

## Why We Need Hope



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Parashat Shelach tells the story of Moshe (Moses) sending the 12 spies to Canaan to scout out the land. The spies return carrying an abundance of grapes, pomegranates and figs. They report that the land is lush. However, they also report a problem: the land is inhabited by giants. Ten of the spies assert that the land will be impossible to conquer. Only two of the twelve spies, Caleb and

Joshua, think they can conquer the land as God has commanded them to do. The people are worried about taking on this fight, they rebel, and say they would rather return to Egypt out of fear of being wiped out.

There is so much we can learn from Caleb and Joshua. When the other spies had doubts, they had faith, confidence and hope. They were willing to speak up, even when they were the minority view. So often we believe something isn't possible and we can't achieve our goals. It is easy to say, "I can't do it." It can take a lot of effort to say, "I can do it." As well as effort, it can also take faith and hope.

When we look at what is going on in the world, it can be easy to see so much to be upset and concerned about. It takes effort to see hope.

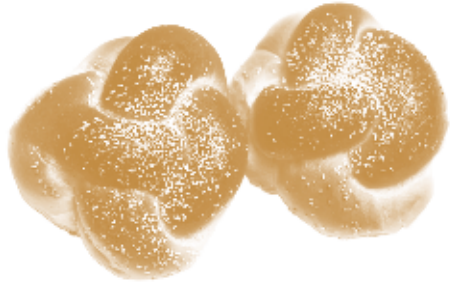
Rabbi Lord Sacks zt"l said in his book *To Heal a Fractured World*, "Optimism and hope are not the same. Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to have hope." More than ever, our world needs hope, and hope requires all of us to play our part."

## Pigpen Parasha!

Decipher the codes below using the 'Pigpen Cipher'.

E.g.  $\sqcap$  is A,  $\square$  is N and  $\swarrow$  is Y

A	B	C	J	K	L	S	W
D	E	F	M	N	O	T	X
G	H	I	P	Q	R	U	Y
			V	Z			



1. Moshe sends  $\triangleright \nabla \square \cdot \wedge \square$  spies to the land of Canaan.
2. Joshua and Caleb speak out against the other spies and  $\triangleright \square \text{JF}$  their  $\text{LLE} \triangleright \text{NOV}$ .
3. God decrees that the Jewish people's entry into the Land of Israel will be  $\square \square \cdot \text{J} \swarrow \square \square$  by  $\square \square \cdot \swarrow \swarrow$   $\swarrow \square \text{JFV}$ .
4. When we  $\text{UJ} \cdot \text{U}$   $\text{U} \text{F} \square \text{J}$ , a portion of dough called  $\text{L} \text{N} \text{J} \cdot \text{L} \text{N}$  is separated.
5. The mitzvah of  $\triangleright \text{AF} \triangleright \text{AF} \triangleright$  is to put  $\square \cdot \square \square \square \square \text{OV}$  on the corners of a  $\square \cdot \swarrow \cdot \text{L} \cdot \square \cdot \square \cdot \square \cdot \square$   $\text{L} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \square \cdot \square \cdot \square$ .