**Class #27–Parshat Shelach "Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try!”**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel *Z”l*

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3-CpzZJl8w> "Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try”.

1. What advice does Yoda give Luke?
2. Why does Yoda not believe in trying? What is his assumption?
3. What are the limits of this line of thinking?
4. What is correct about Yoda’s teaching?
5. What is incorrect about Yoda’s teaching?

**Parshat Shelach - The Spies’ Mission**

Exploring the Promised Land

13:1 God spoke to Moses, saying,

13:2 'Send out men for yourself to explore the Canaanite territory that I am about to give the Israelites. Send out one man for each patriarchal tribe. Each one shall be a person of high rank.'…..

13:18 See what kind of land it is. Are the people who live there strong or weak, few or many? 13:19 Is the inhabited area good or bad? Are the cities where they live open or fortified? 13:20 Is the soil rich or weak? Does [the land] have trees or not? Make a special effort to bring [back] some of the land's fruits.'[It was the season when the first grapes begin to ripen](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2978).

**The Spies report**

When they arrived, they went directly to Moses, Aaron and the entire Israelite community, [who were] in the Paran Desert near [Kadesh](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2989). They brought their report to [Moses, Aaron], and the entire community, and showed them fruit from the land.13:27 They gave the following report: 'We came to the land where you sent us, and it is indeed flowing with milk and honey, as you can see from its fruit. 13:28 However, the people living in the land are aggressive, and the cities are large and well-fortified. We also saw the giant's descendants there. 13:29 [Amalek](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2990) lives in the Negev area, the [Hittites, Yebusites and Amorites](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2991) live in the hills, and the [Canaanites](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2992) live near the [sea](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2993) and on the banks of the Jordan.' 13:30 Caleb tried to quiet the people for Moses. 'We must go forth and occupy the land,' he said. 'We can do it!' 13:31 'We cannot go forward against those people!' replied the men who had gone with him. 'They are too strong for us!' 13:32 They began to speak badly about the land that they had explored. They told the Israelites, 'The land that we crossed to explore is a land that consumes its inhabitants. All the men we saw there were [huge](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2994)! 13:33 While we were there, we saw the titans. They were sons of the giant, who descended from the [original] [titans](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2995). We felt like [tiny grasshoppers](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2996)! That's all that we were in their eyes.

**The people react**

14:1 The entire community raised a hubbub and began to shout. [That night](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=14#C2997), the people wept. 14:2 All the Israelites complained to Moses and Aaron. The entire community was saying, 'We wish we had died in Egypt! We should have died in this desert! 14:3 Why is God bringing us to this land to die by the sword? Our wives and children will be captives! It would be best to go back to Egypt!' 14:4 The people started saying to one another, 'Let's appoint a [new] leader and go back to Egypt.'

**Joshua and Caleb push back**

14:5 Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the whole assembled Israelite community. 14:6 Among the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Yefuneh tore their clothes in grief. 14:7 They said to the whole Israelite community, 'The land through which we passed in our explorations is a very, very good land! 14:8 If God is satisfied with us and brings us to this land, He can give it to us - a land flowing with milk and honey. 14:9 But don't rebel against God! Don't be afraid of the people in the land! [They have lost their protection](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=14#C2998) and shall be our [prey](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=14#C2999)! God is with us, so don't be afraid!' 14:10 The whole community was threatening to stone them to death, when God's glory suddenly appeared at the Communion Tent before all the Israelites.

1. When the Torah says that the Princes were “Men”, what qualities were they emphasizing? Was there a doubt of what gender was being referred to?
2. What does the statement: “We felt like [tiny grasshoppers](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=13#C2996)! That's all that we were in their eyes.” show about the state of mind of the Princes? How did they know what the inhabitants thought about them?
3. What advice regarding the Force would have Yoda given to the returning spies?
4. Is the only thing wrong with Yoda’s teaching that he views the “force” as being an independent thing rather than coming from Hashem?
5. In what way is our concept of “partnering with Hashem” different than Yoda’s idea of “the force”?
6. What should the spies have done with their insecurities about entering into war?
7. Why did the spies not tell Moshe about their insecurities?
8. A MJE’er, named Joe, has a family Bar-Mitzvah to attend. Joe is new to kosher observance. The Bar Mitzvah will be a non-Kosher event. They do not want to cause a fuss. Joe decides to eat the food and not say anything. Why you think Joe, who had committed to keeping kosher, made that decision? What could he have done?
9. A MJE’er, named Judy, loves to come to MJE’s Wednesday night learning. She likes to discuss Kabbalah, Talmud and other complex topics. She has scant knowledge of the parsha or the siddur. She doesn’t want to learn those topics with her chavrutah. Why do you think that is the case?