

Lesson Plan 4 - Faith & Doubt

By Breindy Lazor and [Rivka Djavaheeri](#)

**Course: Navi - Sefer Yehoshua**

**LESSON 1: Introduction to the sefer:**

1) Teacher will provide a brief summary of how Chumash Devarim ended with Moshe's death and with Yehoshua about to take over as leader. Bnei Yisrael are about to enter the land that Hashem promised them and they must prepare to conquer it.

2) **Questions for students:** How might Yehoshua be feeling right now? His leader and teacher has died. He knows he is next in line to be leader. (Students may say he might be worried, afraid, uncertain...)

Teacher brings up "doubt" - what doubts might Yehoshua have had? (Students: doubt in himself, doubt in his abilities, doubt in B"Y believing in him/following him...)

3) **Questions for students:** What is a Jewish leader? What does it entail to lead the Jewish people? (We can look at Jewish leaders until Yehoshua to find answers.)

Students can have class or small group discussion about some leaders before Yehoshua and then share out.

Teacher: discuss when Moshe led Bnei Yisrael. What were some character traits that we saw in him? Possible answers:

- **Emunah (teacher is looking for this answer and if it's not provided by students, try to elicit it)**
- Anava / Humility
- Anger - this can lead to sub-discussions about the appropriateness or lack thereof of anger. Was Moshe's anger always justified? How did Hashem react to that anger?

4) **Question for students:** What kind of emunah does a leader need to have? (students will probably say emunah in Hashem).

What about emunah in the people they are leading? Is that needed? If so, why? And what would that entail?

**Source 1:** From “Seven Principles of Jewish Leadership” by Rabbi Sacks, published June 2012.

<https://www.rabbisacks.org/archive/seven-principles-of-jewish-leadership/>

### **Principle 5: Leadership means believing in the people you lead**

The Rabbis gave a remarkable interpretation of the passage where Moses says about the Israelites, “They will not believe in me.” God said to Moses: “They are believers the children of believers, but in the end you will not believe.” They also said that the sign God gave Moses when his hand became leprous (Ex. 4:6) was a punishment for casting doubt on the Israelites. A leader must have faith in the people he or she leads.”

Teacher will facilitate student discussion about believing in the people you’re leading, the importance of this, examples of this from Chumash.

**Source 2:** From “To Heal a Fractured World”

Rabbi Sacks: “More than we have faith in God, God has faith in us.”

Teacher will ask students what this quote means and how it can be connected with Yehoshua. This can be extended into a discussion about how students can apply this in their own lives.

### **LESSON 2: Continuation of Introduction to Sefer Yehoshua**

1) Students will be presented with Rabbi Sacks’ article “Seven Principles of Jewish Leadership” to read independently and notate the 7 qualities that Rabbi Sacks lists as well as examples of those qualities.

As a class, students will review the 7 qualities they noted down and the student-provided examples.

2) The teacher will lead the students in a discussion of Jewish leaders, past and present who represent(ed) 1 or more of these qualities. (Some examples might be Sarah Schneirer, Rav Kanievsky, Recha Shternbuch, etc...).

3) Students will choose one Jewish leader to research and create a comprehensive summary of this leader's life and their accomplishments, tying it in with at least one of Rabbi Sacks' 7 principles.

### **LESSON 3: Continuation of Introduction to Sefer Yehoshua OR Independent work/Homework:**

Students will respond to the following quote from the "Seven Principles" article:

**"Leaders lead because there is work to do, there are people in need, there is injustice to be fought, there is wrong to be righted, there are problems to be solved and challenges ahead. Leaders hear this as a call to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. They lead because they know that to stand idly by and expect others to do the work is the too-easy option. The responsible life is the best life there is, and is worth all the pain and frustration...."**

**Task:** What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it? Why or why not? What examples can you think of in which a Jewish leader represented this quote?

- Students will share out or in a group their answers and discuss.
- Students will present their assignment of a Jewish leader who represents 1 or more of the 7 principles.

Previewing Perek Alef:

**Learning resource:** Video summary of Perek Alef from Rabbi J. Hirsch of "The Flipped Classroom" <https://youtu.be/-VUqzDv5MIo>

At this point, the teacher would start inside the Navi, give a background of the meforshim they will be discussing, etc.