



ט"ו בשבט - Tu B'Shvat

Read the following story together:

A man was travelling through the desert, hungry, thirsty and tired, when he came upon a tree bearing luscious fruit and affording plenty of shade, underneath which ran a spring of water. He ate of the fruit, drank of the water and rested beneath the shade. When he was about to leave, he turned to the tree and said:

“Tree, O Tree, with what should I bless you?

“Should I bless you that your fruit be sweet? Your fruit is already sweet.

“Should I bless you that your shade be plentiful? Your shade is plentiful.

“That a spring of water should run beneath you? A spring of water runs beneath you.

“There is one thing with which I can bless you: May it be G-d’s will that all the trees planted from your seeds should be like you

(Talmud, Taanit 5b)

Hebrew:

”מעשה באדם שהיה הולך במדבר, והיה רעב ועייף וצמא, ומצא אילן שפירותיו מתוקין וצילו נאה ואמת המים עוברת תחתיו. אכל מפירותיו ושתה ממימיו וישב בצילו. וכשביקש לילך, אמר: אילן אילן, במה אברכך? אם אומר לך שיהיו פירותיך מתוקין, הרי פירותיך מתוקין! - שיהא צילך נאה, הרי צילך נאה! - שתהא אמת המים עוברת תחתך, הרי אמת המים עוברת תחתך! אלא יהי רצון, שכל נטיעות שנוטעין ממך יהיו כמותך.

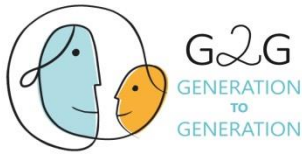
(תענית ה"ב)

Students and their senior partner can discuss:

- Under what conditions did the man encounter this tree?
- Whom does the tree symbolize?
- What does its fruit represent?
- What does its shade represent?
- What is symbolized by the water sources?
- What is the meaning of the blessing?
- How can this text connect to G2G: Generation to Generation?

Follow up activities:

Watch one of the following videos of this text that was made into a song.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B90edi_4AWI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ9A9Udyl6s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq_lcd7Dppo

Create your own slide show:

Have each pair search the internet and find a picture that they think represents this story in some form.

Save the picture and collect them all into a presentation

Set the presentation to the song "Ilan, Ilan."