

Noah
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Shabbat Shalom!

My Torah portion is called Noah. In this portion, a terrible disaster struck which caused Noah and G-d to get closer. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, all of the fountains burst apart which caused the flood. The floodgates of the sky broke open. The rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. That same day Noah and Noah's son's, Shem, Ham, and Japheth went into the ark they had built with Noah's wife and the wives of his sons. Two each of the animals that crept on the earth came on to Noah's ark.

Later God promised that there would be no further floods after this one.

This Torah portion teaches that keeping a promise is essential. I believe there is a meaning to every promise. For example, in our torah portion God promised that he would never again destroy the world with a flood. That meant that he loved Noah and didn't want anything bad to happen to him. It also means god loves all animals and life on earth.

After reading my Torah portion I tried to think of a way to relate it to something current that affects all of us. Something that is close to my heart is the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

All of the contracts promised that oil drilling was safe in the Gulf and we all know what has happened and how the oil spill has affected the lives of so many people and creatures. But B.P didn't keep their promise. They did not bother to take safety precautions.

What happened in the gulf is a disaster and it will take years and years to clean it up. Although they stopped the flow of oil, the lasting effects will never disappear. I felt a lot of pain when I watched the news about how many dead animals there were all because of a terrible mistake. These animals did nothing to deserve this. We had no right to go into their habitat, pollute the water that is their home and kill so many animals.

God told Noah to save two of each creature to make sure there would be life after the flood. We need to work now to be sure that there will be life after the oil spill in the gulf.

For my mitzvah project I decided to help a rescue program in the Gulf. My mom and I contacted an organization that is trying to recover oiled wildlife in the Gulf. They have a huge list of items that they will need for a long time. I am collecting duct tape, bungee cords, sunscreen and bug spray that will all be shipped directly to Louisiana. The organization is called the Batavia-Terrebone estuary foundation. This organization helps the life and creatures that were in the gulf when this oil spill happened. They are still working now to repair the results of this terrible disaster. The rabbis tell us that we are

God's partners in repairing the world and making it better. We can be God's partners in helping the world to repair the damage in the gulf.

I would like to thank Cantor Cohn for his unending patience in teaching me my Haftorah and Mrs. Fox and Rabbi Small for helping me with my D'var Torah.

I'd like to especially thank my parents for encouraging me and always being there when I need them. I would also like to thank my sister, Danielle, for reassuring me that all this preparation will be worth it in the end.

Thank you also to all my family and friends for being here on this very special day!!

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