

THE PARSHA EXPERIMENT

PARSHAT SHEMINI: WHY KEEP KOSHER?

TEACHER'S GUIDE



POINTS TO PAUSE



DISCUSSION TOPICS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BEFORE THE VIDEO 	→	Why do we keep kosher?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:40 	→	Why can we eat animals?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30 	→	Why was there a change?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:11 	→	How can mankind ensure that it won't delude itself into forgetting God and thinking that mankind is in control?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:36 	→	Why should that be true?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFTER THE VIDEO 	→	What is the point of eating only kosher animals?



FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

David Block and Immanuel Shalev discuss how kashrut is a way of keeping up connected to our Source.

Thinking about our own lives, how does kashrut help connect you to God? What other systems in Jewish tradition? What systems in your life in general keep you connected to others as well as God?

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Why did God grant permission to eat animals?

What kinds of animals chew their cud and have split hooves?

What is the reason for kashrut?



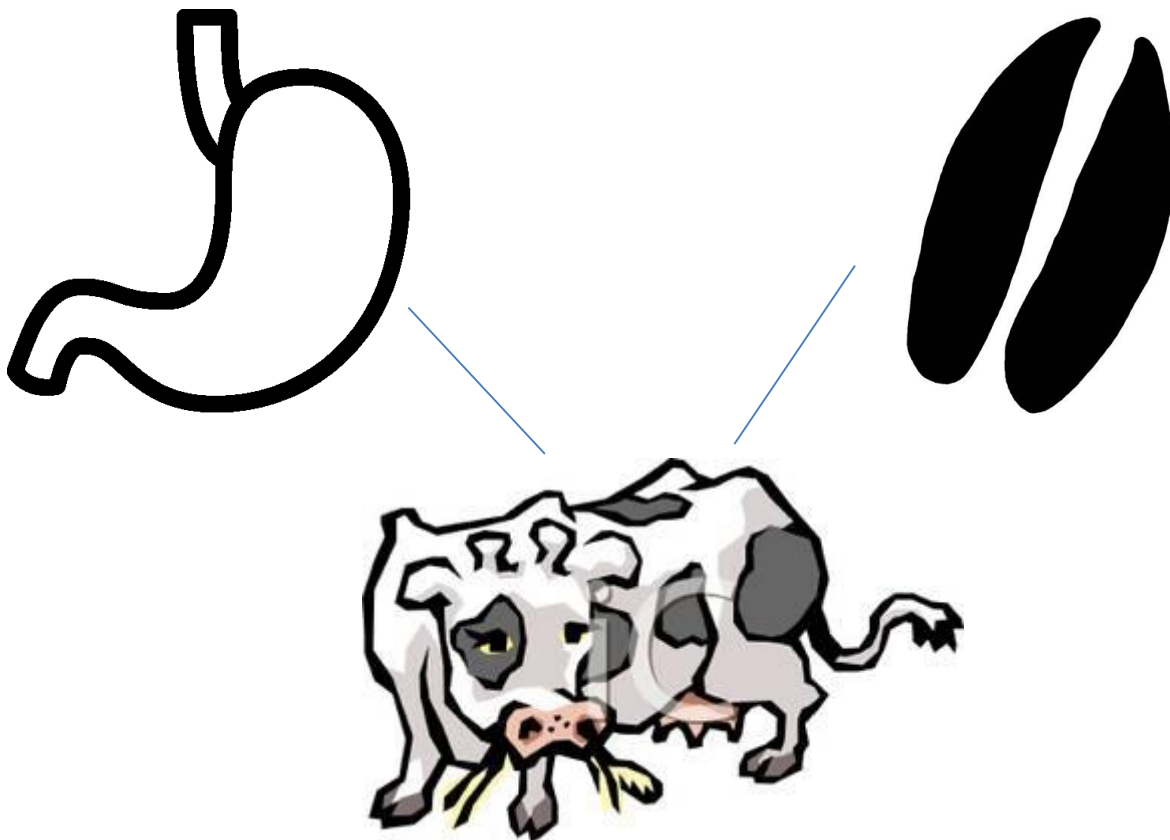
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STUDENT GUIDE

A Timeline: As you watch the video, use the timeline below to note the order of the important events and narratives.



Graphic: As you watch the video, use the graphic below to make notes about the criteria for kosher animals and the reason for kashrut in general.



PARSHAT SHEMINI: WHY KEEP KOSHER?

ויקרא יא:ג	Leviticus 11:3
כל מפרסת פרסה, ושסעת שסע פרסת, מעלת גרה, בבמה--אתה, תאכלו.	Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is wholly cloven-footed, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that may ye eat.

בראשית א:כט	Genesis 1:29
ויאמר אלקים, הנה נתתי לכם את-כל-עשב זרע זרע אשר על-פני כל-הארץ, ואת-כל-העץ אשר-בו פרי-עץ, זרע זרע: לכם יהיה, לאכלה.	And God said: 'Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed--to you it shall be for food;

בראשית ט:ג-ד	Genesis 9:3-4
ג כל-רמש אשר הוא-חי, לכם יהיה לאכלה: כירק עשב, נתתי לכם את-כל. ד אה-בשר, בנפשו דמו לא תאכלו.	3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be for food for you; as the green herb have I given you all. 4 Only flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

בראשית ח:כא	Genesis 8:21
וירח יקוק, את-ריח הניחח, ויאמר יקוק אל-לבו לא-אסוף לקלל עוד את-האדמה בעבור האדם, כי יצר לב האדם רע מנעריו; ולא-אסוף עוד להכות את-כל-חי, כאשר עשיתי.	And the LORD smelled the sweet savour; and the LORD said in His heart: 'I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

ויקרא יז:יא	Leviticus 17:11
כי נפש הבשר, בדם הוא, ואני נתתיו לכם על-המזבח, לכפר על-נפשותיכם: כי-הדם הוא, בנפש יכפר.	For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life.

חולין נט"א	Chulin 59a
<p>תנו רבנן אלו הן סימני בהמה (ויקרא יא) כל בהמה מפרסת פרסה וגו' כל בהמה שמעלת גרה בידוע שאין לה שינים למעלה וטהורה וכללא הוא והרי גמל דמעלה גרה הוא ואין לו שינים למעלה וטמא גמל ניבי אית ליה והרי בן גמל דניבי נמי לית ליה ותו הרי שפן וארנבת דמעלת גרה הן ויש להן שינים למעלה וטמאין ועוד שינים מי כתיבי באורייתא אלא הכי קאמר כל בהמה שאין לה שינים למעלה בידוע שהיא מעלת גרה ומפרסת פרסה וטהורה</p>	<p>Our Rabbis taught: The following are the characteristics of cattle: Every beast that parteth its hoof etc. If an animal chews the cud one may be certain that it has no upper teeth and it is therefore clean. Is this a general rule? Behold the camel chews the cud and has no upper teeth and yet is unclean! — The camel has canines. But the young camel has not even canines. Furthermore, the rock-badger and the hare chew the cud, nevertheless they have upper teeth and are unclean! Now are teeth mentioned at all in the Torah? — Rather this is the meaning of the passage: If an animal has no upper teeth one may be certain that it chews the cud and parts the hoof, and it is therefore clean.</p>