

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT LECH LECHA

27-28 OCTOBER | 13 CHESHVAN

## Influences and influencers



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We all like to believe that we are independent thinkers. Our opinions are thought out, our decisions are weighed up and our minds are ours alone. Do you remember the moment you picked which football team to support? Did you rewatch old matches, look up game statistics and then make an informed choice? Or did someone buy you a kit and tell you that's your team? Perhaps you're used to being told that you are like your dad or your mum, but have you ever been told that you think like them?

We are all products of the society, community and family that we have grown up in. That's not to say that we don't think for ourselves at all, but we all have natural biases that we must be conscious of.

This week, God challenges Avraham to leave his land, his birthplace and his father's house, to go on a journey to an unknown destination. If it were merely a physical journey, the order would of course be reversed; he'd first have to leave his family home, then his community, then his country. For a mind journey though, it makes perfect sense. It's easier to start at the furthest point of connection and work our way inwards.

As we grow up and learn to think for ourselves, we first start with the society we've grown up in and

evaluate whether it shares our ideals. We subconsciously absorb messaging from the films we watch, the books we read and the music we listen to.

Next, we consider our immediate community, our friendship circle. Are we choosing to spend time with people that bring out the best in us, that understand us, that align with our values?

Finally, are we exploring our own connection to our home values, so that they mean something to us, or are we going through the motions of living the way we've been brought up? The first way ensures that the positive family values that we've absorbed will continue to be upheld as we grow into adulthood and build our own homes.

## A parasha of numbers - Let's find them!

1. Avraham is given 10 tests.  
Lech Lecha is test number \_\_\_\_.
2. Avraham's life's message is:  
there is \_\_\_\_ God(s).
3. Avraham engages in the battle of \_\_\_\_ kings  
against \_\_\_\_ kings.
4. Yishmael is born when Avraham  
is \_\_\_\_ years old.
5. Sarah is \_\_\_\_ years old when she is told  
she will have a child.
6. Avraham undergoes Brit Milah and  
eagerly sits outside waiting  
for guests a mere \_\_\_\_ days later.

