

## Parshat Eikev

“flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “seven kinds” (wheat, barley, grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates)

Barely = might

Wheat = loving-kindness

Grape = Beauty

Olive = Foundation

Fig = Victory

Pomegranate = Acknowledgment

Date Palm = Kingdom

In parshat Eikev we learn that *eretz yisrael*, the land “flowing with milk and honey”, has been blessed with the seven species.

Have chanichim try to list the 7 species.

(Barley, wheat, grape, olive, fig, pomegranate, date palm)

Each of the seven species has a symbolic meaning, based on its root . We will play one game to represent each of the seven species.

- ★ **Pomegranate (*Acknowledgement*) - 5 Things** Hebrew: The verse sung by the pomegranate is “Your cheekbones are like a piece of the pomegranate from between your braids.”<sup>7</sup> Based on the grammatical similarity between “cheekbone” (רִקְהָ) and “empty individuals” (רִיקְנִים) the sages state that even those Jews who seem void [of performing the commandments] are filled with good deeds like a pomegranate is full of seeds (the delicious fruit of the pomegranate).
  - Sophie teaches 5 things to everyone at beginning
    - Categories: Places in Camp, Nikayon jobs, Camp Food, Makolet Snacks, Chugim
- ★ **Barley (*Might*)- Arm Wrestling**
  - Have chanichim get into pairs. In their pairs they arm wrestle. The loser must then follow around the person who beat them chanting their name. Then everyone who won plays someone else. Then the losing team must start chanting the name of the winner. This continues until everyone is chanting on person’s name.
  - Play one round with dominant hand, one round with non-dominant hand.
- ★ **Wheat (*Loving Kindness*)- Huggy Bear**
  - Chanchim shmooze (walk quietly) around, until Madrich calls out number. Chanichim must get into groups of that number and hold hands. If they don’t find a group, they’re out.
- ★ **Grape (*Beauty*) - I Spy** Hebrew: The word for “grapevine” (גַּפְּן) in Hebrew stems from the same root as the word for “body” (גוף). In the introduction to Tikunei Zohar, the sefirah of beauty is described as “the body” (תפארת גופא) .
  - Madrich pick one chanich/a at a time to go. Go around the ma’agal guessing what object is. Once guessed, the person who figured it out can go again (if same chanich/a gets it right, madrich pick new person to go)
- ★ **Olive (*Foundation*)- Human Pyramid** Hebrew: the olive tree does not have a specific song. Rather, it is included in the general song sung by the trees of the field, “Then, the trees of the forest will sing before God who has come to judge the earth.”<sup>9</sup> Thus, the olive includes the song of all the trees, like the sefirah of foundation includes all the sefirot above it. In fact, the word “foundation” (יְסוּד) is equal to the two words “for all” (כִּי כָל), the opening words of its description, “For all in the heavens and the earth.”

- Chanichim must quickly get into a human pyramid and hold it for 10 seconds. The base must be strong or they'll fall.
- ★ Fig (*Victory*) Hebrew: The Hebrew word for "excuse" (תִּצְטָנֶה) stems from the same root as "fig" (תְּאֵנָה). The true ba'al teshuvah eventually comes to the realization that his previous lifestyle, when still ignorant of God and the commandments, was not a mistake. Rather it was an excuse used by the Almighty to bring him to experience this urgency in his Divine service - **Oscar Speech**
- Each chanich/a gets 1 minute to say an "Oscar Speech" including who they'd thank, etc.
- ★ Date Palm (*Kingdom*) - **Melech HaMa'agal** Hebrew: The date palm sings the verse, "The tzadik will blossom like a date palm, like the cedar of the Lebanon it shall grow."<sup>12</sup> The final letters of the words, "the tzadik will blossom like a date palm" (צִדִּיק כְּתֵמָר יִפְרֹחַ) spell Korach (קֹרַח), the name of the Levite that contested Moshe Rabbeinu's leadership. Thus, the date palm represents a rectified form of Korach's arguments against Moshe's leadership
- Chanichim sit in circle. Madrich picks one chanich/a to leave area. Madrich then pick a chanich/a to be "Melech". Melech starts a beat/pattern. Other chanichim follow patterns but DO NOT all look at the same person. Person who left must come back in and guess who the Melech is. They get 3 guesses. Play for 8-10 minutes.