

Hadracha Choveret



תנועת בני עקיבא
BNEI AKIVA
UNITED KINGDOM

BNEI AKIVA'S WEEKLY EDUCATIONAL HANDBOOK FOR MADRICHIM

Journeys to Israel



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Lech Lecha

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Dear Roshim, Sganim and Madrichim,

Shalom one and all – hope you're having a great week so far! We're a couple of weeks into Sviva now so I hope you're getting into the swing of things and are comfortably finding your feet. As always, we are all here for you if you need us, so just give us a call!

As I've mentioned to you before, the Choveret is on a different topic each week. Sometimes they will relate to the Parasha, sometimes to current affairs, and other times something not directly related to the time of year. This week however, the theme of the Choveret is very much directly related to the Parasha, Lech Lecha, meaning go for yourself. This was an instruction from Hashem to Avram (still Avram and not Avraham yet) as he is told to go to Israel.

For that reason the focus this week is on Aliyah, and more specifically different forms of Aliyah, starting with Avram, and then moving on to others.

Importantly, this week's Choveret is kindly sponsored by Habayta (more about them later)!

So as always, I hope you enjoy reading and planning, and hopefully learning something yourselves.

Bhatzlacha!

Bevirkat Chaverim l'Torah v'Avodah

Eve Minsky

Ovedet Chinuch 5773 (Chinuch@bauk.org)

Aims:

- To learn about different types of Aliyah
- To consider how Aliyah is different for different people
- To think about our own Aliyah!

Now before we get started properly, take a look at the suggested schedule for your Shabbat Afternoon meetings. You don't have to use this in your Sviva, it is of course your choice, but you may find it useful to adapt this kind of format. Have a look.....

Gathering Time (waiting for people)	10 minutes
Peulah Time	35-40 minutes
Transition Time (use sheet provided)	5 Minutes
Extra Time (Use ideas provided for what to do here)	40 minutes
Mifkad	15 minutes

This week's parasha begins with Hashem's famous commandment to Avram:

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-אַבְרָם, לֵךְ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ,
אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָךְ.

“And G-d said to Avram, go for yourself from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house to the land which I will show you.”

Bereishit 12:1

This commandment to Avram is considered to be one of his tests. Why so? I think it's probably easy to understand why this is would be a challenging instruction for anyone to follow. Avram is commanded explicitly to leave behind everything that is familiar to him, and to put his trust entirely in Hashem. This type of challenge is nicely expressed in the following:

“Nothing could be harder. As we embark on our journey, we are expected not only to leave familiar surroundings and warm memories, but often our entire families. This is a test that never really ends; the daily reality of an oleh chadash in the Land of Israel with his family far away. Our ‘father's house’ is even more part of who we are than our childhood memories. Our parents, grandparents and siblings are part of our being, and to leave them is the hardest test of all. [...] I know that the difficulties alluded to in our verse are real difficulties. It is no easy task to leave one's land, birthplace and father's house, but it is our duty to do so. We look to Avraham Avinu for inspiration; we look to the Torah and we gain strength and commitment.”



Rav David Milston: The Three Pillars



The Ethiopian Journey



By the mid-1970s, a severe mass hunger affected the entirety of Ethiopia, which led to the Ethiopian government requesting aid from the Western world, including Israel. As a result, the Ethiopian government eventually gave permission for the Jewish Ethiopians to immigrate to Israel.

In the absence of full diplomatic relations with Ethiopia, The Israeli Mossad contacted officials in Sudan, which is adjacent to Ethiopia. Thousands of Jews from Ethiopia traveled by foot to the border with Sudan, and waited there in temporary camps until they were flown to Israel. Between the years 1977 and 1984, these immigrants were lead from those camps to Israel by means of vessels of the Israeli Sea Corps and airplanes. Until Operation Moses, about 8,000 made a dangerous journey to Israel during which about 4,000 Jews perished from disease or hunger or were killed by bandits.

Operation Moses was the first large scale operation by Israel to allow Ethiopian Jews to make Aliyah, bringing 8000 immigrants to Israel in just two months. This was followed by operations Sheba, Joshua and Solomon. In order to make Aliyah the Ethiopians undertook long and arduous journeys by foot.

Some of you may be familiar with Idan Raichel and his song Bo'i about Ethiopian Jews coming to Israel. Just a little about the musician – after serving in the army, he became a Madrich at a boarding school for immigrants, which was attended by many Ethiopian Jews. From his time there, he was introduced to Ethiopian Music and so it began to influence his music. And here is the song.....

BO'I by Idan Raichel

Boee, tni li yad venelech – Come, give me your hand and we'll go
Al tishali oti le-an – don't ask me where
Al tishali oti al osher – don't ask me about happiness
Ulai gam hu yavo – maybe it will also come
K shehu yavo – when it comes
Yered aleinu kmo geshem – it will rain upon us like rain

Boee, nitchabek venelech – come let's embrace and go
Al tishali oti matai – don't ask me when
Al tishali oti al bayit – don't ask me about home
Al tevakshi mimeni zman – don't ask me about time
Zman lo mechakeh, lo otser, lo nishar – time doesn't wait, or stop or remain.

What about Aliyah today for western Jews such as ourselves? That's where Habayta (our sponsor this week) comes in. What is Habayta I hear you ask? Well....

*The Establishment of **Habayta** – the WZO's Aliyah Promotion unit, is designed to fulfil one of the goals of the Zionist movement – the settlement of the State of Israel*

Habayta works to encourage Aliyah to Israel through public dialogue on the subject. They aim to nurture and support the Aliyah process by developing a sense of community and by strengthening the connections to Israel, promoting various projects that will assist in making the major and most important decision – Aliyah to Israel – Zionism's major objective.

Habayta has many departments and partners, with regional representatives located in various parts of the world, activist federations and organisations, denominations, religious movements and youth movements. In addition, they cooperate with the diaspora communities - synagogue, school, University and parents activists.

Sounds good! As you can see, Habayta does excellent work in the community, and we have a great partnership with them, working together on projects such as Aliyah Pilot trip in June.

So what should we take from the Choveret this week? We should recognise that Aliyah, and the commandment to live in Israel started all the way back to the time of Avram. Since then, there have been so many different types of Aliyah; Ethiopian Jews and Natan Sharansky are just two examples of many. What's really important to realise, that the commandment to Avram applies to us



equally – we too have a commandment to live in Israel! Now of course for many of you and indeed your chanichim, this isn't so easy – you're still at school and are probably too young to move to Israel, by yourselves at least! Nevertheless, Aliyah is an important part of our ideology – (that's why we shout about it in Mifkad! (and why we continue to educate about it! More than that, Bnei Akiva Bogrim make up a high percentage of Olim in Israel. A recent poll demonstrated that 60% of Olim identified with Bnei Akiva's ideology. Even if we can't make Aliyah about it now, we should ensure that we educate our Chanichim about it and get them enthusiastic about Israel!

Peula Ideas

- Obstacle course – to show that Aliyah is not easy and has many obstacles....get it?!
- Play Ali'wah'.....a slight twist on the traditional game of WAH!
- Play the I made Aliyah and I brought with me.....(like the shopping game, but so much holier)
- Get Chanichim to make a small rap/song/poem like Idan Raichel about their own Aliyah.
- Get quotes from people you know that have made Aliyah and put them around the room as a trigger for a discussion.
- Word association with Aliyah
- Play the song game with the word 'home' as a trigger into a discussion about Israel being our homeland.

You should have all received your forms in for Machane so send them in to ensure your winter is epic!



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