**Peulat Shabbat Eikev**

**Season 2, Episode 3**

**Parsha: Eikev**

**Planners: Ethan, Hanna AP, Hadar G**

**Theme: The importance of Israel and our connection as diaspora Jews**

**Parsha Summary:**

* Moses continues his farewell speech to the Israelites, cautioning them not to fear the Canaanite armies because G‑d will wage battle for them and lead them into the promised land. He also notifies them that their entry into the Land is not due to their own virtues. Moses reminds them of their many transgressions to emphasize this point, and reminds them that God was compassionate and forgave them. The commandments of prayer and briquette hamazon are mentioned, and the second part of the Shema is also cited in this portion. This is one of Moses last speeches before they enter the land of Israel. Because most of the Israelites are from a new generation, most Israelites are unaware of the importance of the land of Israel.

**David Ben Gurion Letter:**

* In the parsha, Moses expresses the importance of the land of Israel. In 1955, Like Moses, David Ben Gurion also expressed the importance of the state of Israel, while he was serving as the first prime minister. Ben Gurion wrote a letter to the Jewish Federation in America, thanking them for the efforts to help Israel. At the time, Israel was 7 years old and was still developing. Ben Gurion was thankful for their efforts, but he also stressed the importance for more young Jews making Aliyah to Israel. Like the parsha, Ben Gurion stresses the importance of Israel to a new generation.

**Letter: Read Out loud**

* “The united fund raising drive in the US with all of its importance will not substitute for large scale immigration to Israel, particularly since there is an internal necessity for the Zionist movement to foster a pioneer movement. I have no doubt that there is a possibility for a pioneering effort among Jewish youth in America. The Zionist movement in the US will thin out and degenerate if you do not extend a reliable hand to the fostering of the pioneer movement — materializing immigrants and settling the desolate areas in Israel.”

Questions about the Letter:

* What is Ben Gurion trying to say in this letter?
* Who can explain what the Diaspora is?
* How does this letter make you feel?

Discussion of Israel:

* Agree or Disagree Game
  + Each kid will receive a piece of green, orange and red paper
  + For each statement, they should hold up one of these papers
    - Green = agree
    - Red = disagree
    - Orange = unsure/in the middle
  + Have them explain their answer afterwards and have a discussion
    - Turn it into a little debate: Green answers can go and then red can rebuttal, or vice versa
* Questions:
  + You feel connected to Israel
  + You felt more connected to Israel after you visited
  + You are a passive supporter of Israel by living in the diaspora
  + Living in Israel is a necessity for all Jews
  + You are a better Jew if you live in Israel rather than the diaspora
  + At some point in your life you will move to Israel
  + Diaspora Jews should get to have an opinion on Israel and Israeli politics
  + Jews living in the diaspora should get to vote in Israel’s elections.
  + Diaspora Jews, especially in America, are vital to the existence of the Jewish state.