

# Parashat Sh'lach for Kids

Torah reading: Numbers 13:1-15:41

Read on Shabbat: July 3, 2027 · June 17, 2028 · June 9, 2029 (diaspora)

## THE STORY IN TWO MINUTES

### What happens in this parasha?

The Jewish people are camped in the desert, close to the Land of Israel at last. Moshe sends twelve scouts — one from each tribe — to go look at the land and come back with a report. The scouts walk the hills for forty days. They see that the land is wonderful: they cut down a cluster of grapes so enormous that two men have to carry it on a pole between them, with pomegranates and figs to match.

But when they return, ten of the scouts are frightened. “The cities are huge! The people are giants! We felt as small as grasshoppers!” The people listen to the scared voices and cry all night — they forget Who has been taking care of them since Mitzrayim.

Two scouts say something different. Yehoshua and Kalev stand up and say: “The land is very, very good — and Hashem is with us. We can do this!” Because the people choose the frightened voices over the brave ones, they will wait forty years in the desert, and it will be their children who come home to the land.

The parasha ends with a gift for remembering: the mitzvah of tzitzit — knotted strings on the corners of a garment. When you look at them, you remember Hashem’s mitzvot — a little like tying a string on your finger so you don’t forget something you love.

#### THE ONE BIG IDEA

Two people can look at exactly the same thing — one with scared eyes, one with brave eyes. Yehoshua and Kalev saw the same giants the other scouts saw. They just remembered Who was with them.

## READY TO TEACH · AGES 5-9

### The 30-minute lesson

- 1 Tell the story** 5 MIN

Use the version above, in your own words. Save the grapes-on-a-pole detail for the middle — it’s the picture kids remember.
- 2 Wonder together** 5 MIN

Ask: “All twelve scouts saw the same land. Why did ten feel like grasshoppers and two feel brave?”  
Let your child puzzle on it — there’s no wrong answer.

**3 Learn the Hebrew word**

5 MIN

This week's word: *emunah*, trust in Hashem. Say it together. The scouts' story is what *emunah* looks like (and what forgetting it looks like).

**4 Play “Two Reporters”**

10 MIN

Stand in the kitchen. First be a scared scout reporting on it (“The pots are GIANT!”), then a brave scout (“There's so much good food here!”). Same room, two reports — that's the whole parasha.

**5 Wrap up with tzitzit**

5 MIN

If there are *tzitzit* in your home, look at them together. Ask: “What helps YOU remember the things that matter?” End with one thing each of you wants to be brave about this week.

**HEBREW, ONE WORD AT A TIME**

## This week's Hebrew words

SAY IT	WHAT IT MEANS	HEBREW
<i>sh'lach-lecha</i>	“Send” — the portion's first big word, when Moshe sends the scouts	שְׁלַח-לְךָ
<i>meraglim</i>	The scouts (spies) who went to look at the land	מְרַגְלִים
<i>anavim</i>	Grapes — the giant cluster carried on a pole	עֲנָבִים
<i>emunah</i>	Trust in Hashem — what Yehoshua and Kalev kept	אֱמוּנָה
<i>Eretz Yisrael</i>	The Land of Israel	אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
<i>tzitzit</i>	The knotted strings that help us remember the mitzvot	צִיצִית

**AT THE SHABBAT TABLE**

## Three questions to ask

- Have you ever felt scared to try something that turned out to be wonderful? What helped you?
- If you could whisper one thing to the ten scared scouts, what would you say?
- What is your “*tzitzit*” — something you look at that helps you remember what matters?

**A GENTLE NOTE FOR PARENTS**

The hard part of this story is the forty years of waiting. For K–3, keep it matter-of-fact and hopeful: the people weren't ready yet, so Hashem gave them time to grow ready, and their children did come home. No need to frame it as doom — it's a story about consequences and second chances, and the next generation's happy ending is real.

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