

Z'man Kodesh
Thursday, August 8, 2019
Parshat Devarim
Middah: Wisdom

A Program From Herzl Camp

Parshat Synopsis:

In the third triennial of *Parshat Devarim*, Moses retells the story of the Israelites' journey through the desert on their way to the Land of Milk & Honey. Moses, on his deathbed in the mountains overlooking Israel, warns the Israelites of the dangers of disobeying G-d's orders. Moses implores the people to remember the ways in which G-d helped them and punished them through the journey. Moses reminds the people of the rules G-d has set out for a functioning community.

Moses does his very best to ensure the Israelites *really* got something out of their journey. He leaves the Israelites with the sentiment of "Go forth. G-d is behind you, as long as you follow G-d's commandments".

Note: Some of the details of Moses' retelling differs a bit from the original stories as told in earlier parshiot.

Discussion Questions:

Why does the torah retell a story/stories that have already been told?

In what ways do we retell stories in our own lives?

In what ways do stories change when we retell them?

The portion highlights the need for Moses to share his "wisdom" and perspective on the journey to the land of Canaan as a teaching tool for the Israelites.

Consider the following Pirkei Avot teaching: "Who is wise? One who learns from every person." (Psalms 119:99)

Discussion Questions:

What is the difference between being smart and being wise?

How does wisdom play into your role as a caregiver?

In what ways do you use stories to share your wisdom?

What stories do you want your children/grandchildren/young people to tell about you?