

PARSHAT SHOFTIM: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

This guide corresponds to the video: The Significance of Saving Private Ryan

TEACHER'S GUIDE



POINTS TO PAUSE



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| ▪ BEFORE THE VIDEO |  | What makes life meaningful? |
| ▪ 1:19 |  | Which people are sent home instead of going to battle? |
| ▪ 6:40 |  | Why are these soldiers told to go home? |
| ▪ 8:06 |  | What is it that you're living for such that, were you to die, you could still say that your life is meaningful? |
| ▪ 9:08 |  | From where is the Torah getting these three things? |
| ▪ 10:29 |  | What are the human versions of these things? |
| ▪ AFTER THE VIDEO |  | What makes life meaningful? |



FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE

Rabbi Fohrman connects the man who has just built a house but not lived in it, the man who planted a vineyard and hasn't harvested it, and the man who is engaged but not married to the way God created the world, planted a garden, and created a relationship with us.

Thinking about our own lives, what can you connect to these three situations? Do you think these three situations equate to finding meaning in life? What else makes your life meaningful?

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Which four people go home instead of going to battle?

What reasoning is given as to why these men shouldn't go into battle?

How do the three men who don't go into battle connect to God?



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STUDENT GUIDE

Instructions: As you watch the video, use the chart below to keep track of the different cases mentioned.

	Situation 1	Situation 2	Situation 3	Situation 4
What is the situation?				
What is the reasoning given?				
Which version of the situation relates to God?				

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דברים כ:ה-ח	Deuteronomy 20:5-8
<p>ה וְדַבְּרוּ הַשְּׂטָרִים, אֶל-הָעָם לֵאמֹר, מִי-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה בַּיִת-חֹדֵשׁ וְלֹא חֲנָכוֹ, יֵלֶךְ וְיָשֵׁב לְבֵיתוֹ: פֶּן-יָמוּת, בַּמִּלְחָמָה, וְאִישׁ אַחֵר, יִחַנְכֶנּוּ. וּמִי-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נָטַע כָּרְם, וְלֹא חָלְלוֹ--יֵלֶךְ, וְיָשֵׁב לְבֵיתוֹ: פֶּן-יָמוּת, בַּמִּלְחָמָה, וְאִישׁ אַחֵר, יִחַלְלֶנּוּ. ז. וּמִי-הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-אָרַשׂ אִשָּׁה, וְלֹא לָקַחָהּ--יֵלֶךְ, וְיָשֵׁב לְבֵיתוֹ: פֶּן-יָמוּת, בַּמִּלְחָמָה, וְאִישׁ אַחֵר, יִקְחֶנָּה. ח. וְיִסְפוּ הַשְּׂטָרִים, לְדַבֵּר אֶל-הָעָם, וְאָמְרוּ מִי-הָאִישׁ הַיָּרֵא וְרֵךְ הַלֵּבָב, יֵלֶךְ וְיָשֵׁב לְבֵיתוֹ; וְלֹא יִמַּס אֶת-לֵבב אֶחָיו, כְּלֵבָבוֹ.</p>	<p>5 And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying: 'What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. 6 And what man is there that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not used the fruit thereof? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man use the fruit thereof. 7 And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.' 8 And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say: 'What man is there that is fearful and faint-hearted? let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart melt as his heart.'</p>