



Kids Parsha packet

פָּרָשַׁת לִילָדִים

Parshat Shelach

Last Week in Parshat Behaalotcha:

Bnei Yisrael begin their second year in the desert.

You might want to check it out first...

If you were to move to a new place, would you check out the place before you move there? Of course you would! You would check where the schools are, what the park looks like, what the house looks like, and you might even talk to people who already live there to get to know them. Hashem tells Moshe to send twelve people, known as the spies (meraglim), one from each tribe, to explore the Land the Israel. Why do they need to explore the land? Familiarity and knowledge help a person understand what is going to happen

next. Bnei Yisrael had been slaves in Egypt for many years and were now wandering through the desert while Hashem watched over them and performed many miracles for them (the manna from the heavens, the clouds of glory, and more). Bnei Yisrael will have to fight and conquer the Land of Israel, and they have to come prepared. They have to know what to expect before they arrive. Also, knowing about a place makes people want to get there sooner. Familiarity brings excitement and a sense of a connection.

"שְׁלַח לְךָ
אֲנָשִׁים וַיִּתְרוּ
אֶת אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן"
(י"ג, ב')

"Send forth
for yourself
men, and let
them spy
out the Land
of Canaan"
(13,2)



Activity

"The new place" - One person makes up a new place in the world, and everyone else asks questions in order to learn about this place (for example, is it a city or a suburb? What type of nature can you see? Which stores does it have? Does it have an airport?)

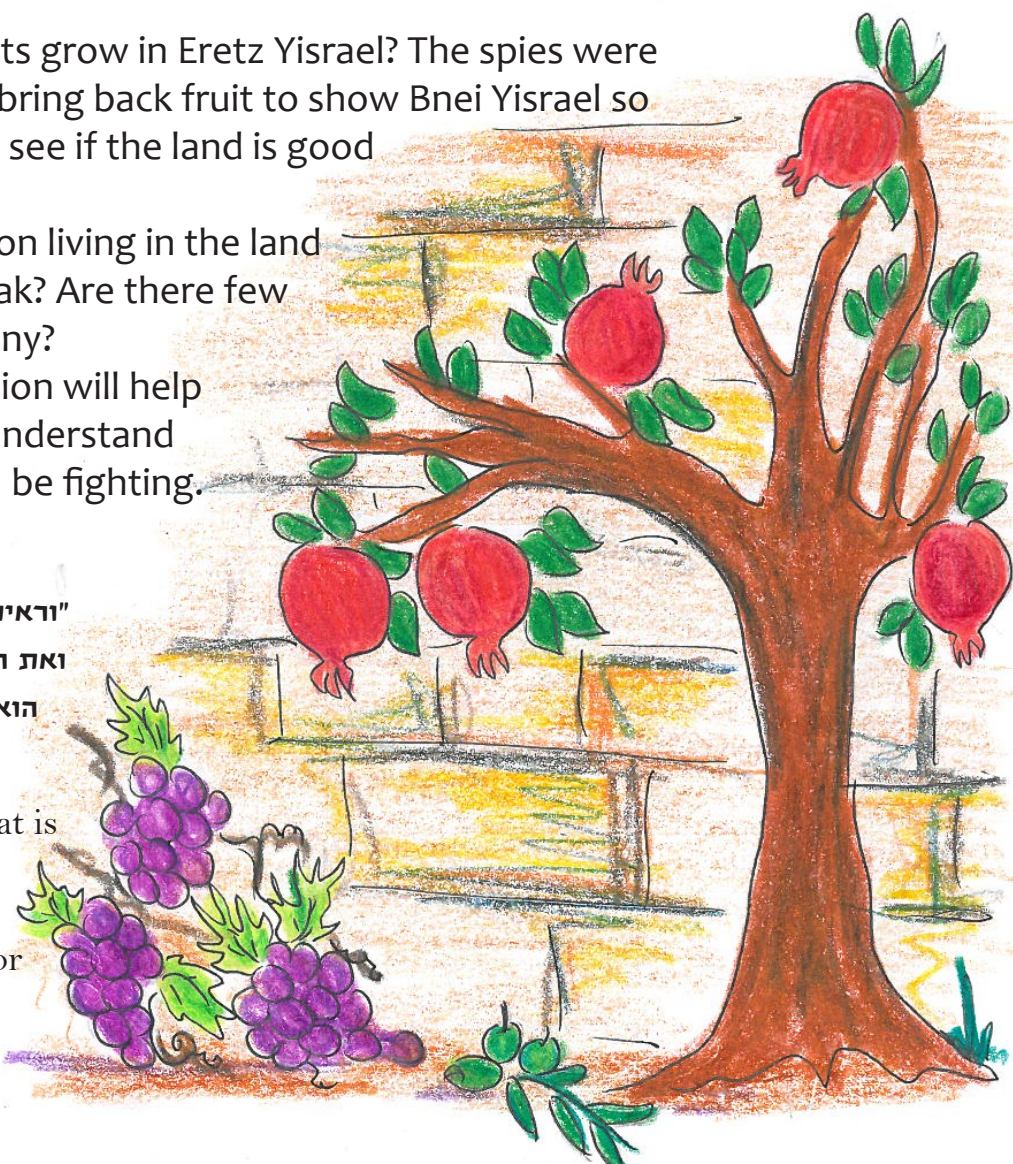
What has to be checked out?

What were the people who were sent supposed to look for? Hashem tells Moshe about a few things that they should look for, so that Bnei Yisrael can understand what awaits them in the Land of Israel. The spies received a list of questions and were instructed to return with clear answers to all of them. These questions were:

1. Do the cities have walls around them? This checks if the people living in the land are confident of their strength and do not need a wall for defense, or if they lack confidence in their strength and build walls to protect themselves.
2. Which fruits grow in Eretz Yisrael? The spies were supposed to bring back fruit to show Bnei Yisrael so that they can see if the land is good for farming.
3. Is the nation living in the land strong or weak? Are there few people or many? This information will help Bnei Yisrael understand who they will be fighting.

"וראיתם את הארץ צה הוא,
ואת העם הישב עליה החזק
הוא הרפה הצעט הוא אם
רב" (י"ג, י"ח)

"See the land- what is it? and the people that dwell in it- is it strong or weak? is it few or numerous?"
(13, 18)



Do you like to discover new things? Are you naturally curious?

Activity

"Spies" - Two people go to a different room in the house and then provide as much information as possible about where they were (like how many beds are in the room? How many windows? How many closets?).

What did the spies see?

The spies spent forty days exploring the land from one end to the other. They returned with fruit from the land - grapes, pomegranates and figs. The spies reported what they saw. They saw a good land that flourished and bloomed, and the people lived in cities that were surrounded by walls. They reported which nations lived in which areas, and that they saw giants. Calev Ben Yefune, one of the spies, reported that Bnei Yisrael could enter Eretz Yisrael and conquer it successfully. The other spies disagreed with Calev and said that Bnei Yisrael would not succeed in conquering the land because the people that live there were strong, the land was not good, and giants lived there. They told Bnei Yisrael that they were as small as grasshoppers next to those giants. Bnei Yisrael listened to the spies and started to cry and complain. They said that it would have been better to stay in Egypt than to enter this land, and that they never should have left. After all, they said, they would surely lose the war for the land, so why bother trying? Calev and Yehoshua Bin Nun tried to convince Bnei Yisrael that they were wrong, the land is good and Hashem would help them, but Bnei Yisrael refused to listen and even tried to hurt them.

“We cannot ascend to that people for it is stronger than us!”
(13, 31)



“לא נוכל לעלות אל העם
כי חזק הוא מפנינו” (י"ג, ל"א)



Where would you want to live, in Egypt or in Israel?

Activity

“I’m right!”. Picks a topic or sentence, and try to convince everyone else that you are correct. (For example, why is a triangle a good thing? Because pizza comes in triangles. Why is it best to be wet? Because then you are never hot.)

A short journey becomes a long one

After 210 years of slavery in Egypt and at least one year in the desert, Bnei Yisrael should be ready to enter the Land of Israel, their home, the home that Hashem gave them. But just as this moment arrived, they began to complain that Eretz Yisrael was not a good place and to cry that they wanted to go back to Egypt. Hashem got very angry at Bnei Yisrael, and punished them harshly. The number of days that the spies explored the land would also be the number of years that Bnei Yisrael would spend in the desert instead of entering Israel. The spies spent 40 days on their mission, so the nation would have to wander the desert for forty years. Hashem also punished the whole generation that cried and complained, and decided that they would not enter Eretz Yisrael. Only the next generation would enter the land. The only people from the previous generation that would enter the Land of Israel after forty years would be Yehoshua and Calev, the spies that spoke favorably about the land.



“Like the number of the days that you spied out the land, forty day, a day for a year, a day for a year, shall you bear your iniquities- forty years” (14, 34)

בַּמִּסְפָּר הַיָּמִים
אֲשֶׁר תִּרְתֶּם אֶת הָאָרֶץ
אַרְבַּעִים יוֹם, יוֹם לַשָּׁנָה יוֹם לַשָּׁנָה
תִּשְׂאוּ אֶת עוֹנֹתֵיכֶם אַרְבַּעִים שָׁנָה" (י"ד, ל"ד)



How do you feel when you get punished? (And for those who have never been punished, how would you feel if you got punished?)

Next week in Parshat Korach ...

We will see what happened when Korach complained about Moshe and Aaron.

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 Pashut for kids





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