

PARSHAT SHMOT: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

This guide corresponds to the video: [What's In A Name?](#)



POINTS TO PAUSE



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BEFORE THE VIDEO | ➔ | Why is the second book of the Torah called "Shmot" or "Names"? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1:40 | ➔ | Why the "Book of Names"? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4:50 | ➔ | To what is the midrash alluding? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7:03 | ➔ | Which is it? Are we countable or not? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 11:00 | ➔ | How are we like stars? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AFTER THE VIDEO | ➔ | Why is the book called "Shmot"? |



FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

Rabbi Fohrman discusses our being like stars in feeling all alone and like we don't matter, but also emphasizing that each and every one of us is important.

Thinking about our own lives, when have you felt all alone and like you don't matter? When has a relationship helped you to feel like you do matter? What is the role of your name in that relationship?

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

How did Shmot get its name?

What question did Rashi ask, and how does he answer it?

What is the connection to Abraham? To the stars?

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STUDENT GUIDE

Graphic: As you watch the video, use the graphic below to note the path that connects people to stars.



PARSHAT SHMOT: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

| שמות א:א | Shmot 1:1 |
|---|---|
| וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַבָּאִים מִצְרָיִמָּה: אֶת יַעֲקֹב, אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בָּאוּ. | Now these are the names of the sons of Israel, who came into Egypt with Jacob; every man came with his household: |

| בראשית מו:ח | Genesis 46:8 |
|--|---|
| וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרָיִמָּה, יַעֲקֹב וּבָנָיו: בְּכֹר יַעֲקֹב, רְאוּבֵן. | And these are the names of the children of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's first-born. |

Rashi on Shmot 1:1

And these are the names of the sons of Israel: Although [God] counted them in their lifetime by their names ([Gen. 46:8-27](#)), He counted them again after their death, to let us know how precious they are [to Him], because they were likened to the stars, which He takes out [From beyond the horizon] and brings in by number and by name, as it is said: who takes out their host by number; all of them He calls by name ([Isa. 40:26](#)). [From Tanchuma Buber, Shmot 2; Exod. Rabbah 1:3]

ואלה שמות בני ישראל: אף על פי שמנאן בחייהו בשמותן, חזר ומנאן במיתתן [אחר מיתתן], להודיע חבתן שנמשלו לכוכבים, שמוציאן ומכניסן במספר ובשמותם, שנאמר (ישעיהו מ כו) המוציא במספר צבאם לכולם בשם יקרא:

| בראשית טו:ה | Genesis 15:5 |
|---|--|
| וַיֹּצֵא אֹתוֹ הַחוּצָה, וַיֹּאמֶר הִבֵּט-נָא הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְסַפֵּר הַכּוֹכָבִים--אִם-תּוּכֵל, לְסַפֵּר אֹתָם; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, כֹּה יִהְיֶה זַרְעֲךָ. | And He brought him forth abroad, and said: 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars, if thou be able to count them'; and He said unto him: 'So shall thy seed be.' |

| שמות א:ז | Shmot 1:7 |
|---|--|
| וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, פָּרוּ וַיִּשְׂרְצוּ וַיִּרְבּוּ וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ--בְּמֵאֹד מְאֹד; וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ, אֹתָם. | And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. |