

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

# An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



**Parsha:** Ekev

**Title:** Grow Where You've Planted

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## *The Parsha at First Glance*

### Spotlight on the Parsha:

In this *parsha*, Moshe reminds the Israelites how difficult their journey through the desert has been all these years, and helps them to remember the things God has done to make their journey easier. The people also learn about the Seven Species of Israel. These are: Wheat, Barley, Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives,



and Dates. Moshe reminds the people of the details regarding their time at Mt. Sinai and of the golden calf they made while Moshe was speaking to God on the mountain. Moshe lets them in on what was happening in the background – that God wanted to wipe them out entirely, and that Moshe prayed for God not to. The point is made very clear: love and revere God and follow God’s commandments.

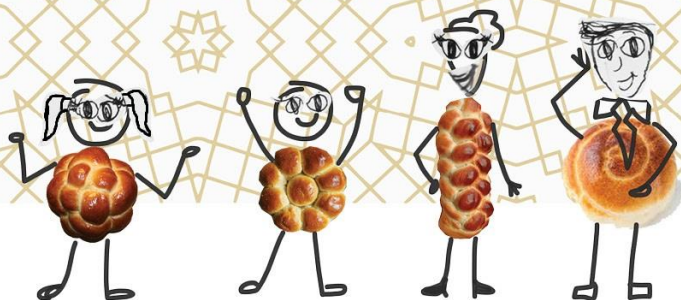
### Zooming In:

The Torah assumes that working the land as a farmer would naturally deepen a person’s belief in God’s direct involvement in their life. After all, a person works hard but God is the one who makes the plants grow from the ground! As the Israelites prepare to part from Moshe and are expected to remember everything they were taught in the desert, it must be helpful for them to know that through working the land for food, they will be able to continue their connection to God.

Fear of the unknown must also be very real for the Israelites at this point. Learning of the special Seven Species they will find once they cross the Jordan River should be an inspiring part of their journey.

### Questions for Consideration:

- Is there a danger in believing that everything depends upon *mazal* (good/bad fortune)? How do you see the effects of *mazal* in your life?
- What does it mean to work the land for food? Does your relationship with your food change when you help grow it?
- How does creating something give us ownership over what we do/have?



## The Parsha Through Another Lens

### Planting a Garden Together!

Discuss and plan creating a family garden together!

Some of the Seven Species plants might be challenging to tend for a first garden, but other fruits and veggies are easy. A small way to start could be by planting herbs such as basil and parsley in cups in your kitchen window. If you have a little more space, try planting tomatoes, cucumbers, kale, green beans, or carrots. Don't forget about flowers! Some flowers even keep bugs away from your other plants.

Planting and tending a garden together as a family is a great way to think about where food comes from and about the energy it takes to get the food we eat every day. Ask the questions listed above before and after, and see if the answers change!

### Shabbat Shalom!