

Gideon Goes to Get the Sechach

Gideon and his family live in Israel. Gideon's daddy was busy building the Sukkah. It was a nice Sukkah! Gideon was very proud that his family would have their own Sukkah. He wanted to help.

"I will go and get the Sechach for the roof!" he said to his Daddy, and off he went.

First he went to the cypress tree and said:

"Cypress tree, cypress tree, look at me! Please let me have some of your branches for the Sechach on our Sukkah!"

"Oh no, Gideon" said the cypress tree. "Look and you can see that a bird has built a nest among my branches. If you cut my branches you will disturb the nest and frighten all the birds."

Gideon then went to the fig tree and said:

"Fig tree, fig tree, look at me! Please let me have some of your branches for the Sechach on our Sukkah!"

"Oh no, Gideon" said the fig tree. The figs on my branches are not ripe yet, they must still remain on the tree. You must not cut my branches or the figs will all be wasted."

Gideon then went to the olive tree and said:

"Olive tree, olive tree, look at me! Please let me have some of your branches for the Sechach on our Sukkah!"

"Oh no, Gideon" said the olive tree. "Look how many olives are growing on my branches, hundreds of them. You can't cut my branches now or there won't be any oil from all my olives."

Gideon then went to the pomegranate tree and said:

"Pomegranate tree, pomegranate tree, look at me! Please let me have some of your branches for the Sechach on our Sukkah!"

"Oh no, Gideon" said the pomegranate tree. "You can have my pomegranates to hang in your Sukkah to make it beautiful, but you cannot cut off my branches."

Gideon took the pomegranates and thanked the tree, and went to the date palm tree.

"Date palm tree, date palm tree, look at me! Please let me have some of your branches for the Sechach on our Sukkah!"

I have been to the cypress tree, I have been to the fig tree, I have been to the olive tree, I have been to the pomegranate tree, and none of them would give me their branches. Please will you help me and give me some of your branches?"

“With pleasure, Gideon!” said the date palm tree. “Look at my branches that are all bent. Take a saw and saw them off and use them all for your Sukkah. By next year I will have grown some new ones.”

Gideon ran to tell his Daddy who came with his saw and cut the branches of the date palm tree. Together they carried the branches back to the Sukkah and put them on the top to make the Sechach.

Gideon was very happy that he had been able to help make the Sukkah.