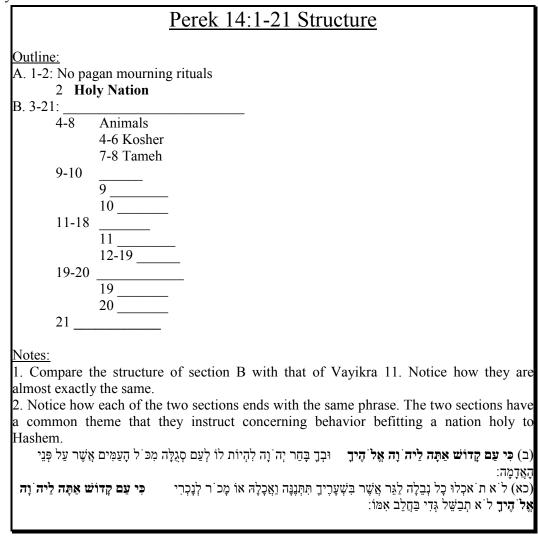
Lesson 24 – Perek 14:1-21 - Behavior for a Holy Nation

Fifth Commandment

Objective: For students to see how the contents of this chapter elaborate the fifth commandment and, at the same time, also picks up on the previously discussed subjects of centralized worship and eating animals outside the Bet haMikdash.

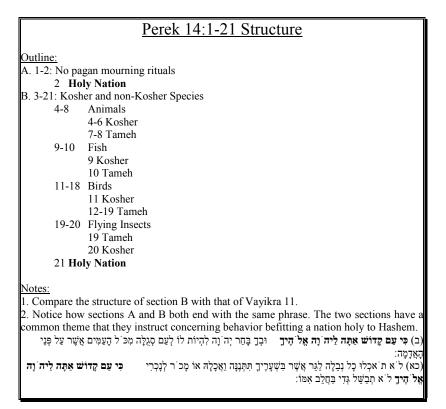
Activity:

1. Break the class into small groups. Each group should scan the perek and break down its structure based on paragraphs and subject matter. Make an outline of the structure. If students will have trouble making an outline themselves then hand out the worksheet so they have a framework to start with.



L24 Perek 14 - Holy Nation - Worksheet.doc

Then give out the summary sheet and review responses.



L24 Perek 14 - Holy Nation - Summary Sheet.doc

These two topics are connected with the phrase "for you are a people consecrated to Hashem your God." Any behavior that is not befitting a holy nation is prohibited to Israel. The first example given is not recognizing human dignity by mutilating the body. The second example prohibits eating "disgusting" creatures since what we eat effects who we are.

2. Why are these laws situated here?

The chapter is introduced by a unique expression in the Torah – "You are children of Hashem your God." Knowing that the entire second speech of Debarim is a detailed explication of the ten commandments, it is likely that this phrase extends the fifth commandment of honoring parents to honoring Hashem - the third partner in creating life. Since we are children of Hashem, we too are holy. By not mutilating the body that Hashem has given us and by not defiling the body with *tameh* – usually predatory – creatures, we recognize that we are holy because we are created by Hashem in His image.

In the ten commandments honoring parents comes after the Sabbath law because honoring parents borders on a בין אדם לחבירו law and should be adjacent to the second five commandments. However, the expansion of commandment five precedes that of commandment four which will come later. This is because once honoring parents is applied to honoring Hashem, it loses its בין אדם לחבירו quality and therefore should be close to the first three commandments.

Besides the connection to the fifth commandment, the list of kosher and tameh animals may connect back to 12:20-28 which discussed eating meat outside the Bet haMikdash. Once the possibility of eating meat without bringing a sacrifice is brought up, we then need to know which animals we are allowed to eat – since that list includes some animals that may not be sacrificed.