

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

ב"ה

LESSON 3:

# LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

**Torah Content:** The Story of the Judges and Ruth

**Theme:** A true leader makes difficult decisions for the benefit of a greater good.



# TEACHER PLANNING

|  <b>Essential Questions</b> |  <b>Enduring Understandings</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b><i>What made a person qualified to lead the Jewish people at this time?</i></b>                           | The Shoftim were righteous leaders chosen by Hashem who taught the Jews, judged their cases, led them in battle, and encouraged them to come back to serving Hashem.  |
| <b><i>What active choices did Ruth make that led her to her goal?</i></b>                                    | Ruth gave up her life as a princess and chose to live according to the Torah because she believed that there is only One Hashem and that the Torah is true.   |
| <b><i>What constitutes a good choice?</i></b>  | A good choice is guided by values that are higher than ourselves. It's choosing not only what you want, but it's connecting to something transcendent, something bigger than yourself that is G-dly. When we follow Torah values (what Hashem wants), our actions have eternal impact and can transform future generations. |
| <b><i>How are we supposed to treat a convert to Judaism?</i></b>   | A Jew who converts is considered 100% Jewish, no different in the eyes of Hashem than those born into the religion. They deserve to be treated with respect and love.   |

# TEACHER PLANNING

## LESSON OVERVIEW

We begin with a brief overview of the Shoftim, then move on to the story of Ruth. We see how leadership is displayed throughout the stories of the Shoftim, and it's highlighted in the story of Ruth as well. Like a true leader, Ruth made the difficult decision to choose the Torah over her pampered home and upbringing. She recognized the value in being a Jew and believing in Hashem, understanding that material life is not important. We can be a leader too, and appreciate that living a Jewish life is so precious.

## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ▶ Students will present stories and lessons from Devorah, Shimshon, and Gideon.
- ▶ Students apply ways to make good choices in their own lives, based on the story of Ruth.
- ▶ Students will apply the lessons learned from the Shoftim as leaders and discover ways that they and their classmates are already leaders!

## JEW-Q CONCEPTS COVERED:

- ▶ Devorah, Ruth; Pages 204-205

## KEY TERMS

- ▶ Shoftim
- ▶ Leket, Shikcha and Pe'ah
- ▶ Moav/Moavi
- ▶ Ger
- ▶ Moshiach



## MASTER PREPARATION LIST

### Activity 1: Snack Attack- Shoftim Edition

#### General Class Setup:

- ▶ Snacks divided into three piles, one for each group, on different tables.

#### Items Needed:

- Scripts of stories
- Israel Quest books
- Color coded tabs and stickers
- Permanent markers
- Snack for Deborah:
  - Hot tamales
  - Candy corn
  - Chocolate frosting
  - Fruit leather
  - Green sour strips
  - Chocolate wafers
  - Water bottle
- Snack for Gideon:
  - Pasquez trumpets
  - Marshmallows
  - Water
  - Candy corns
  - Small klick balls



## MASTER PREPARATION LIST

- Snack for Shimshon
  - Box of raisins
  - Animal crackers
  - Pull apart twizzlers
  - Wafers
- Agent of Hashem Cards for
  - ▶ Devorah
  - ▶ Gideon
  - ▶ Shimshon

### Activity 2: Ruth Anime

#### General Class Setup:

- ▶ Projector set up

#### Items Needed:

- Projector
- Moshiach cards (1 per student)
  - Scratch off stickers (to cover the four letters)
- Anime presentation
- Israel Quest book
- Color coded tab and sticker
- Agent of Hashem Card

### Activity 3: Human Bingo

#### General Class Setup:

- ▶ None

#### Items Needed:

- Bingo boards printed (1 per student)
- Pen/ pencil (1 per student)
- Music (optional)

# TEACHER PLANNING



## SCHEDULE

10-15  
minutes

**Activity 1 Snack Attack- Shoftim Edition**

Students will use snacks to briefly present stories and lessons from Deborah, Samson, and Gideon.

15  
minutes

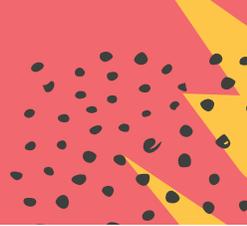
**Activity 2 - The Ruth Destiny: Anime/Manga**

Students watch a manga/anime version of the story. At key points, students explore the different angles of the choices made throughout the story.

10-15  
minutes

**Activity 3- Human Bingo**

Students play a human bingo game, finding classmates who are leaders without even knowing it!



## INTRODUCTION TO SHOFTIM ERA

Last class we spoke about how Yehoshua led the Jewish people into Israel and how the land was divided so each tribe was given land that was perfect for their tribe. After the tribes settled comfortably in their new home, Yehoshua passed away. From this point on, for about 400 years there was no one official leader for the Jewish people. This time period was a pretty fluid time in history for us.

Because the Jews had come into a land that had other nations living there, there were a lot of ups and downs for them. There were times of peace, when the Jewish people got along with their neighbors. Sometimes they would get too close, and the Jews would start to emulate their idolatrous ways. When this happened, Hashem's blessing would withdraw, and the bordering countries would start to oppress the Jews. They would raid their towns and villages, killing many people, devastating families, and destroying property.

Right at a time of desperate need, when things started to get really bad, the Jews would call out to Hashem, and He would send the Judges, or Shoftim, who would step in, fill the leadership role, and help the Jewish people stay strong and return to Hashem. They would also lead the Jewish people in battle, and won many miraculous victories.

Each Shofet (singular for judge) had his or her own story as to how they became

a leader; what crises they led the Jews through, how long they led for, and how their leadership came to an end. Today we will be discussing four of the fifteen Shoftim that led our people until the first king was appointed.

Oftentimes, when we think of leaders, we think of charismatic, dynamic individuals. This was not necessarily the case with the Shoftim. Many of our leaders were very humble, and would not have even considered themselves leaders. At the same time they also knew they had to stand up for their convictions, and do whatever it takes to help the Jewish people. This was a big reason that they were chosen to lead the Jewish people in times of crisis. True leaders know that the reason they are leading is simply to encourage their people to become better. It's not about their personal power or ego. We can all lead from where we are just by being a good example and encouraging and influencing those around us in a positive way.

## Activity 1

# Snack Attack - Shoftim Edition

 10-15 MINUTES

|  Essential Questions |  Enduring Understandings  |
|---|--|
| <p><b><i>What qualified someone to be a leader of the Jewish people during that time?</i></b></p>     | <p>The Shoftim were righteous leaders who taught the Jews, judged their cases, led them in battle, and encouraged them to come back to serving Hashem.</p> |

|  Activity Objective |
|--|
| <p>Students will become familiar with the Shoftim era.</p>   |

## Materials & Preparation

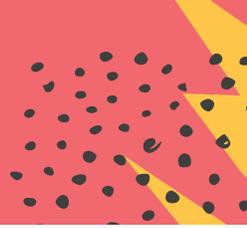
### ***You will need:***

- Story sheets
- Israel Quest book
- Colored tabs
- Color coded stickers
- Agent of Hashem cards
- Devorah
- Gideon
- Shimshon
- Permanent marker (one per student)
- Snack Storyboards
  - Pasquez trumpets, marshmallows, water, candy corns, and small klick balls
  - Hot tamales, candy corn, chocolate frosting, fruit leather, green sour sticks, and chocolate wafers
  - Box of raisins, animal crackers, pull apart twizzlers, and wafers
- 3 plates or boards

### ***Setup:***

- ▶ Snack divided into three piles, one for each group, on different tables.

# ACTIVITY 1



## HOW TO

Divide the class into three groups. Hand each group a paper with the story of their Shofet on it and the snacks for their story. For the story of Devorah, give them hot tamales/candy corn, chocolate frosting/chocolate hummus, fruit leather, green sour strips and chocolate wafers. The group for Gideon should get Pasquez trumpets, marshmallows (angel), water, candy corns, kliks (stone). Team Shimshon should receive a box of raisins, animal crackers, pull apart twizzlers, and wafers. The task is to connect the snacks to the story, and make a presentation with a food tray or food diorama displayed in a way that helps tell the story. Everyone can enjoy their snack storyboards when done!

The review page of the powerpoint will fill out the leader cards.

### Devorah:

This story took place around 200 years after Yehoshua settled the land. King Yavin of Chatzor was the ruler of the Canaani nations at that time. He was a cruel leader, and he and his armies, led by General Sisra, would constantly harass the Jewish towns and villages that were on the border.

Devorah was a Shofet who was married to a man named Lapidot, who, at the advice of his wife, would roll out wicks for the Menorah for the Mishkan. “Even though you are not a Torah scholar,” she told her husband, “there is no reason why you can’t dedicate your time to serving Hashem.”

At that time, idol-worship was rampant, and Devorah used her influence to inspire people to stay true to the Torah, and not to worship false gods of stone and wood. She sat on top of a beautiful hill in Mount Ephraim, between Ramah and Beit-El. She spoke outside, so that even those who wouldn’t come to her could still hear her speak and benefit from her words.

After twenty years of leadership, she noticed a change in her students. They had come back to the ways of Torah and Mitzvot and she felt that the Jewish people were meritorious enough to win a battle against their enemies.

“Send for Barak!” Devorah told her messengers.

Barak was one of the most powerful Jewish men of that time. Barak came to Devorah’s hilltop “Yes, Devorah? I heard that you called for me.”

“Indeed. Hashem spoke to me and said it is time for us to wage war against the Canaani nation. You must gather 10,000 men from the Shvatim of Zevulun and Naphtali, and go towards Mount Tabor. There, by the Nachal (river) Kishon you will meet up with and fight the army of Sisra.”

“Devorah, of course I will listen to what you say, but I do, however, have one condition. I ask that you accompany me to the war. I feel that it is in your merit that we will win.”

Devorah agreed, and Barak began to gather the troops. With his 10,000 soldiers and Devorah, they set out for battle.

# ACTIVITY 1

When Sisra heard the news that the Jewish people were preparing for war, he prepared all of his 900 chariots and every one of his soldiers to fight back. They waited at the foot of the mountain while the Jewish people gathered above.

Meanwhile, other non-Jewish nations living in Israel heard about the war. They were eager to join the side of Sisra and help him fight. They did not like the Jews because they wanted to own the land of Israel by themselves. Besides, Sisra had such a huge strong army. Of course he would win!

“Don’t wait; attack now!” Devorah told her husband, who was leading the soldiers. “Have faith in Hashem, who has promised that you will win.”

So, the small army of Jewish soldiers marched on foot, ready to face Sisra with his 900 chariots, together with all the other nations joined against them.

Hashem made a huge miracle. When the Jews started marching toward them, Sisra and his soldiers heard a thundering noise. It was louder than anything they had ever heard before! “It sounds like thousands of horses and chariots! We don’t stand a chance!” The armies of Sisra and the other non-Jewish nations ran away as fast as they could. They were scared for their lives!

## Sisra’s Flight

Sisra knew that they had lost the war. Now he needed to escape—and fast. He ran and ran and kept running through the valley near Kadesh until he saw a group of tents.

Standing in the doorway was Yael, a Jewish woman who lived inside the tent. She

recognized the famous general. “Here is my chance to help the Jewish people,” she thought.

“Do not be afraid,” Yael called out. “You are welcome here.”

Sisra stopped. Should he go inside? Was it safe?

“My tent is the best place to hide. No one will ever come search here,” she continued.

She’s right, Sisra thought, as he walked forward.

Sisra was exhausted, hungry, and thirsty. He laid down on the floor and Yael covered him in blankets. “Please bring me a drink,” he begged.

Yael knew that Sisra was a dangerous man and a sworn enemy of the Jewish people. She knew that she needed to capture him, but she wasn’t sure how. Maybe I can put him to sleep, she thought. She brought him a cup of milk, sure to make the general feel sleepy.

Soon enough, Sisra was fast asleep. Yael had succeeded in capturing the evil general! She went to tell Barak what happened.

“Wow, it’s all thanks to two women—Yael and Devorah—that we won this war,” he said. *He was deeply impressed by the power of the Jewish women.*

*After the war ended, the Jewish people were finally able to live in the holy land of Israel as a free nation, in complete peace.*

*Devorah composed a song thanking Hashem,*

# ACTIVITY 1



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Devorah composed a song thanking Hashem, which became one of the most famous songs in Israel.

## Gideon

Gideon was from Shevet Menashe, and was the fifth Shofet of the Jews. The Jews had stopped following in the ways of Hashem, and were becoming more and more influenced by idol-worship.

The nation of Midyan ruled at that time. The Midyanim were very harsh to the Jews, and would frequently raid the Jewish settlements. This would get especially bad around the harvest time. The Midyanim would steal all of the Jews’ grains, cattle, produce, and set fire to their fields! The Jews would try to hide their grain in caves, but to no avail. It was a desperate time. The Jews, impoverished and in despair, cried out to Hashem for help.

Hashem answered their pleas.

One day, a man named Gideon, who had other family members that were involved in idol-worship, was threshing wheat by the winepress in Ophrah, to keep it hidden

from the Midyanim. Some of his brothers had been killed by the Midyanim.

Suddenly, an angel appeared! “Hashem is with you!” cried the angel to a shocked Gideon, “You are a mighty man of valour!”

Gideon responded to the angel. “If Hashem is with us, then where are the miracles that happened to us in Egypt? Why are we suffering under the rule of the Midyanim? It seems that Hashem has forgotten us!”

The angel replied to him “Go, and save your people. Hashem is sending you strength to carry-out this mission.”

“But I am so young! I’m the youngest in my family, and my family is poor! I can’t possibly save the Jewish nation!” Gideon replied.

“Hashem will be with you. You will be able to strike the entire nation of Midyan as if they were just one man.”

Gideon wasn’t convinced. “Show me a sign,” he demanded.

Gideon hurried inside and quickly brought out some meat in a basket, flour, matzah, and broth in a pot.

“Take the meat and matzah and put it on this flat stone,” the angel directed, “then pour the broth out.”

Gideon did as he was told. The angel lightly touched the meat and matzah with the edge of his staff and it burst into flames. With that, the angel disappeared.

“That really just happened!” Gideon thought in disbelief. “I guess it’s now my

# ACTIVITY 1

job to lead the Jewish people against the Midyanim.”

That night, Hashem appeared to Gideon. “Destroy the altar that your father serves his idol on,” Hashem commanded him. “And take down the Asherah tree that he worships!”

Gideon was afraid of what might happen to him if he carried out Hashem’s commands during the day. He took some loyal servants and completed his mission at night. When his father’s household woke up the next morning, and found their altar and the Asherah tree destroyed, they pounced on Gideon. “Kill him!” they cried. “How dare he destroy our god!”

Gideon’s father, even though he himself had worshiped the idol, came to his defense. “Don’t lay a hand against my son! If the idol is worthy of us worshiping it, then let it defend itself - there is no need to murder Gideon.” But of course, the idol did nothing. It was only stone, after all. Thus, Gideon was saved.

The people of Midyan, Amalek, and other nations were getting ready to wage war against the Jewish people and had gathered together a massive army of 135,000 soldiers.

Gideon, now the leader of the Jews, gathered together as many people as he could - 32,000. He still wasn’t sure of his success though. “I need another sign,” he thought to himself. “I will place a fleece on the threshing floor. If the salvation of the Jews is to come through me, then let this stay dry while the dew coats everything else in the morning.”

Sure enough, the next morning the fleece was dry, but otherwise there was dew on the ground! Gideon had his answer, now it was time for action.

He had 32,000 people with him when they set out for battle.

“Your army is too large,” Hashem told Gideon. “Make it smaller.”

“Whoever is afraid of battle - return home!” Gideon commanded his troops. Imagine his surprise when 22,000 soldiers turned back! His army was smaller than it had been when they originally set out.

“Your army is still too big,” Hashem told Gideon, “take them down to the water, and have them drink. Whoever cups the water in their hands and brings it to their mouths is righteous and should stay with you, whoever kneels down and laps up the water like a dog still believes in idols and should return home immediately.”

The army trooped down to the water near Givat Hamoreh. 21,700 men all knelt down and lapped up the water like dogs. Only a mere 300 soldiers brought the water to their mouths with their hands.

From his original army of 32,000 - only 300 men remained. “These 300 men will be your soldiers,” Hashem said. “Do not fear, I am with you.”

Gideon and his little army marched toward the Midyan camp. They looked down. There were swarms of Midyanim, tons of camels - as many camels as the grains of sand by the sea! “Hashem is with us,” they thought to themselves. “Do not be afraid.”

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That night, Gideon split his camp into three groups. “Here, each of you take a torch. Cover it with your pitcher - it’s nighttime, and we don’t want to arouse the suspicions of the Midyanim. Don’t forget to bring your trumpet with you as well! We will surround the entire enemy camp, and when I give the signal, uncover your torches and blow your trumpets with all your might.”

Stealthily, the Jews surrounded the Midyanim. Upon the signal of Gideon, they quickly uncovered their torches, blasted their trumpets, and all together ran toward the enemy camp in the Yizrael Valley. It was an ambush! The noise of the trumpets and bright, fiery torches caused absolute chaos, and the entire Midyan army - 135,000 people in all - retreated!

“Don’t stop now!” Gideon shouted to his troops “we must capture the kings and princes of Midyan!”

And so it was. The Jewish army traveled eastward, until the kings and princes of Midyan were captured. The war was over. The Jews had won. No more would they suffer under the cruel rule of the Midyanim.

“We want Gideon to be our king!” the Jewish nation pleaded. “We want you to rule over us!”

“Let Hashem rule over you,” Gideon replied humbly. “Not I, nor my sons will be king.”

Gideon remained the Shofet for the remainder of his life, and led the Jews through years of peace and comfort.

## Shimshon

Manoah was a man from Shevet Dan, who lived near Tzarah with his wife. They had been childless for many many years, and desperately wanted a child.

One day his wife came to him and, quivering with excitement and surprise said “an angel appeared to me! He told me we would have a child, even though we are old. This child will be a special child, and so I cannot have any grape products or eat anything that is impure. He told me we should raise our child as a Nazir” (a person who doesn’t eat any grape products, cut his hair, or go near gravesites).

“How can this be?” Manoah wondered. “If your words are true, let this angel appear to both of us!”

Before they knew it, the angel appeared to them both. “Yes, it is true. All that your wife has said is correct. You must abstain from grape products - even wine and raisins - and not eat anything that is impure.”

Sure enough, 9 months later, Manoah and his wife were blessed with a son, who was born between Tzarah and Eshtaol.

Shimshon grew up, and it soon became noticeable that he was exceptionally strong. Shimshon knew he was a Nazir, so he was careful to never cut his hair, eat grapes or raisins, or drink wine or grape juice.

Shimshon grew older still, and it came time for him to marry. He and his mother walked through the vineyards of Timnah, when suddenly a lion pounced on him! Shimshon felt the strength of Hashem flowing through him and ironically, the lion was no match for

# ACTIVITY 1

Shimshon, and with his incredible strength he slayed the lion with his bare hands!

“I must use my extraordinary strength to help my fellow Jews, who have been suffering under the abusive rule of the Plishtim for 40 years! How can I do this? I don’t want to organize an army, nor do I want to provoke them by coming straight for them. The best way is to get them from the inside. I will marry a woman from the Plishtim, and hopefully that will give me the insight I need to protect my people.”

Indeed, Shimshon married a woman from the Plishtim, and used his position to conquer many Plishtim.

Needless to say, the Plishtim were not happy with Shimshon. “How do we overcome this man?” they asked each other, “he’s so strong, there is no way we can capture him! But he’s too much of a bother. We must rid ourselves of him!”

“What if we surround the entire camp of Yehuda?” one Plishti suggested, “that way we can intimidate the Jews. If they’re scared enough, they might turn him in without our needing to do anything more than that!”

The Plishtim surrounded the village where Shimshon lived.

Noticing the Plishtim, the Jewish people were terrified.

“Shimshon! What have you done to us?” they cried, “yes, you fought many Plishtim but now we will be done for!”

Shimshon himself sensed what was going through their minds. “Don’t worry,” he

assured them, “Hashem is with me. Just tie me up and hand me over.”

With heavy hearts and deep prayers, the Jews tied Shimshon up in heavy ropes and handed him over to the Plishtim.

The Plishtim carried him into their camp, cheering and celebrating all the way. “We got Shimshon! The end of him is near!”

Once inside the Plishti camp called Lechi, Shimshon shrugged off the thick ropes that bound him, with the strength of Hashem they felt like wax, and single-handedly, without a real weapon, fought and overcame the entire group of 1,000 Plishtim!!

When the Jewish people saw this, they appointed him as a Shofet over them.

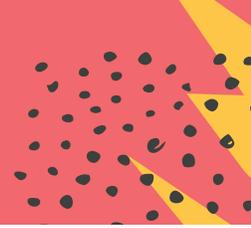
Eventually, Shimshon had married another woman from the Plishtim, near a brook called Sorek, and her name was Delilah. The Plishtim, still intent on killing Shimshon, approached Delilah. “Delilah, do us a favor. We are your people! We must find out the source of Shimshon’s superhuman strength! You will be rewarded handsomely for your efforts. Each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver. All you have to do is ask your husband how he is so strong, nothing more.”

“1,100 pieces of silver per person?” she mused to herself, “that amount of money is not even fathomable for me!”

“I’ll do it!” she announced to her fellow Plishtim, “I’ll ask him tonight.”

That night, Delilah approached Shimshon. “Shimshon?” she asked, her voice dripping with exaggerated sweetness “how is it that

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you are so strong? Is there anything that can tie you up?”

Shimshon didn't want to reveal the source of his strength “Delilah, if you tie me up with seven moist bowstrings, then my strength will dissipate.”

Delilah was satisfied, and she called the Plishtim to hide in their room. That night, she tied him up with the seven moist strings. Once he was tied up, she cried out “Shimshon! They've come for you!”

Delilah and the Plishtim were expecting an easy victory. But of course Shimshon was as strong as ever. His strength was not affected in the slightest, and he easily overpowered the multiple Plishtim that were in his room.

“Shimshon, you embarrassed me!” Delilah complained, “for real, tell me how you are so strong.”

Shimshon continued to make up answers and win over the Plishtim who were trying to capture him.

“Shimshon,” Delilah said one evening “how can you say that you love me if you keep secrets from me? Especially a secret as important as this one! Tell me what is in your heart. You keep on hiding the source of your strength from me!”

By now, Shimshon was worn down. “I am a Nazir,” he told Delilah “my strength comes from the fact that I have never cut my hair.”

This time, Delilah could tell that Shimshon was telling the truth. While he was asleep, she cut off his hair. The Plishtim that were waiting to ambush jumped on him. With a roar, Shimshon

tried to fight back, but to no avail. Hashem's strength was no longer flowing through him - and his strength was like that of a regular man. He had been caught.

The Plishtim captured him, tied him up, tortured him, and began to celebrate his downfall. They had a party! With drinking and games, most of the Plishtim gathered in a place called Gaza to see this great strong man be defeated.

Shimshon had been blinded by the torture inflicted upon him by the Plishtim. As the celebrations were going on, he asked his assistant to guide him to the pillars of the building so that he may rest.

“Hashem,” whispered Shimshon, “remember me just this once. Fill me with strength one more time so that I may die with the Plishtim.”

Once again the familiar experience of Hashem's might flowed through him. With this newfound strength, he grabbed one pillar with his right hand, the other pillar with his left hand, and shook the pillars of the building! With a tremendous sound the building collapsed, crushing all those inside underneath the rubble.

As a true leader, Shimshon used every last bit of strength until his last breath he had to defend his people.

# ACTIVITY 1

Take out the Israel Quest books, stickers, tabs and Agent Cards. Be sure to include:

## Gideon (lavender purple)

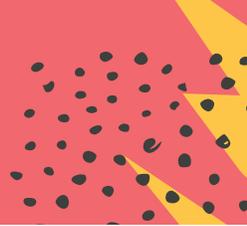
| Important Places                                    | Important Facts  |
|---|--|
| Ophrah - the angel appeared to him with his mission | His family was from Shevet Menashe and were involved in idolatry                     |
| Givat Hamoreh - the water test                      | He did not want to lead the Jews in battle, he simply did what Hashem told him to do |
| Yizrael Valley - the war began here                 | He won the war against 135,000 people from Midyan with an army of only 300 men       |

## Devorah (orange)

| Important Places                        | Important Facts   |
|---|---|
| Nachal Kishon - war with Sisra          | Devorah was a prophetess and leader   |
| Har Ephraim - She judged and taught     | She wrote a song that is one of the most prominent in the Torah                                   |
| Kadesh - valley where Yael killed Sisra | She led the Jewish people for 20 years before she led them in battle, alongside the general Barak |

## Shimshon (eggplant purple)

| Important Places  | Important Facts  |
|---|--|
| Nachal Kishon - war with Sisra  | He was a Nazir from birth and this is where his strength came from   |
| Timnah - where he met the lion and became aware of his mission            | He married a Plishti woman who converted   |
| Nachal Sorek - where he met Delilah                                       | He cared more for his brethren than he did for himself, and put himself in compromising situations to help out fellow Jews |
| Gaza - where he shook the pillars of the building, causing it to collapse |  |



## Activity 2

# The Ruth Destiny Anime

 15 MINUTES

|  <b>Essential Questions</b> |  <b>Enduring Understandings</b>  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>What active choices did Ruth make that led her to her goal?</b></p>                                    | <p>Ruth gave up her life as a princess and chose to live according to the Torah because she believed that there is only One Hashem and that the Torah is true.</p>  |
| <p><b>What constitutes a good choice?</b></p>  | <p>A good choice is guided by values that are higher than ourselves. It's choosing not only what you want, but it's connecting to something transcendent, something bigger than yourself, something that is G-dly. When we follow Torah values (what Hashem wants), our actions have eternal impact and transform future generations.</p> |
| <p><b>How are we supposed to treat a convert to Judaism?</b></p>   | <p>A Jew who converts is considered 100% Jewish, no different in the eyes of Hashem than those born into the religion and need to be treated with respect and love.</p>   |



Activity Objective

?



Materials & Preparation

**You will need:**

- Projector
- Moshiach Cards- 1 per student
  - Scratch off stickers (to cover the four letters)
- Anime presentation
- Israel Quest book
- Color coded tab and sticker
- Agent of Hashem Card

**Setup:**

- ▶ Cut out the Moshiach cards, one per student. Stick the scratch-off stickers above the letters.
- ▶ Set up projector

# ACTIVITY 2

## HOW TO

Hand out the scratch cards, and give a brief introduction.

*Today we will watch a short anime about Ruth, an incredible woman, who made tremendous sacrifices and chose to live according to the Torah. She believed that there is only One Hashem and that the Torah is true. Ruth was rewarded for her wisdom in choosing to live a Jewish life, and it was promised that Moshiach would come from her bloodline. She is included here because she lived in the era of the Shoftim. As we watch the story, we will have a few discussions about the choices that were made by different characters throughout. After we complete the discussion, you will scratch off one sticker, which will show us the grand result of all the difficult choices that she made, and ultimately that we make as well.*

Script for anime:

*Elimelech was a man who was from Shevet Yehuda, and lived in a place called Bet-Lechem. Elimelech was married to a righteous woman named Naomi, and they had two sons, Machlon and Kilyon. Elimelech was a very wealthy man, and when famine struck, he wasn't sure whether to stay or relocate to a place where he might have better fortune - the land of Moav.*

Ask the question:

*Elimelech had a choice. He could stay as he is in Israel and risk losing his entire fortune to support the needy during this famine, or he could take his family and leave Israel, into the unknown, but know that his future would be secure. Which option do you think he should go for? What would be the pros and cons of leaving versus staying? What repercussions would he*

*face if he stayed or left? Extension question: When else in history did Jewish people have this challenge? Do you know of anyone who faced this?*

Take a vote (Go vs Stay), and write the score up on the board.

Before continuing with the anime, have students scratch off the first circle on their scratch cards.

Continue with the anime.

*Elimelech made the choice. "We are going to Moav!" he declared. "There I will not be bothered by needy people." His wife and sons followed him to Moav, despite any apprehensions they may have had.*

*Machlon and Kilyon married the princesses of Moav, one named Ruth and one named Orpah. In time, Elimelech passed away, and Naomi became a widow. Soon after, Machlon and Kilyon tragically died as well.*

*"I am bereft of my husband and children. I don't have any grandchildren. There is nothing for me here in Moav! I'm going home to my people." Naomi decided.*

*"Ruth and Orpah, you have been devoted daughters-in-law to me. But what do I have here in Moav? I am returning to Israel!" Naomi told her daughters-in-law.*

*The three women walked together towards the fields of Yehudah, each one caught up in her own thoughts. Upon reaching the border of Israel, Naomi turned towards Ruth and Orpah. "Go home, and may Hashem bless you that you*

## ACTIVITY 2



*should find comfort. You have been so good to me and my sons.”*

*“Absolutely not!” Ruth and Orpah cried together. “We will come with you!”*

*“But what future do you have with me? I don’t have any other sons you could marry, and even if I were to remarry and have more sons - why should you wait alone for all that time? You have no obligation to me. Please take care of yourselves.”*

*Sobbing, they embraced each other.*

Ask: Here we see two sisters, each with a life-changing choice to make. Ruth and Orpah can either continue their lives as princesses living in Moav, or leave everything they’ve ever known to follow Naomi back to Israel. Remember - Ruth and Orpah were not Jewish, their husbands had died, and they didn’t have any children. There was no legal or even moral obligation on their part to follow Naomi back to Israel. What would be the consequences they would deal with if they chose to continue with Naomi versus staying home? What kinds of challenges come along with each choice?

Take a vote (Go vs Stay), and write the score on the board. Before continuing with the anime, have the students scratch off another circle on their scratch cards.

Continue with the anime:

*Orpah saw the wisdom in Naomi’s words, and tearfully turned back towards the land she had always called home. Ruth, however, would not hear of it and clung to her.*

*“It’s okay,” Naomi reassured Ruth, “follow your sister back home.”*

*But Ruth had other ideas. She had seen how the Jewish people were a nation of kindness. She believed there was only one true G-d, Hashem. She saw the tRuth in the Torah, and was willing to sacrifice her life as a princess with all the luxuries that it comes with, to belong to this precious nation.*

*“Absolutely not!” Ruth replied with conviction. “Don’t ask me to leave your side. Wherever you go, I will go, where you sleep, I will sleep, your people are my people, your Hashem is my Hashem. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Nothing but death can separate us.”*

*“If you feel so strongly about it, then you may join me,” Naomi told Ruth.*

*The two continued traveling until they reached the outskirts of Beit-Lechem, the city where Naomi was from.*

*Their arrival was met with shock and gossip. “Hazot Naomi? Can that really be Naomi?” the townspeople whispered to each other. “She was so wealthy when she left! What happened to her husband Elimelech? And those two sons that she had? Who is this woman with her now?”*

*Naomi heard the ruckus and announced, “Yes, it is I. But don’t call me Naomi anymore. You might as well call me Marah, for Hashem has dealt bitterly with me. When I left here I was full, I had a husband and children, health and wealth. But now I am an empty, lonely widow.”*

*Naomi and Ruth settled back down in Beit-Lechem just as the barley harvest was starting. They needed to get food, and as the mitzvot of Leket, Shikcha and Pe’ah allow, they could go to a field to gather grain from the corners or forgotten bundles or grain from nearby fields.*

## ACTIVITY 2

*“I have a relative of my late husband,” Naomi told Ruth. “His name is Boaz. He has a lot of produce in his field, and if we gather from his field we will have food to eat.”*

Ask: Should Ruth go to the field to gather food? Or has she sacrificed enough to accompany her mother-in-law, and can expect that at least her basic needs should be taken care of? Keep in mind - Ruth was a princess, she wasn't used to lacking anything, certainly not to have to beg for food! How would Ruth be compromising her position if she agreed to collect food? What harm could come to her because of this? What could she gain from this?

Take a vote (Yes vs No), write the score on the board.

Before continuing the anime, have the students scratch off another circle on their scratch cards.

Continue showing the anime:

*Ruth decided that she must go out to the field, at least to feed her starving mother-in-law. She was a little apprehensive as she approached the field, and modestly bent down to pick up forgotten sheaves of barley. Unbeknownst to her, she was being watched.*

*Boaz, the wealthy owner of the field, walked through his property to greet the needy people that had come to collect grain. He noticed the woman who bent down with so much dignity to gather grain. She did not try to attract attention to herself; she seemed different.*

*“Who is this girl?” Boaz asked his assistant “What family is she from?”*

*“This is Ruth,” his assistant replied. “She is the daughter-in-law of Naomi - wife of the late Elimelech. Ruth is from Moav, she's a convert.”*

*“Elimelech! I am his relative,” Boaz thought. Boaz knew that a convert is just as Jewish as a native, and that a convert needs to be treated with extra respect and admiration because of how much they gave up to follow in the ways of Hashem and the Torah. He gently approached Ruth and greeted her.*

*Ruth was taken aback. “Oh! I will head towards other fields now,” Ruth did not know if she had overstayed her welcome, and was planning on continuing on to other fields along with the rest of the needy people of the town.*

*Boaz wanted to help his relative. “You can continue gathering grain here,” he told Ruth. “There is no need to go elsewhere.”*

*Ruth continued gathering grain until the evening, and she approached Boaz. “We are related. Will you take me as a wife?”*

Ask: Boaz has a choice - he can either marry Ruth or send her home. Keep in mind, Boaz was the Shofet, the leader of the Jewish people at that time. It would be perfectly understandable for him to want to marry someone that his family knows. Marriage means choosing to connect to another person and their family for the rest of eternity! This is a HUGE decision. What risks would Boaz be taking if he agreed to marry her? What benefit could it potentially bring him?

Take a vote, write the score on the board.

*Boaz agreed to marry Ruth, and they had a son. The great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz was King David - who is the ancestor of Moshiach himself!*

## ACTIVITY 2



Ask the students to scratch off the last of the stickers on their scratch cards. Unscramble the letters together, and spell out “Moshiach” on the board.

Conclude:

*This entire story is full of choices. Ruth, Elimelech, and Boaz were all called to decide if they should do one thing or another. Should they do what feels good in the moment, or should they stay true to what is in line with Hashem’s will, even though it feels difficult. The result of staying the course is that Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz are the ancestors of Moshiach!*

Ask the Essential Question: What constitutes a good choice?

Take answers, then summarize with the Enduring Understanding:

*A good choice is guided by values that are higher than ourselves. When we follow Torah values even when it’s difficult, we become leaders with an everlasting impact.*

Take out the Israel Quest book, tabs, stickers, and Agent-Cards. Fill it in for Ruth.

- ▶ Beit Lechem - where Naomi was from
- ▶ Border of Moav - Where Ruth was from
- ▶ Fields of Yehuda - She said “Where you go I go...”

# ACTIVITY 3

## Activity 3

# Leader Bingo

 10-15 MINUTES



### Activity Objective

Students will internalize the lessons from these famous Jewish leaders into their own lives.



### Materials & Preparation

#### You will need:

- Bingo Boards
- Pen/pencil per student
- Optional - music

| BINGO   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Jewish Pride  | Tzedakah   | Making people feel comfortable   | Sacrifice brings Success   |
| I wear a Jewish (or other Jewish necklace/jewelry)                    | I give a 10% of all the money I get or earn to charity                   | I make an effort to speak to new kids or make them feel comfortable  | I have a grandparent or parent who worked hard to be a success in America  |
| I've worn my Kippah outside on the street not on a holiday or Shabbat | Our family volunteers regularly to a Chessed organization                | I say hi to strangers on the street  | I have worked hard to get better at a sport or a skill, even if I meant missing out on hanging out with my friends |
| I share what I love about being Jewish with my non-Jewish friends     | I am involved in helping people by:                                      | I invite my classmates (who are not my friends) over to my house to hang out.  | I study hard for my good grades  |
| If someone speaks up against Israel or Jews, I will speak up          | We donate our good clothing, toys and furniture to others who can use it | I ask people questions about themselves, because I am curious and want to get to know them better                                    | I have a relative or a family friend who is religious today, who was not raised that way but chose it.             |
| I am an Israeli or have Israeli parents                               | I use a talent that I have to help others                                | When someone is treated as an outcast, I will go over to them and try to include them in an activity or engage them in conversation. | I have saved up money and not spent on random stuff, so I could get what I really wanted.                          |
| Write what you do for Jewish pride                                    | Write what you do to help others   | Write what you do to make others feel comfortable  | Write what you have done that was a sacrifice for something bigger or better.                                      |
| Where did you notice these character traits in the Agents of Hashem?  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |

## HOW TO

Connect columns of the Bingo board to story of Ruth

Hand each student a bingo board and a pencil. Give over the instructions:

Let's connect these beautiful stories to our own lives. We saw cases of Jewish pride, Tzedaka, making people feel comfortable, and how sacrifice brings success. In this game of bingo, you will race around and try

to get as many signatures or answers to the questions in each box.

Set the timer for 10 minutes. (Optional: play music)

At the end of the game, have the students add a box to each column to include where they noticed these character traits in the Agents of Hashem that were learned about today.



## POST LESSON SOCIAL MEDIA POST

**Image:** Take a picture of your students giving their Shofet presentations.

**Ckids is creating #jewishleaders! Being a leader isn't about being the kid who has the biggest mouth, the smartest ideas, or the most friends. Being a leader is about doing what's right and encouraging other people to do the same. Many of the Shoftim we learned about today were not charismatic, loud, or otherwise "leader-material". They simply knew they had a mission and went about doing what they could to fulfill it.**



## TZIVOS HASHEM MISSION

**Go out of your way to include someone you normally don't interact with!**

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