

NCYI Youth Groups Tu B'Shvat

Family Trees: A TuB'shvat Story for Kids <http://www.aish.com/h/15sh/i/48970966.html>



We can learn a lot of things from trees. One thing is patience.

by [Nesanel Yoel Safran](#)

Tu B'shvat is the day we celebrate one of God's most special creations -- the tree -- and all of the good we get from them. There is a custom to eat many different types of fruit on this day while thinking about and appreciating where they came from. We can learn a lot from trees. One thing is patience. A tree, which starts from a tiny seedling, takes many years before it grows tall and produces its delicious fruit. So too, we should try to be patient and know that all good things will eventually 'bear fruit' if we're willing to wait.

In our story, a kid discovers there's much more to trees than branches and leaves

The old man watched with a satisfied smile as the cars drove in one by one to the far side of the apple orchard. He loved this time of year when the apples were hanging red and heavy on their branches, waiting to be picked, eaten and enjoyed, and when the folks came from miles around for their yearly outing.

He saw a green SUV, and watched as parents, kids, packages, bags, and a baby stroller came tumbling out. One of the kids, a girl of around 11, caught his eye, not because of her enthusiasm but rather, her extreme lack of it.

"Apple picking. Apple picking. Every year, boring apple picking," Nancy huffed. "What's wrong with the apples we buy in the store? They're perfectly good. Why do we have to make this big trip every year for a few dumb apples?"

"Nancy, can you grab this bag please? Be careful, it has a thermos in it," said her mom.

Mrs. Krieger felt bad that her daughter was feeling so impatient and having such a rough time of it today. She had such fond memories of apple picking in this very same

orchard back when she was a girl and hoped to share it with her kids. But Nancy wanted no part of it.

It was taking *forever* for her parents to get everything organized, so Nancy started wandering around the orchard a little. She just wanted to finish fast and go home to join her friends, who were at the new ice cream shop that had just opened. Free ice cream as much as you can eat, all day, and here she was, stuck surrounded by these ridiculous apples. As she was walking, suddenly she came upon a sight that looked strange to her. She went over to take a closer look.

The old man, the orchard owner, was bending down over a flat of tiny apple-tree seedlings, picking up each one lovingly and placing it gently into neatly spaced holes already dug into the ground. Nancy snorted out loud as she watched him tamp the dirt around each sapling, like they were his babies or something. The man looked up at her and smiled.

"Beautiful, aren't they?" he said.

"Maybe," replied Nancy. "But how long will it be until they're big enough to make apples?"

"Oh to really produce? About 20 years, maybe more."

"*Twenty* years! Then what are you bothering for? Don't get offended mister, but let's face it, at your age," she paused as she took in his wrinkled face, "it doesn't really look like you'll be around to enjoy them, you know?"

The man smiled warmly again. "Right you are about that, young lady. Nothing lasts forever, does it. Even so, all these apples here that everyone is picking and enjoying were planted by my father and grandfather. They cared enough back then to plant for the future. And look - with a little patience, the future came quick enough, didn't it. I hope these here saplings will provide lots of good fruit for my kids and grandkids, and whoever else might want to come and enjoy them."

Nancy was speechless. Nothing in her eleven years of life had prepared her (not counting the care and love of her parents, which she hadn't yet realized was a gift and not a given) for such a patient and unselfish outlook on life.

"Here, how'd *you* like to plant one, young lady?" the man said as he offered her one of the saplings. "Maybe one day you'll come back here and *your* kids can pick apples from 'your' tree."

Nancy took it and felt surprisingly good as she placed it into the ground.

"Oh Nancy, there you are," said her mom, walking over. "I know you're in a rush to get home, so we'll try to hurry thing as much as we can."

"No mom, it's okay," smiled the girl as she glanced at the old man, still patiently planting for the future, "I'm really happy we're spending this time together. There's no rush, after all. Don't all good things and good *times*, take time - to bear fruit?"

Questions:

Ages 3-5

Q. How did Nancy feel at first about the apple-picking trip?

A. She was bored and in a rush to get home.

Q. How did she feel in the end?

A. Her talk with the old man about trees and being patient made her feel calmer and not in a rush.

Ages 6-9

Q. What do you think Nancy learned that day that changed the way she felt?

A. She'd been impatient and felt things like apple-picking were a waste of time. The old man's words - and willingness to spend his time and energy planting apple trees he'd never even eat from - made Nancy realize that being patient and looking toward the future were values she could relate to.

Q. What, if anything, do you think a person gains by being patient?

A. One good thing is that it makes life a lot less stressful. Also, by being patient we can experience and understand things we might otherwise miss by rushing through them.

Ages 10 and Up

Q. What other lessons do you think we can learn from trees?

A. Trees reach upward - so too we should always strive to grow. Trees give generously of their fruit - we too should be generous. Trees are sustained by their roots - we should feel connected to and draw from our 'roots' too. Trees can look dead and dormant in the winter, but suddenly blossom in the spring - we should know that even when in our lives we feel like we're dormant and getting nowhere, as long as we try to do good, things will eventually bloom. There are many more lessons, try to think of some.

Q. Do you think there is a connection between patience and our degree of faith in God?

A. Faith means knowing God is with us in our lives and giving us just what we need when we need it, even if we don't understand why. Naturally the more we internalize and live with this faith, the more patience we will have to take life as God, in His wisdom, decides to send it to us.



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Winter Wonderland

by Rabbi Yaakov Asher Sinclair - www.seasonsofthemoon.com

New Year for Trees http://ohr.edu/holidays/tu_bshvat/1449

Question: When is *Rosh Hashana* in the middle of winter?

Answer: When it's the *Rosh Hashana* of the trees.

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat, is the New Year for trees. On this day, it is customary to eat from the seven species for which the land of Israel is praised: "...a land of **wheat** and **barley** and (**grape**) vines and **fig** trees and **pomegranates**, a land of **olive** trees and (**date**) honey." (*Deuteronomy 8*)

Tu B'Shevat is the day when new sap starts to rise in the tree, when new life is starting to emerge. Even though we are still in the middle of winter and all looks bleak, cold and lifeless, *Tu B'Shevat* comes - a day of new life with the promise of rejuvenation.

That's why *Tu B'Shevat* can be compared to the coming of the Mashiach and the final redemption of mankind. Everything looks bleak and there seems to be no sign of life; we are threatened by increasing assimilation and the loss of Jewish identity; Jewish life seems frozen and moribund. ***But even at that very moment, the sap is rising.*** On the surface, you can see no change whatsoever, but precisely at that moment, life secretly and inexorably starts to burgeon anew.

Tu B'Shvat Songs

http://virtualjerusalem.com/jewish_holidays/tubshvat/sing.htm

This is a song that Israeli children are taught in school.

Words: Yisrael Dushman

Melody: Menashe Ravina



Hashkedia porachat, veshemesh paz zorachat
Tziporim merosh kol gag mevasrot et boh
hachag
Tu B'shvat higiah, chag la'ilanot!

Ha'arets meshava'at, higiah eit ha lata'at!
Kol echad yikach lo etz, be'itim neitzei chotetz
Tu B'shvat higiah, chag la'ilanot!

Nita kol hahr vageva, miDan v'ad Be'ersheva,
V'artzeinu shuv nirash, erez zeit yitzhar
ud'vash.
Tu B'shvat higiah, chag la'ilanot!

The almond trees are white,
The sun is shining bright,
Singing birds from every dome
Tell us Tu B'shvat has come, the holiday of trees!

The land is yearning,
the time has come for planting
Each one takes a tree, with shovels we'll get it done
Tu B'shvat is coming, the holiday of trees!

We'll plant each hill and height,
from Dan until Beersheva
Our land we'll again inherit, the land of olive oil and
honey,
Tu B'shvat is coming, the holiday for trees!

The March of the Planters

Kach Holchim Hashotlim

Words: Y. Sheinberg

Music: Y. Admon

Kach holchim hashotlim
Ron baleiv v'eit atid
Min ha'ir umin hakfar
El kol gay v'har nechmad
B'Tu B'shvat!

Lama batem hashotlim?
Nach bakarkah uvatsor
V'gumot saviv nachpor
Beharim uvamishor
B'tu B'shvat!

Ma yehe poh hashotlim?
Shatil yavo bechol guma
Ya'ar ad yifrosh tsilo
Al artzeinu aruma
B'Tu B'shvat

There go the planters
Glad in heart and spade in hand
From the city and village
To every beautiful mount and valley
On Tu B'shvat!

Why did you come, planters?
Dig up the ground and rocks
And we will dig the ditches
round about In the hills and in the plains
On Tu B'shvat

What will be here, planters?
In every ditch there will be a
sapling. An evergreen forest will spread its shade
On our barren land
On Tu B'shvat.

Tu B'Shvat Games

Tu Bishvat

Shiva Minim Tast Test

Props:

- blindfold

As many of the shiva minim as possible:

-crackers (wheat)

- grapes

- figs

- pomogarite

- olives

- dates

Activity: Blindfold someone and silently decide with the rest of the group what to give him/her to taste. If they master individual tests, see if they can still guess when you give them a few items mixed together.

Courtesy of parshaactivities.com

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Tu Bishvat Quiz

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/quiz/?tid=HY.JH.TC>

Tu Bishvat, traditionally known as the birthday of the trees, is a time to think about relating to the natural world. How much do you know about Tu Bishvat?

Question 1. True or False: The "birthday" of trees was used to help farmers calculate the age of trees.

True

False

Question 2. What occasion does Tu Bishvat mark?

The middle of winter

The first day of spring

The new year for the trees

The day the rainy season begins

Question 3. What were the main elements of the ritual that the Jewish mystics of Safed developed for Tu Bishvat, modeled after the Passover seder?

Four cups of wine were drunk and seven fruits symbolic of those of the Holy Land were eaten

Two cups of wine were drunk and seven fruits symbolic of those of the Holy Land were eaten

The door was opened for Elijah

Four questions were asked relating to trees

Question 4. True or False: When describing trees that can be cut down after capturing a land, the Torah does not distinguish between fruit-bearing and non-fruit-bearing trees.

True

False

Question 5. When Theodor Herzl visited Israel in 1898, he planted what kind of tree near Motza

Ceder

Oak

- Cypress
- Elm
- Maple

Question 6. Which of these is a popular Tu Bishvat activity in Israel?

- Dancing in the streets
- Reading the Book of Daniel
- Planting trees
- Sitting in the sukkah

Question 7. The mitzvah of yishuv ha'aretz means to

- Farm the land
 - Settle the land
 - Celebrate Israel
 - Eat fruit
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<http://www.torahtots.com/clipart1.htm>







