

Torah Portion for Lech L'cha

Shabbat beginning November 4, 2022

B'reishit's Lech L'cha, "Go Forth", was God's instruction to Abram. This week's portion gives our faith's founding stories in language and customs understood by the ancients, like covenant making, bearing future heroes, risking one's beautiful wife to appease a ruler, blessing barren women, and circumcising men. The portion calls us to consider what brings us together and continues to inspire us. Sarah's response to barrenness of offering her servant Hagar to Abraham reveals another necessity of community—experimentation and change. She thought herself too old for motherhood, but then bore Isaac, a patriarch remembered in every Jewish service for thousands of years.

Temple Adas Shalom's purpose "is to build a strong and vibrant Jewish Community, providing for the spiritual well-being of our members today, and the foundation for the Jewish community in this region in the future." We join, blessing those who bless us. We soon recognize how we prepare children as future leaders, avoid community-destroying politics, support each other through Sisterhood activities, and find other ways to contribute to our community. Afterwards, we help the congregation grow through modern approaches. Ultimately, as our Reform seminary faculty stated, we help "to build community by drawing people into meaningful Jewish life."