

Lesson Ten: Overcoming Challenges



“אין הולכין בְּחִקּוֹת הַגּוֹיִים”

(רמבם הלכות עכו"ם פרק יא)

“Do not go in the ways of the other nations.”



The Camping Trip

CHARACTERS: Chani, Bracha, Yocheved, Rina

Chani: I can't believe we're actually going on a camping trip! This bus ride is taking so long. Rina, when are we there?

Rina: We should be arriving at the campgrounds any second now.

Bracha: I think we're here! I see a sign that says Wilderness Adventures.

Rina: Boruch Hashem Yes, we're here. Girls, the bus driver is pulling in to park. When we exit the bus, please go straight to those picnic tables over there and wait for further instructions.

Yocheved: Okay! I'm so excited! Chani, Bracha, come. Wow, thank Hashem it's so beautiful here.

Rina: Bunk Five, is everyone here?

Chani, Bracha, Yocheved: Yes!

Rina: All right. I'm assuming you all ate lunch on the bus. Please put your backpacks on and follow me. Bezras Hashem we are going on a four-hour hike to the campground. Come, let's go.

Yocheved: Four hours? That's a long hike!

Rina: Yes. Before we begin, we're going to see something special. Follow me.

Bracha: Are we going towards the river?

Rina: Yes. Stand by the edge of the riverbank, by the shallow part, and tell me what you see.

Chani: I see water flowing over rocks, spilling downwards into the bigger part of the river.

Bracha: Yeah. If you'd drop a leaf in there, it would float away in a second!

Yocheved: I see a FISH!!!

Chani: Where? Oh, I see it too! Why isn't it swimming down the river? Why does it look like it's struggling?

Bracha: I've never seen anything like that before! That fish is working so hard to swim up the stream, even though all the water is rushing in the opposite direction.

Rina: Girls, you are witnessing one of Hashem's many wonders of the natural world. This fish is a salmon. What is unique about the salmon is that they don't go with the flow. They swim *against the current* in order to reach their destination.

Yocheved: Hey, we are kind of doing that too! The hike is going to be long and tiring, especially by the uphill parts, but we know we're going to reach the campground and so that's what will keep us going.

Rina: Yocheved, that was beautiful! Thank you. That was exactly what I was going to explain. Can anyone think of a second connection? It has to do with Tznius.

Chani: Oh, I know! I bet we're going to see a lot of other hikers on the trail, and they might wonder why we're wearing skirts and tights. But we can be proud of the fact that we are dressed in a Tznius way. We're going against the current, too!

Bracha: Yeah. Even that salmon knows not to go with the flow! If he would, he'd end up someplace he's not meant to be.

Yocheved: Hey, everyone, look! That salmon was struggling for so long, and he's finally swimming upstream! He made it!

Bracha: Yay! I'm sure Hashem is watching us right now and feeling the same Nachas from seeing us keep the Torah and Mitzvos with such strength.

Rina: Yes! So girls, before we start the hike, I'd like to read a section of a letter from the Rebbe on this topic. I have it right here:

"...The message of Chanukah for Jewish girls and women is that they should not allow themselves to be influenced by the environment, even though they are "few" and "weak" (as mentioned in Al HaNissim). Victory will be theirs if they stand strong. The benefit of this will be not only for them but for the entire Jewish people, for all future generations, as was the case with Chanukah..." And here's another one: "Hashem knows that we are lowly Neshamos, and expects of us only what we are capable of doing, so He gives us only small challenges which we can handle."

All right Bunk Five! Now that we are inspired for the day -- who's ready? Let's go!