



## Tu B'Shevat themed Shabbat Mishpacha

Submitted by: *Marcia Seigal*

**Subject Area:** Jewish Living and Identity, Holidays, Prayer, Jewish History, Culture & Art.

**Target Age Group:** Families with young children ranging from preschoolers to first graders.

### **Lesson Objective:**

To teach about Tu B'Shevat and to create a comfortable learning environment that helps families with young children integrate Jewish traditions and customs into the fabric of their lives as well as connect to the synagogue. The program attracts many families with young children who are seeking an opportunity to meet other Jews within their demographic. It also appeals to interfaith families who do not possess the skill set to create a Jewish experience and want to gain exposure to Jewish living.

### **Summary:**

The program begins with a short Shabbat service which includes Hinei Mah Tov, The Shalom Song, Modeh Ani, Barchu, Shema, Mi Chamocha, and Miriam's Song as well as a closing song and story connected to Tu B'Shevat. Possible books to choose from include Dance, Sing, Remember – A Celebration of Jewish Holidays by Leslie Kimmelman and Sammy Spider's First Tu B'Shevat by Sylvia A. Rouss. Nametags are provided for families as they arrive, as well as instruments for children to play during the service.

After the service, everyone participates in the blessings over the wine and the challah. Fruits from a typical Tu B'Shevat seder along with explanations of why we eat them are available for children to snack on. A copy of A Seder for Tu B'Shevat by Harlene Winnick Appelman and Jane Sherwin Shapiro as well as a JNF tzedakah can is also on display. Next, children may choose from a variety of activities and art projects. Children may concentrate on just one activity, or they can try their hand at them all. Possibilities include planting parsley seeds (see appendix for more information) and participating in a Tu B'Shevat birthday

 <p>Chidush חידוש Sweetening Jewish Education</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tu B'Shevat themed Shabbat Mishpacha</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submitted by: <i>Marcia Seigal</i></p> <hr/>
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party. Plain paper and crayons are also available for children to illustrate their favorite part of Tu B'Shevat.

Finally, the program concludes with the singing of Shalom Chaverim, as well as an invitation to attend next month's program. Handouts relating to Tu B'Shevat are distributed to parents as they leave.

#### **APPENDIX:**

#### **Planting Parsley Seeds**

You will need:

Small pots  
Potting soil  
Parsley seeds  
Paper cups

What you do:

- 1) Scoop the soil into the pot with paper cups. Fill most of the way up.
- 2) Press a few seeds gently into the soil. Then cover with about 1/4" of soil.
- 3) Take home and place in a sunny spot and water when needed to keep the soil slightly moist.
- 4) Seeds should start sprouting in 2-3 weeks.

You can use some of the parsley later in the spring during Passover.