

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

An Interactive **PARSHA EXPERIENCE**



Parsha: Shemot

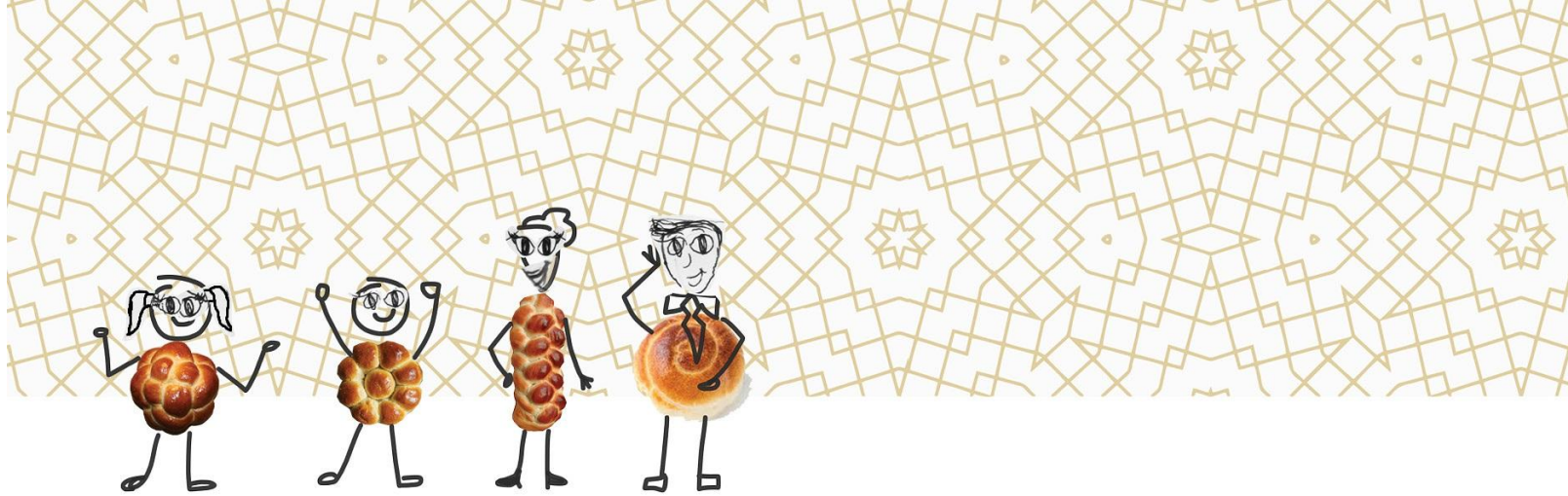
Title: Seeing the Other

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The Parsha at First Glance

Spotlight on the Parsha:

Shemot begins a new book of the Torah called Shemot, and a new chapter in the history of Bnei Yisrael. Our story takes place in Egypt, where a new King, Pharaoh, has risen. He believes that Bnei Yisrael are stronger than the Egyptian people and fears they will become numerous and start a war against the Egyptians. His fear leads him to treat Bnei Yisrael horribly. He enslaves them and forces them to build their cities with back-breaking work. Worst of all, Bnei



Yisrael are ordered to kill their own sons, in order to ensure that the nation won't grow.

At this point, the parsha zooms in on the story of one family who has a son and, fearing he'll be killed if he's discovered, places him in the Nile River. Miraculously, Pharaoh's daughter is walking on the banks of the Nile, sees the baby and rescues him. She raises him as her own son in the palace and names him Moshe.

Zooming In:

In this parsha, Moshe goes through a transformation. He is living as Egyptian royalty, when suddenly he seems to wake up to the reality of the Israelite people around him.

We read:

11 Now it came to pass in those days that Moshe grew up and went out to his brothers and looked at their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew man of his brothers.

יֵא וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָהֵם, וַיִּגְדַּל מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּצֵא
אֶל-אֶחָיו, וַיֵּרָא בְּסַבְלָתָם; וַיֵּרָא אִישׁ
מִצְרִי מַכֶּה אִישׁ-עִבְרִי מֵאֶחָיו.

What do you think it means that Moshe grew up? Where and with whom did he grow up?

Our text says "Moshe saw their burdens." What were their burdens? When do you see other people's troubles?

After Moshe saw what was going on around him, he acted.



12 He turned this way and that way, and he saw that there was no man; so he struck the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

יב ויפֹן כּה וְכֹה, וַיִּרְא כִּי אֵין אִישׁ ; וַיִּדֹךְ
אֶת-הַמִּצְרִי, וַיִּטְמְנֵהוּ בַחֹל.

Questions for Consideration:

1. In each of our lives, there are people and problems that we suddenly “wake up to.” Who do **you** need to see more?
2. When do you need to act more when you, like Moshe, see something you think is wrong?
(Even though you are a kid and may feel powerless, we all have the ability to help others!)

The Parsha Through Another Lens

The Parsha in Practice:

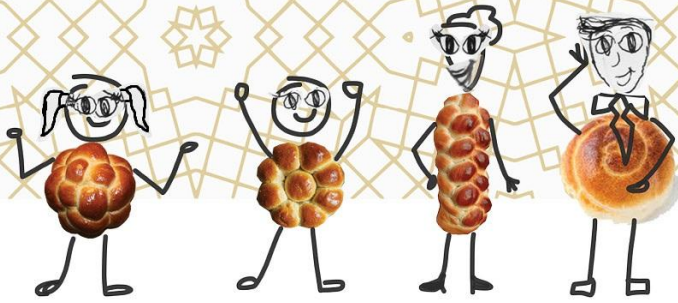
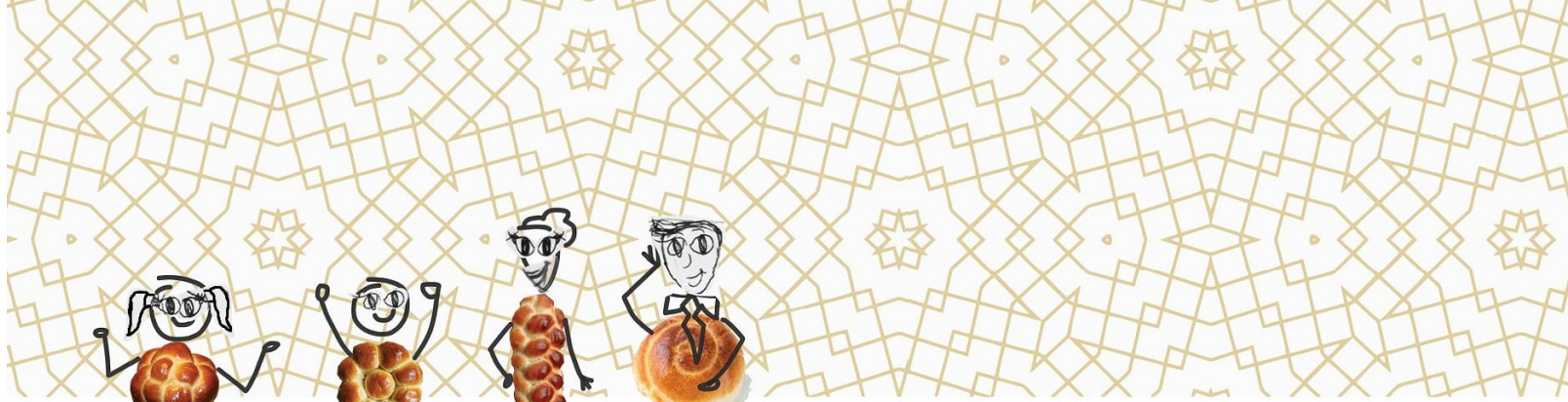
Moshe sees something, realizes it isn't right, and DOES something about what he sees. This type of seeing is something we can all do.

Think:

What is a situation where you **SEE** bad things going on but you need a push to do something about it, like Moshe did?

In other words, how can you change the world by seeing?

Talk with your family about one thing you see around you that you realize isn't right.



What do you see?

What action or steps can you take to change what you see?

Shabbat Shalom!