**SHABBAT HAGADOL**
The Biggest Shabbat of the Year

BRING IT HOME SHABBATON
NEW YORK NCSY

**WHY IS THIS SHABBAT CALLED SHABBAT HAGADOL:** "THE BIG SHABBAT"?

**TO COMMEMORATE THE BIG MIRACLE:** On the Shabbat right before the Jews left Egypt, the Jewish people were commanded to take a lamb (which was one of the Egyptian gods) and tie it to their bedposts. Miraculously, the Egyptian people didn't attack the Jewish people while they fulfilled this task.

**IN HONOR OF THE BIG SPEECHES:** Traditionally, Shabbat HaGadol is the week where the rabbis of communities delivered long speeches about the laws of Passover.

**WHAT TORAH PORTION DO WE READING THIS SHABBAT?**

This week, we are reading the portion of Tzav, which means command. In this Parsha, portion, we learn some of the laws of the Korbanot, ritual offerings. Moshe, the leader of the Jewish people, inaugurates his brother Aaron and Aaron's family as the priests of the people.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Hebrew word for ritual offering is Korban, and the Hebrew word for close is Karov. This teaches us that the offerings, which can, at times, be confusing and hard to understand, are a tool to help us come closer to God.

Think about your recent experiences. Have any of them been confusing or hard to understand? How can they help you build you connection with yourself? With those around you? With God?

**WHAT BIG IDEAS DOES THE TORAH TEACH US ABOUT THIS TIME?**

During the Passover Seder, we talk about the three main components in the following order:

1. **פסח**
The Passover Offering

2. **מאץ**
Matzah

3. **מרור**
The Bitter Herb

The Dubno Maggid, Jacob ben Wolf Kranz, who lived in Lithuania in the late 1700s, famously asked:

**Why are the bitter herbs last? If we want to tell the story of the miracles, why do we end on something bad?**

He explains that we eat the bitter herbs at the Seder to thank God for our slavery in Egypt! In retrospect, we can see that the slavery was ultimately a good thing, because it created our nation and brought us together. Even the suffering and hardship that we experienced was a necessary step towards our final goal: receiving the Torah.

Recent events have challenged us in ways we never thought possible. While there are so many hardships, we also have the opportunity to find something good. Challenge yourself: Can you find 10 good things in every day?