



The Bracha and the Bread Basket

An adapted story

Dani came home from school as he did every day and offered to help his Ima prepare dinner for their entire family, observing the *mitzvah* of *Kibbud Av v’Em*. They set the table, prepared the food and when everyone was home, they sat down to eat. Before eating bread from the bread basket, all members of the family washed their hands and said the appropriate *Bracha* as they did every evening. Then, they all sat at the table and took bread from the bread basket and said together:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמּוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Dani's sister reported that in school that day, her second grade class visited the area's Kosher Bakery and learned about the process of how bread is made. They talked about where bread came from and how it was processed to the point where they bought and consumed it. The youngest child in the family, Rivkie explained that "Well that's simple silly. We all know where bread comes from. It comes from the grocery store, of course." All agreed that this was an absolutely appropriate answer from one so young. However, pensiveness set in as the older members of the family began to go mentally through the chain of events that brought the bread to their bread basket and table.

At this point, the family became involved in a conversation tracing the bread from its source as reflected in the *Bracha* they said to the bread basket on their table. They explained for Rivkie that the bread that we have on our table did not by any means begin its journey in the supermarket...

YOU TRY THIS FIRST With one or two of your classmates, try to trace the steps that the bread goes through before it gets to you. Be sure to include all of the steps involved.

This material is drawn from Our Relationship to the Land: Meaning of the Omer, a curriculum guide developed by Canfei Nesharim in 2008.