

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT SHELACH

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Overcoming Obstacles



SHIRA NEVILLE

Youth Director
@Magen Avot

Parashat Shelach Lecha tells the story of the twelve spies that Moshe sent to scout out the land of Canaan (later Israel). Upon their return, the spies gave a report, but only two of them - Calev and Yehoshua - had faith that God would help the Jewish people conquer the land. The Jewish people were frightened by the report of the other ten spies and, as a result, rebelled against Moshe and Aharon.

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik (1903-1993) points out that the mistake of the spies was not simply a

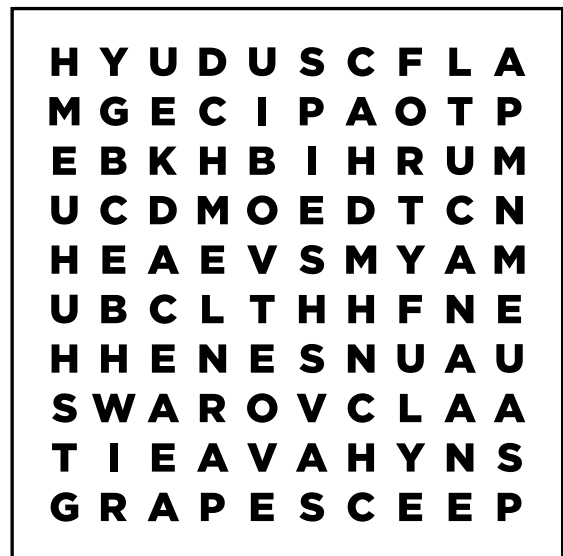
lack of faith in God's promise that the land of Israel would be good, but rather a lack of confidence in themselves. He argues that the spies saw themselves as weak and powerless in the face of the daunting task of conquering the land of Canaan. And it is for this reason that they gave a negative report; they were nervous that they would not be good enough to conquer the land.

Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra (1089-1167) explains that the Jewish people had a "slave a mentality" throughout their time in the desert. They couldn't leave behind the feeling that they were inferior, a feeling they had picked up in Egypt. It is because of this that God decided that they could not be the ones to conquer Canaan, and this mindset was reflected by the report of

the spies. The Jewish people had to wait for a new generation who hadn't experienced slavery in Egypt, with a fresh mindset, confident and courageous enough to trust that God would help them conquer the land of Canaan.

We often face challenging situations that may cause us to doubt ourselves and our abilities. But, just like the new generation of Jews who entered Canaan, we too can develop a fresh mindset that is confident and courageous. We must trust that God will be with us, and we can remind ourselves that we have the strength and ability to overcome obstacles. Let us take inspiration from the lessons of this parasha and strive to cultivate a positive mindset that is full of faith and self-assurance.

Parasha Wordsearch



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GRAPES SPIES TWELVE YEHOSHUA