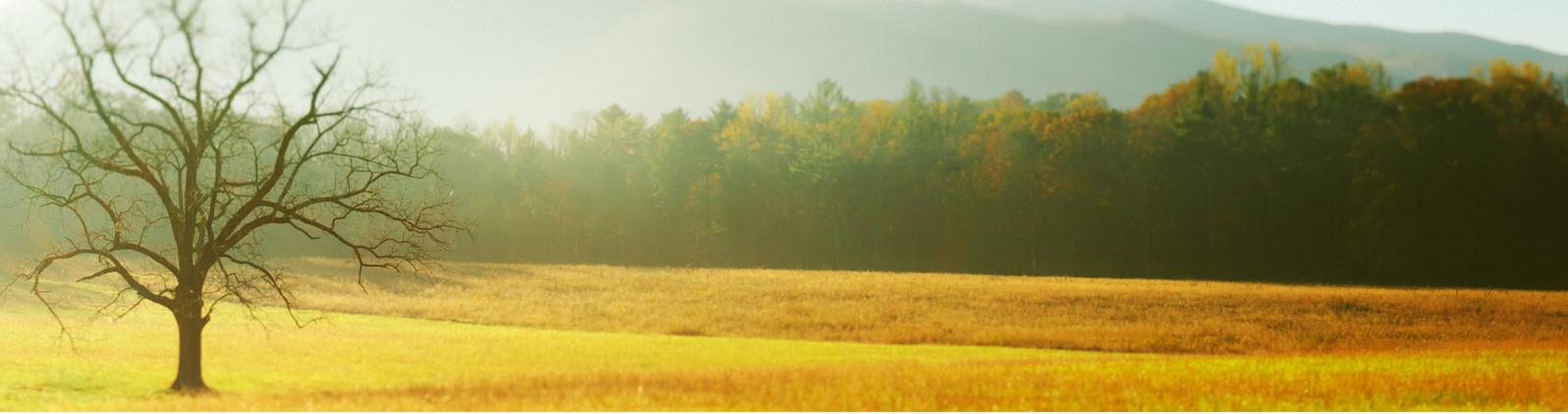




HOLY FOCUS

A Second Nurture Resource for Rosh Hodesh Shevat

[@2Nurture.org](https://www.2Nurture.org)



Psalms 19:2

הַשָּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד אֵל וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו מְגִיד הַרְקִיעַ.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and all the the works of God's hands speak of God's handiwork.

Pirkei Avot 3:7

Blessing for Wonders of Nature

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך
העולם, שככה לו בעולמו.

Blessed are You, Lord our
God, Ruler of the Universe,
Who has such [beauty] in the
Divine universe.

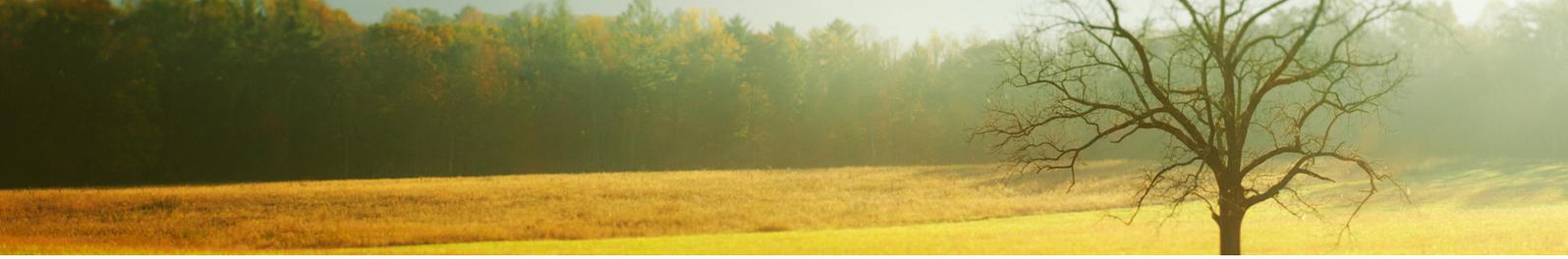
Proverbs 3:6

בְּכָל־דַּרְכֶיךָ דַּעֲהוּ יְיָ וַיַּשֵּׁר אַרְחֻתֶיךָ:

(6) In all your paths know God, And
God will make your paths smooth.

(ז) רבי אלעזר איש ברתותא אומר, תן לו משלון,
שאתה ושלך שלו. וכן בדוד הוא אומר (דברי הימים
א כט) כי ממך הכל ומידך נתנו לך. רבי שמעון
אומר, המהלך בדרך ושונה, ומפסיק ממשנתו
ואומר, מה נאה אילן זה ומה נאה ניר זה, מעלה עליו
הכתוב כאלו מתחייב בנפשו:

(7) Rabbi Elazar, man of Bartuta, says: Give
God from what is God's, for you and yours are
God's. Thus with David it says, "For all comes
from You, and from Your hand we have given
to You" (I Chronicles 29:14). Rabbi Shimon
says: One who is walking on the way and
repeating their studies, and interrupts their
studies and says, "How lovely is this tree! And
how lovely is this newly plowed field!" -
Scripture considers them as if liable for
[forfeiture of] their life.



Questions and Discussion

Psalms 192

- What is "the Glory of God"? God's handiwork? Both מְסֹפְרִים and מְגִיד are fairly modest words for such a sublime idea. What is the power of speaking and saying?
- What might such seemingly simple acts as attesting to what we see bring strength to another?
- How might learning how to name what we see be empowering?

Blessing for the Wonders of Nature:

- This seems to be an example of what the Psalm is describing.
- Have you said this blessing? What does it mean to recite it?

Proverbs 3:6

- What does it mean to know God?
- We know that our paths are not smooth, so what does it mean for God to keep our paths smooth?
- In T Bavli, Brachot 63a, 13, Bar Kaparra says that this is a passage upon which Torah is dependent. Rava added that we should apply this even to acts of transgression. Why might this be?

Pirkei Avot 3:7

- What does it mean to give God from what is God's, for you and yours are God's?
- What is the dynamic described of interrupting one's studies? Can you think of how this might play out in your life?
- How might this idea of focusing on our "conversation" with God play out in our human relationships?
- How might this focus benefit a child, especially a child in a foster family? How might we understand the term, "as if liable for his/her life" in regard to maintaining focus in this context?



Second Nurture creates a community within our community— and expands our vision of what family and belonging truly mean.

- Cohort Member



Our community can be a place in which fostering and adoption are a norm. Whether you want to foster, adopt, or be part of our community support system, there is a role for you.

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- Families are supported before, during, and after the licensing and adoption processes
- Foster and adopted children have peers in our community with similar backgrounds
- The values of foster and adoption are integrated into our community culture
- Our whole community wraps around the families in support as they become foster and adoptive parents
- We will partner with the best and most well-aligned local social service partners
- We are all enriched—both by our new, young members and our growing capacity as a synagogue to support our foster and adoptive families



Second Nurture
Every Child Deserves a Family and a Community