Shabbat in the land.
So let us learn from Rabbi Shimon's tale,
in every hill and every dale,
to speak the truth, to stand up for the right,
and bathe the world in the Torah's pure light.**

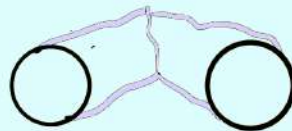


How To Draw A BONFIRE in six simple steps

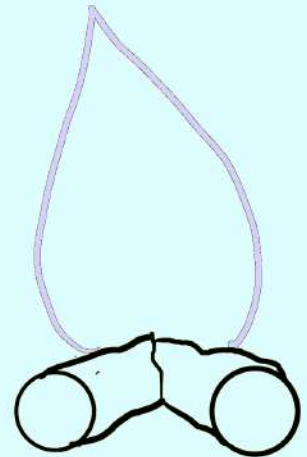
draw 2 circles



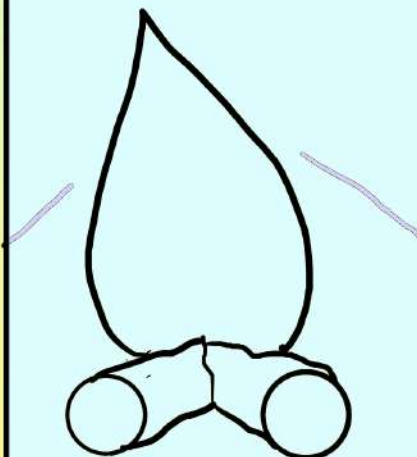
draw lines to
make logs



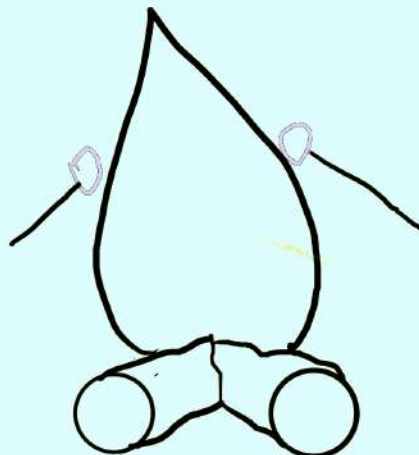
make the flame



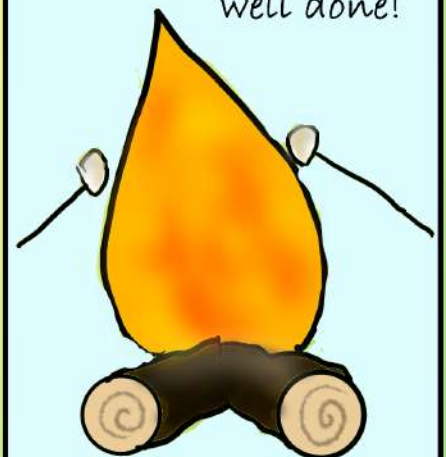
and 2 sticks



make marshmallows
on each stick



color.
well done!



The Greatest Sage of The Generation

Many years ago, there was a very rich man who lived in Jerusalem named Kalba Savua. Everybody loved and respected him, not because of his money, but rather because of his good heart and generosity. Any poor or hungry person could walk right into Kalba Savua's house, and get all kinds of delicious food, free of charge.

Kalba Savua had a one and only daughter, Rachel, who was good hearted just like her father. Rachel was also very righteous, pretty and smart, she was the daughter of the richest person around, and she came from a house full of Chessed (kindness).

It's no wonder that as soon as Rachel was old enough to get married, everyone wanted to marry her. The best Torah scholars in Jerusalem were trying their luck, but Rachel didn't want to marry any of them.

Are you confused? So was her father, who couldn't understand why she refused such good offers. Imagine how shocked Kalba Savua was, when Rachel came over to him one day, and told him that she wanted to marry one of his shepherds, Akiva, who was 40 years old and

didn't even know how to read or write!

In the beginning, Kalba Savua tried to explain to her that it made no sense, but Rachel insisted that Akiva had good Middot (manners) and that's why she wanted to marry him. Kalba Savua got very upset that Rachel wanted to marry someone who didn't know Torah at all, and said angrily: "if you marry Akiva, I will never give you any money! You'll live in poverty for the rest of your life and I will do nothing to help you!" Although Rachel grew up like a princess her entire life, she didn't even hesitate. "So will it be", she said.

She went over to Akiva and asked him: "if I marry you, do you agree to go learn Torah?" Akiva was very surprised; in his best dreams he could not imagine that he would marry Rachel! He surely agreed, and they got married.

From her father's luxurious house, Rachel moved into a barn together with her new husband, Akiva. They lived in poverty. Instead of her soft fancy bed she used to have in her father's house, Rachel had to sleep on some hay. Rachel, who was surrounded by servants her entire life, had to work really hard now so they could get some food to eat. Life was hard but Rachel didn't care, she knew she was doing the right thing.

Then came the time for Akiva to keep his word and start learning Torah, but he didn't even know how to read. He would have to go to pre-school with all the little kids to



learn how to read, but he was so embarrassed. He was 40 years old, and he would have to sit in the same classroom with some 4-year-olds. Everyone would laugh and make fun of him.

Rachel had an idea. She got a donkey with a sagging back. She filled up the sagging part of the back with some soil and planted some plants on the donkey's back. She told Akiva to take the donkey to the market and let her know how it went. Akiva came back and said that everyone stopped and laughed at the odd donkey. The next day, only some people laughed. By the third day, no one laughed anymore because they had already got used to it. "See?" said Rachel, gesturing towards the donkey, who was now braying loudly. "At first, everyone will laugh at you, then only some people will, and eventually nobody will care, and it won't even seem funny!"

Akiva finally agreed to go and learn Torah.

The Rabbi faced the class. "Boys, we have a new student: Akiva." Akiva walked in. There was a moment of silence. Then the boys burst into gales of laughter. The next day when Akiva walked in, some boys laughed half-heartedly. And the next day, no one did. He was part of the class. However, starting to learn Torah at the age of 40 was not easy for Akiva. He just couldn't understand anything, no matter how hard he tried, and he was about to give up.

Then one day, as he was walking toward Yeshiva, he heard a sound. A dripping sound. A dropping sound. What he saw was a dripping well. Under the well, there was a big rock. Around the well were a few boys. But the most interesting part was that in the middle of the rock there was a hole. The dripping water was hitting the rock. Hard. That was the dripping sound! "How come there's a hole in the middle of the rock, boys?" Asked Akiva in astonishment. One of the boys answered: "the water has been hitting that rock for years now. Slowly but constantly the water drops created this hole in the hard rock." Akiva grinned broadly, 'if the water was able to cut through this hard stone, then surely The Torah can cut through and enter my heart.'

THINK ABOUT IT...
Rabbi Akiva shows us that it's never too late to start learning Torah!

From that moment on, Akiva started learning seriously. He went to a Yeshiva and learned there for 12 whole years. Meanwhile, poor Rachel was struggling. She slept on straw in their barn. She struggled to buy food. Her clothes were ripped. After 12 years Akiva returned and now he was 'Rabbi Akiva'.

He was just about to enter their barn when he heard someone talking to Rachel. He stopped outside and listened. It was their neighbor! "I'm telling you Rachel," he was saying. "Look at you, poor and starving, struggling here while your husband is away and who knows what he's doing right now!" Rachel turned firmly towards the neighbor. "Had my husband heard me right



now, I would have told him to go back and learn another 12 years." She cried. When Akiva heard that, he turned around and went right back to Yeshiva. Another 12 years passed!

24 years after Akiva left, he finally returned again, but this time he was not alone. Everyone in Jerusalem went out to welcome Rabbi Akiva and his 24,000 students. Among those who welcomed him was one lady, skinny, wrinkled and pale, dressed in tattered clothing. It was Rachel. She pushed ahead of the crowd and when she got to her husband she kneeled and started kissing his feet.

Everyone stared. Who was this woman in tattered clothing kissing their holy Rabbi's feet? They thought she was a crazy lady and wanted to push her away. But Rabbi Akiva stopped them. "Leave her alone," he said. "All the Torah that I have learned and all the Torah that you all have learned, is all thanks to her. She is the one that encouraged me to go and learn Torah".

In the meantime, Kalba Savua was feeling horrible about his promise not to support his only daughter Rachel. There she was, poor and alone. But he knew he couldn't break his promise, unless a big Rabbi finds a way out of it for him.

Kalba Savua heard that a big Torah scholar just came to Jerusalem and so he decided to ask Rabbi Akiva for help. He could have never imagined that Rabbi Akiva was that poor and ignorant shepherd who used to work for him.

When Rabbi Akiva heard his problem he said, "would you have made that promise if Akiva knew some Torah?" He shook his head. "He didn't even know how to read!" Rabbi Akiva tried to hide a little smile, "What if that shepherd knew a lot of Torah and were like me?" "Of course not!" cried Kalba Savua, "I would have never made such a promise even if he knew just some Torah"! "Well," said Rabbi Akiva smiling, "I am the shepherd that used to work for you! Thanks to your righteous daughter Rachel, I became who I am. Therefore, your promise is cancelled, and you are not obligated to keep it anymore," he said.

Kalba Savua was delighted. He immediately gave Rabbi Akiva and Rachel a half of all his money, and they lived peacefully for the rest of their lives.

How amazing, Akiva did not give up until the words of Torah got into his heart, and then the light of Torah lit his step everywhere. You too, dear readers, can rise to the challenge. Never give up on learning Torah, and BeEzrat HaShem you will emerge triumphant in the end.





bHkids

The Stage is YOURS

Share pictures of your Torah themed art with us, so other kids just like you all around the world can be inspired by your creativity and love of Torah.

Pictures of your drawings, crafts, clay, and almost any form of art, can be submitted, as long as it's Torah based.

Please send your Torah art along with a short description of what you created, to

bhkids@beezrathashem.org

Don't forget to include your first name, last initial, age, and city where you live.

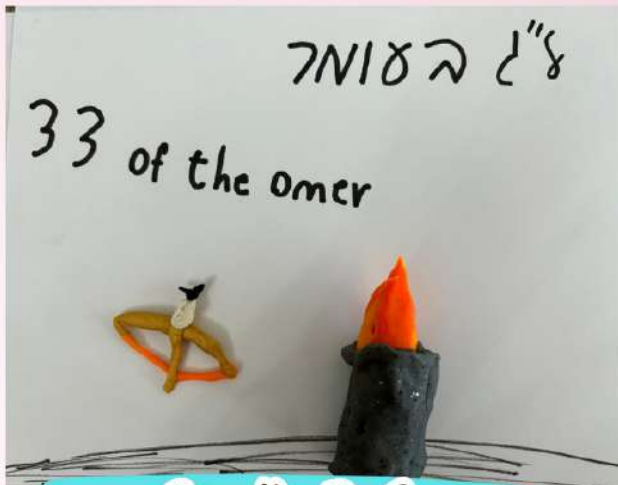
We can't wait to see what Torah Art
you make next!

BH Kids

LAG B'OMER

art

Fire, bow & arrow



Avadia R., 6
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Lag b'Omer fire



Sarah R., 8
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Lag b'Omer bonfire



Shira Nechama N., 6
Toms River, NJ

Fire, bow & arrow



Yosef R., 5
Fort Lauderdale, FL

other BH Kids TORAH ART

Mashiach ben David & Mashiach ben Yosef



*Avadia R., 6
Font Lauderdale, FL*

The Kohen Gadol



*Eliana Z., 5
Jerusalem, Israel*

**“Love your friend as
you love yourself”**



*Miriam Tamar N., 9
Toms River, NJ*

Eye-Spy Lag b'Omer



Match The Bonfire to Its Shadow

