

ליל תורת ארץ ישראל

THE NIGHT OF TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

The Journey back to the Land

Summary page

The following is a guide for the delivering of the session “The Journey back to the Land”. We suggest to teach the text by learning and discussing every two verses. In the following scheme you find insights and tips to lead the analysis of the text in a meaningful and engaging way.

1 The wilderness and the parched land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice, even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God.

Explanation

The desert will look incredible, it will be covered in forest, it will bloom and rejoice and will look like the Carmel, the Sharon and the green Levanon.

Content

What does Hashem have against the desert? Why does He want to make it bloom and ruin its natural landscapes?

Delivery Tips

It's worth preparing a page of the Perek translated into your language.

3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and make firm the tottering knees.

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart: 'Be strong, fear not'; behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God He will come and save you.

Explanation

The Jewish people are despairing from the redemption and are tired of waiting for the redemption to come. They need encouragement.

Content

Why has the nation lost hope and patience? (Possibly due to the long and difficult exile and the absence of light at the end of the tunnel?)

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Explanation

The day will come when water will flow in the desert and all handicapped people will be healed instantly.

Content

Is this talking about something physical or mental? Could it be that people are crippled by the despair and disappointment?

Delivery Tips

You can use the method of crossing the room blindfolded compared to crossing with your eyes open, and elaborate on the difference between the two experiences.

7 And the parched land shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the habitation of jackals herds shall lie down, it shall be an enclosure for reeds and rushes.

8 And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein.

Explanation

The desert will turn into an area with flowing rivers and flourishing vegetation and that way it can be used as the first pathway designed for the return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land. It's the first path that any simple person can walk through smoothly and safely.

Content

It seems that the desert is being made to bloom to create a basis for a new and safe path to Eretz Yisrael. It's not talking about making all the deserts in the world disappear. Rather, it's talking about the transformation specifically of the Syrian dessert that spans the area between Babel to Eretz Yizrael.

Delivery Tips

It's worth using a map of the Middle East.

9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon, they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there;

10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Explanation

Since the path will be the first of its kind and crowded, wild animals won't endanger those walking through and they will be able to travel through safely and in song and happiness towards Eretz Yisrael. They will even be able to forget the distresses and troubles of the exile, and enjoy the journey without being traumatized by their experiences in exile.

Content

The ascent into Eretz Yisrael (Aliyah) turns into one that is safe and simple.

Delivery Tips

It's a good idea to end off by teaching the song "Upduyey Hashem" and to turn it into the theme song of the night.

Conclusion

The creation of the safe path that will allow for a smooth and easy Aliyah from Bavel to Eretz Yisrael.

From a dangerous Aliyah on foot to an occupied land, that was backward and disease-ridden then, to an Aliyah today where we can fly into Israel with airfares covered by the State of Israel, as well as an Aliyah allowance and assistance every step of the way, with organizations like Nefesh BeNefesh.

Central message: The prophet Yishaya was right. It's unfolding before our very eyes!