

Genesis statements

Your chavruta will be assigned one of the statements below. Regarding that statement, follow these steps:

- 1) Find the pasuk in Bereshit where the statement is found
- 2) Write a few sentences about the context of the statement within the original Biblical text
- 3) Discuss with your partner what this verse could mean to you today (use evidence from the text whenever possible to support your connection). Write a paragraph explaining how this statement speaks to you today. (possible focuses - in what situations might someone say this to you, and how would you react? In what situations might you say this to someone else?)
- 4) Be prepared to present your notes / writing to the whole class

1)

“Lech L’Cha” - “Go to yourself”

1. Chapter 12 - Pasuk 1
2. God is telling Abram to go to Canaan. He would like to make a nation from Abram, and promised him this land. This is where the “promised land” began. It could be interpreted as a metaphor meaning that Abraham should make his own choices, but always come back to Israel.
3. This pasuk applies to us today because it is saying that you’ll always find your way back home, no matter what, but sometimes home isn’t where you think it is. For example, Abram left for Canaan, and found his home there. Someone, in our modern day world, might be worried that when s/he is leaving what they originally call home, they do not really know what is going to be coming later in life. So, when they get a message, or hear a sign to do something (like God speaking to Abram) many follow it, and they might find their home. As it says in Aladdin on Broadway, “After a million miles or so, we might find out we’re home.”

2)

“V’Heye bracha” - “You shall be a blessing”

וְאֶעֱשֶׂה לְךָ גְּדוֹלָה, וְאֶבְרַכְךָ, וְאֶגְדָּלְךָ	And I will make of thee a great nation, and I
שְׁמִי; וְהָיָה, בְּרַכָּה.	will bless thee, and make thy name great;
	and be thou a blessing.

Context: Hashem is blessing Abraham and his future generations

Today:

BY BLESSING ABRAHAM, GOD WAS LETTING HIM KNOW THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD BECOME A GREAT GENERATION. WITH THIS IT IS ALMOST AS IF HASHEM IS BLESSING US TOO. IF I WAS BLESSED BY HASHEM THEN I WOULD FEEL SPECIAL AND THAT I NEEDED TO DELIVER A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO MY PEOPLE. I WOULD FEEL OVERWHELMED AND PRESSURED. THIS AFFECTS US TODAY BECAUSE IF GOD HAD NOT BLESSED ABRAHAM THERE WOULD BE NO JEWISH NATION.

3)

“Let there be no quarreling between you and me, between your (shepherds? friends?) and mine.”

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל-לוֹט, אֵל-נָא תְהִי מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ, וּבֵין רָעִי, וּבֵין רָעִיךָ: כִּי-אַנְשִׁים אַחִים, אֲנִי וְאַתָּה.
“And Abram said unto Lot: ‘Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we are brethren.’”

Abram and Lot were traveling together through Cana'an. They both had many sheep and cattle, but there was not enough room for both of them to live comfortably. Abram says to Lot that he does not want any fighting between them, because they are from the same community and from the same family. Lot left Abram peacefully and journeyed eastward, so that he could have more room for his sheep and cattle.

Today, this verse could mean many things. One example could be between two teammates. The teammates both play the exact position, and have very similar talents. The coach has not yet decided who will start the first game of the season. The two players are aware of this, and begin a hatred for one another. They are trying their very best to sabotage each other. Their coach soon learns about the players' plans, and puts it to an end. He says ““Let there be no quarreling between you and me, between your (shepherds? friends?) and mine.” After hearing this, the players learn that as teammates they should work together and be friends. If they really want to win, then they'll put their egos away, and do what is best for the team.

