Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation

Ivri Anochi: Avraham’s Children

Choveret Chinuch Tishrei
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Shana Tova!

We are happy to introduce the first Choveret Chinuch of the year. As a word of background, this year in Bnei Akiva US and Canada, we will be exploring the theme “Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation.” In snif, we will be learning about the development of our people and the Jewish state through the lense of Tanakh. Each month we will focus on a different sefer in Tanakh and its parallel themes in the Modern State of Israel. For the full overview of each month’s theme and tentative peulot topics, click here: https://www.bneiakiva.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Tochnit-Overview.pdf

This month, as we start the new year and begin the Torah from the beginning on Simchat Torah, we open our national story with Sefer Bereishit. The figure that best represents Sefer Bereishit is Avraham Avinu, the father of our nation. Through our peulot we will go back to the seeds of our history and see where it all began. In our skit, the chanichim will be introduced to Avraham and learn what special things he did to merit being the father of the Jewish people. In the first peula we will learn about Avraham obeying and trusting Hashem’s command to go to Eretz Yisrael, "אַרְאֶֽךָּ׃ וְאֶל־הָאָבִית וּמִבֵּוָֽלַדְתְּךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ לֶךְ־לְךָ - Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you." And as religious Zionists, we believe in the eternal promise of Hashem to Avraham that he and his children will inherit the Land of Israel, "כִּי עוֹלָם וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה לְךָ רֹאֶה אַתָּה אֲשֶׁר הָאָרֶץ כָּל אֶת - All of the land that you see, I give to you and your children forever." In the second peula, we take the chanichim on a trip around the world to meet Avraham’s descendants. No matter where Jews are in the world, Spain, Ethiopia, Germany, Ukraine- they never forgot the promise that Hashem made to Avraham. We will learn about the unique customs that each of these communities had to keep Israel in their hearts, long before the State of Israel was even an idea.

This choveret includes peulot, discussion points, skits, games, stories, songs, pictures, and puzzles but the ingredient that will ultimately determine if your snif is successful is- YOU! Please read through the material in this packet and decide what is best for your snif and your chanichim and add your own passion and ideas. To edit this packet, click tinyurl.com/choveretbereishit and go to ‘File’, ‘Make a Copy,’ and then you will have your own Google Doc to edit.

Bivrachat Chevrei Torah v’Avodah,

Jen van Amerongen
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Merakezet Chinuch
Co-Mazkir Artzi
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**Tzion/a:** I wonder what we’re going to learn about in snif this year... Every year I learn so much and I love the games we play.

**Madrich:** Hey Tzion/a, I can tell you what we’re going to learn about. The tochnit (theme) of snif this year is “Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation”

**Tzion/a:** Sounds cool but what does that mean exactly?

**M:** Basically, we’re going to learn about how the Jewish people and the State of Israel came to be what they are today, going all the way back from Avraham Avinu and learning about what our history can teach us about the Modern State of Israel. (For Younger kids simplify this A LOT: We’re going to learn all about our history! We’re going to learn about the Jews from Avraham Avinu all the way to today)

**Tzion/a:** Awesome, well it’s a good thing I have a friend who can take me back in history to learn about all this stuff.

**M:** "laughs* Mhmm.. Okay Tzion/a... I get it, every kid has their imaginary friends who can “time travel” (makes air quotes)

**Tzion/a:** No really! I do! His/her name is Z! S/he can travel through time! And I already met Rabbi Akiva and and and!! *Madrich/a is ignoring T*

**M:** Alright Tzion/a, I think its time to start snif, you can tell me your made up stories in walking group home...
*Madrich walks away* *T crosses arms*

**Z:** Hey Tzion/a whats up?

**Tzion/a:** Hi Z! Well, I was trying to tell my madrich/a about how you can time travel but s/he wouldn’t believe me!

**Z:** Ugh, teenagers, they can be so difficult. (or, they just don’t understand)

**Tzion/a:** Seriously. Well, s/he mentioned to me that we’re going back in history this year in snif and learning about the Creation of the Nation. I thought it would be really cool if we could actually go back in time and meet some of the people who lived back then.

**Z:** I’m always up for an adventure! Where shall we go first?

**Tzion/a:** I guess where our whole story began... the beginning of the Jewish people....

**Z:** Oh so like when bagels and lox (or matza ball soup) was invented. "looks hungry, licks lips" Mmmm...

**Tzion/a:** Noooo, like Avraham Avinu!

**Z:** "embarrassed" Oh yeah, thats um, totally what I meant. Well, do you remember the time chant?

**Tzion/a:** Yeah! Let’s do it!

***Together:** Uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki... SNAP! *spin*

**Z:** Here we are in Ur Kasdim thousands of years ago, hey I see Avraham over there! Let’s talk to him.

**Tzion/a:** Hi Avraham! I’m your great great great great great great great... well a lot of greats grand daughter/son.

**Avraham:** I don’t know how that’s possible because I don’t have any children.

**Tzion/a:** Don’t worry, you’ll see. How are you?
**Avraham:** Now that you ask... There have actually been some things on my mind recently.... The thing is, my family and my whole town believe that these idols, these little sculptures made out of stones, are gods and I know that Hashem is really the one true God but it’s hard to go against what everyone else is doing and do what I think is right.

**Z:** We believe in you Honest Abe, I mean Avraham.

**Tzion/a:** Yeah! Stand up for what you believe in!

**Avraham:** Wow, thanks guys! I think I’ll go smash my dads idols to show everyone that Hashem is really God! *runs off*

**Z:** *Yells after him* Sounds good! Just don’t tell anyone that you got the idea from us! You know, you break it, you buy it!

**Tzion/a:** That was cool. But if Avraham lives in Ur Kasdim, how did the Jewish people get to Israel?

**Z:** I think we have to fast forward the story a little bit, lets go! Uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki... SNAP! *spin*

*T and Z Watching from afar*

**Hashem:** Avraham

**Avraham:** Yes, Hashem?

**Hashem:** Leave your land, leave the land you grew up in, and Lech Lecha, go to the land that I will show you

**Avraham:** Which land?

**Hashem:** The land that I will show you

**Avraham:** What? Where’s that?

**Hashem:** The land that I will show you!

**Avraham:** But how am I going to know which one it is?

**Hashem:** Just trust me!

**Avraham:** Ok, I do trust you Hashem, and I know that wherever you bring me will be the right place for me.

**Hashem:** And Avraham, because you believe in me, and trust me so much- I will give you that land.

**Avraham:** The whole thing?!

**Hashem:** The whole thing, and I promise, that I will give it to your children too.

**Avraham:** Wow, thanks Hashem.

**T to Z:** Hashem said that He will give the land to Avraham’s children, does that include great great great great great....

**Z:** *cutting T off* Yes! That even includes you and me. Hashem promised that Eretz Yisrael would be Avraham’s children’s forever.

**Tzion/a:** That’s awesome. Well we probably should be getting back. I don’t want to miss the peula at snif.

**Z:** Lets hit it, come on do the chant with me. Uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki... SNAP! *spin*
Peula #1: Avraham Avinu: Father of our Nation

**Goal:** Have the chanichim learn about the special qualities of Avraham Avinu that we should try to embody, and understand that these qualities were what made him the father of the Jewish Nation and the one Hashem promised Eretz Yisrael to.

**Tochen:**

Main Idea: Avraham’s Qualities:

1. He went against the grain and did what was right even if everyone else didn’t.
2. He trusted Hashem

Additional Middot if time permits:

3. He welcomed others
4. He obeyed Hashem

1. **He went against the grain and did what was right even if everyone else didn’t.**

Discuss the story of Avraham smashing his father’s idols. Avraham smashed his father’s idols, because he knew that Hashem was the only G-d and did what was right even though everyone around him believed something else.

Discussion points:

- Do you think this was easy or hard for Avraham to do?
- Have you ever had to make the right decision when everyone around you was doing the wrong thing? Ask them to share a story about this. Or play a scenarios game, “what would you do?”
  - Examples: Not cheating on a test when everyone else found a copy of the test
  - Being nice to someone in school who everyone else is being mean to
  - Lying to the substitute teacher because everyone else is
- Madrichim: You can share a story of your own when you did the right thing even though it wasn’t “cool”
- There are a ton of movies that you can reference: High School Musical, The Lorax, Happy Feet...
- Why do you think it’s important to do the right thing?
- Explain, it’s not easy to do the right thing when everyone else around you might judge you for it or think its not cool, but it’s important to remember that it doesn’t really matter what everyone thinks, you have to be true to yourself and do what you think is right.
- What are some of the names we use to describe the Jewish people?
  - We have a lot: Bnei Yisrael, Am Yisrael, Yehudim, **Ivrim**!
- The Torah calls him "Avraham Ha-Ivri".
  - Ask what the word Ivri means, from the shoresh עבר, like עבר, עברו, עברה. It means to cross, or go over
- HA-IVRI translates literally as "the one who stands on the other side." Because he went against what everyone else did.
- This is why he is the father of the Jewish people, we are a people who go against what everyone else does and we do what's right.

2. **Avraham trusted Hashem**

Ask the chanichim know the story of Lech Lecha. Hashem told Avraham to go but didn't tell him where exactly
he was going, just told him “Go to the land that I will show you.”

Game: Blindfolded Obstacle Course
- Divide chanichim into pairs. Blindfold one partner from each pair.
- Set obstacles around the area. The kids who are blindfolded have to concentrate and find out their partner’s voice and listen to the instructions to safely navigate.

Discussion points for Younger Chanichim:
- Ask for reactions about the game- Was is hard? Scary?
- Why was it difficult?
- What was your tactic? Have them explain that they needed to listen and trust their partner.
- Introduce Avraham, tell them that this is what Avraham had to do, Hashem told him to leave his family and go to where He would show him. Avraham had to trust Hashem, like you had to trust your partner, that He was going to show him the right way to go and keep him safe.

Discussion points for Older Chanichim:
- Use the above and can add..
- What do you think are examples of “Lech Lecha”s in your life? How do you trust Hashem?
  ○ Trusting Hashem that he’ll keep us safe, we daven to Hashem because we hope He’ll help us, trust that Hashem will protect the State of Israel and our chayalim...
- Connect this to Aliyah. Hashem’s commandment to Avraham is like Aliyah to Israel- you have to leave your family and go to a new land.
- Why do you think Aliyah is hard?
  ○ New language, far from home and family, different culture
- Why is Aliyah important? Why do people do it?
  ○ Because its a Jewish value, we want to live in the land Hashem promised us... Aliyah is an act of trust, Olim trust Hashem that everything will end up for the best even if its hard.

3. He welcomed others
Have a discussion about Avraham’s tent. Ask chanichim to describe his tent with 4 doors open for guests.
Play the game and emphasize the connection to Avraham being hospitable to all of his guests.

Game: Avraham’s Tent (or Surprise Guests)
- One person volunteers to play Avraham.
- Avraham leaves the room.
- Three chanichim serve as the Surprise Guests.
- Have the chanichim think of personalities for each guest, or assign them yourself.
- Then bring the Avraham back in the room. Guest #1 "knocks" on the door. Avraham lets him/her inside and they begin to interact. A new Guest will arrive in a minute (or more time, depending on what your chanichim can handle) so that Avraham will be interacting with three different guest characters.
- Avraham wants to figure out the identity of each Guest. However, this isn't just a guessing game. The Guests should offer discreet clues that become more and more obvious as the improv game continues..
- For Older Chanichim: The guests should have a strong emotional element to their character. Characters can include: “An astronaut with a severe fear of heights” or a “doctor who is afraid of germs” The game
4. He obeyed Hashem.

Have a discussion about Avraham obeying/listening to Hashem. Speak about Akeidat Yitzchak and how Hashem asked Avraham to sacrifice his only son that he had been waiting for for so long. Even though in the end Hashem sent the ram to be sacrificed instead, Avraham obeyed Hashem and was willing and about to sacrifice Yitzchak.

- You can have a conversation about obeying or listening to rules. Do your chanichim listen to their madrichim? Their parents?
- Why is it hard? Why is it important?
- What are ways they listen to Hashem even if it’s not easy?
  - Waking up for tefilla, being quiet in shul, not playing with their iPad on shabbat.

**Game: Hashem, May I?**

A fun game to practice “obeying”. Hashem told Avraham what to do, and he listened carefully, and did it!

**NOTE:** This is not the traditional version of “Mother, May I?”

- Choose one person to be “IT”. That person stands near one wall.
- The other children form a line along the wall on the far side of the room.
- The person who is IT gives commands such as “Take 2 giant steps” or “Take 4 baby steps.”
- Each time the group must ask “Mother, May I?” and receive a “Yes” before beginning.
- If someone fails to get permission, that person must go backwards instead of forwards.
- First one to the other side wins and is “IT.”
- Other steps may include: scissor steps, bunny hops, jumps, etc.
Goal: The chanichim will be introduced to different communities of Jewish people around the world (Spain, Ethiopia, Germany, and Ukraine), and learn about how each community kept Eretz Yisrael and Yerushalayim in their minds, remembering the promise that Hashem said to Avraham - אֶתְּנֶנָּה לְךָ רֹאֶה אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי עַד־עוֹלָם׃ וּלְזַרְעֲךָ “All of the land that you see, I give to you and your children forever.” (בראשית טו:יג). Though Jews might look different, speak different languages, or live in different places- we all are the children of Avraham Avinu and we all remember the promise that Hashem made to him that we will inherit the Land of Israel.

This peula should be run like an interactive museum. Before Shabbat, print out pictures and set up each “exhibit”. I have included scripts and pictures for each exhibit but it is up to you to make it imaginative! Tell the chanichim you’re flying around the world and going to different Jewish communities hundreds of years ago. Use the map and other props! Try to dress up like the people and get into character. (Or have the chanichim dress up and have them read scripts!) Add your own games or other fun ideas.

SPAIN:

Yehuda HaLevi, a poet who wrote about his great love for Eretz Yisrael

Arab/Sephardic Accent, Very poetic, soft, or romantic personality. Costume: A robe and a turban

Script: Salaam A’Leikum everyone, my name is Yehuda HeLevi. Salaam Aleikum means Shalom Aleichem, or Hello, in Arabic. I speak Arabic because I live in Spain. (Show them where Spain is on the map). You might be confused because you’d probably think they speak Spanish in Spain. Well, I lived in Spain hundreds of years ago when it was a Muslim country and they spoke Arabic. Professionally, I am a rabbi and also a doctor. But in my own time, I like to write poetry. Most of the poems I’ve written are about Eretz Yisrael. Ahh… Eretz Yisrael. The most beautiful land in the entire world. The Jews haven’t been in Eretz Yisrael for hundreds of years, but all I can think about, is how much I wish I could go back and see it. We might not be there yet, but Hashem promised the land to Avraham and all of his children, and I know we’ll make it back some day.

Here, look at some of the poems I’ve written, they are all about how much I love Eretz Yisrael, and they are very famous.

- Read the poems, or have the chanichim read, aloud
- Explain the words, ask them what they think they mean

Discussion points for Libi BaMizrach:

- HaLevi is explaining that although he lives in Spain (the West) his heart is really in Eretz Yisrael (the East).
- He can’t stop thinking about Eretz Yisrael.
- He says that although Spain is considered so beautiful (show them the picture of Toledo, HaLevi’s hometown) and it is such a wonderful place- it was a booming city, there was so much culture and wealth (compare it to somewhere like NYC, Los Angeles, Paris, etc)
- He wishes he could go to Eretz Yisrael. Explain that Israel at that time was desolate, there were very few Jews living there and it was empty and not settled. He wants see the beautiful dust of the Beit Hamikdash
  - Is dust beautiful? Why does he want to see dust?

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1 For a more extensive biography of Yehuda HaLevi see:
Discussion points for Tzion HaLo Tishali:
- This poem is like a love letter between the Jewish people and Tzion (Yerushalayim)
- We ask Tzion, are you thinking of us and how we're doing? Because we are thinking of you
- Ask the chanichim: Have you ever been to camp? Have they written their parents/friends letters about how much they miss them.
- HaLevi calls the Jewish people prisoners because it’s like we are in jail in other countries
- He says that no matter where the Jews are in the world, we tell Tzion how much we miss her
- And he ends by saying that he dreams of Yerushalayim and when he can return back

Game: Jailbreak Dodgeball
In Yehuda HaLevi’s poem he writes about how the Jewish people are like prisoners who are captured in different countries around the world and all we want to do is return to Israel. Play this game and explain that when you break out of jail you’re like the Jews trying to get back to Israel.
- The game is like dodgeball but with a twist
- Set up the borders for each side and designate an extra space in the back of each side for “Jail”
- When a player is hit, they have to go to Jail (the back) of the other team’s side
- They can try to escape jail by sneaking out and back to their team’s side
- If they are caught sneaking out, the opposing team has to hit them with the ball (or tap/peg, if that is more challenging), and then they are out permanently until the end of the game

ETHIOPIA:

Chag HaSigd. Sigd is a traditional Ethiopian Jewish holiday in which the community went up a mountain 50 days after Yom Kippur and prayed for the return to Eretz Yisrael. See pictures below and see footnote for more information.

Script: Seh-lam, my name is Makoya, and that is how we say hello in Amharic. Amharic is the language we speak in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a country in Africa. My family lives in a small Jewish village where we raise goats. We live a very simple life here in Ethiopia. Our elders tell us that Jews have been living in Ethiopia for hundreds of years since the first Beit Hamikdash was destroyed. They always tell us stories about Yerushalayim, I even know some of the stories by heart. One of my favorite Jewish holidays is a special holiday that we celebrate in Ethiopia called “Sigd”. Sigd is 50 days after Yom Kippur. We fast and our whole community walks to the highest point on a mountain near our village. When we get to the top of the mountain we pray for Hashem to return us to Eretz Yisrael. I feel at the top of that mountain like I can almost see Eretz Yisrael in the distance, and I wish we could go home to the land that Hashem promised to Avraham Avinu so many years ago.

GERMANY:

“Temple” Wedding Rings In Medieval Germany, Jews remembered Yerushalayim by giving rings shaped like the Beit Hamikdash as wedding rings. Fun ideas: Have a mock wedding, give out ring pops or plastic rings, play ring-toss.

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2 https://knesset.gov.il/lexicon/eng/sigd_eng.htm
3 https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/688007
**Script:** Mazel tov! You guys want to hear great news? I just got married! Look I even have the ring to prove it (show pictures of the Temple ring). It's a pretty interesting ring right? Have you ever seen a wedding ring like this? Well, in my town in Germany we use these rings to remember that although we live in Germany, Eretz Yisrael and Yerushalayim is always in our hearts. That's why the rings are shaped like the Beit Hamikdash. I think it's so beautiful, that on the happiest day in my life, I can use this ring to remember Yerushalayim. Under my chuppah I davened and asked Hashem to return us to the Israel like he promised Avraham Avinu so many years ago.

**Ukraine:**

**Mizrach papercuts**: Shuls in 19th Century Eastern Europe hung beautifully crafted (an art form called papercut) Mizrach signs to show which direction to pray, the direction of Israel.

**Game:** Included are puzzle versions of the Mizrach papercuts, print and cut out before Shabbat. Additionally, you can print and laminate Mizrach signs for the chanichim to take home and hang in their homes.

**Script:** Shalom Aleichem! My name is Mordechai. I live in Ukraine, a part of Europe near Russia. I live in a small Jewish shtetl. It's a very nice and traditional community. I'm an artist. My specialty is an art called papercut. Instead of drawing or painting my pictures, I cut paper to make shapes and pictures, its very hard. I especially like to make Mizrach signs. Mizrach signs are decorative signs that we hang in our shuls and homes to show us which way is East, where Yerushalayim is. This way we always know which direction to daven, and it's a beautiful way to show that where ever we are in the world, we always have our eyes on Eretz Yisrael. Try and see if you can make some of the papercuts.

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4 [https://thejewishmuseum.org/collection/2460-mizrah](https://thejewishmuseum.org/collection/2460-mizrah)
Libi BaMizrah by Yehuda HaLevi

לבי במצרחה ישבתי ובושה יעשב
איך אספיק את אתרי 앐ך א辦理 יעיירב
איכא אסיפת בזרי החום,
באר צוער בתכל אדות ואדם זכני בבל ערב
מזה ברעניא רבה לכל טוב טפורד,
באו ירוש ברעניא ראות לעוזר עביד חזרב.

My heart is in the East, But I am in the West
How can I enjoy the food I eat, how could it bring me any rest?
The promises I’ve made, can I keep them as I must,
When Zion is tied with rope and I am tied with chains?
It seems easy in my eyes to leave the good of Spain,
so that I can see the beauty of the destroyed Beit HaMikdash’s dust.
Zion, won't you ask your prisoners how they're doing?  
We want to know how you are  
We all say Shalom, from West and East and North and South,  
both from near and far;  
I cry for you when I dream, because I've missed you for so long,  
and I dream of coming back to you, when I will sing your song.
Toledo, Spain
Chag HaSigd
Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation
Bereishit: Ivri Anochi: Avraham’s Children
Temple Rings
Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation
Bereishit: Ivri Anochi: Avraham’s Children
Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation
Bereishit: Ivri Anochi: Avraham’s Children
Related Songs

**Father Abraham**
This song is similar to L’Doda Tova Yesh Tarnigolot with a fun dance, see video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXowiv3FAc

Avraham Avinu had many sons...
Many sons had Avraham Avinu!
And I am one of them, and so are you...
So, let’s all praise Hashem!
Right arm!

(With each of following, repeat chorus and add one movement as described below.)
Right Arm, Left Arm!
Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot!
Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot!
Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up!
Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around!
Right Arm, Left Arm, Right Foot, Left Foot, Chin Up, Turn Around, Sit Down!!!

(Right Arm – wave right arm
Left Arm – wave left arm
Right Foot – tap or step with right foot
Left Foot – tap or step with left foot
Chin Up – nod head up and down
Turn Around – turn around in circles
Sit Down – sit down in place... )

**L’cha Eten Et Ha’Aretz HaZot**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMNMcA_l2_0

כי אתה אשר ארץ את האדמה
לך ונתן כל עולם...

לך את הארון ההאנת
ובך כל מי שהתמצאה לפני התורה וברכה על פניכם...

Ki et kol ha’aretz asher ata roeh
Lecha etnena u’lezaracha ad olan

Lecha eten et ha’aretz hazot
U’varech kol minei tvuata l’tova v’ten bracha al pnei ha’adama
Am Nolad: Creation of the Nation
Bereishit: Ivri Anochi: Avraham’s Children

Ivri Anochi - Benny Friedman
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1i3fDdZnrM

A little bit of history I’ve been through
Ask me where I’m from, and I will tell you
I’m a Jew and every Jew’s a proud Jew
Not just me, my sisters and my brothers
Never be ashamed to be a proud Jew
It’s not what you’ve done, it’s how He made you
So sing this song and spread the pride around you
Yehudi Ani, eternally!

I’m a Jew and I’m proud
And I’ll sing it out loud
‘Cuz forever and ever that’s what I’ll be
I’m a Jew and I’m proud
And without a doubt
Hashem is always watching over me