

## **"Go Forth"**

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My thoughts today are inspired by this week's Torah portion, Lech Lecha, "Go forth."

God tells Abraham to "Go forth from your land, your birthplace, and the house of your father to the land that I shall show you." (Gen. 12:1)

It reminds me that when we "go" one place, we are "leaving" another. In Abraham's case the pasuk (verse) very poignantly points out that he is leaving a place that is described in increasing degrees of intimacy: "your land;" "your birthplace;" and finally, "the house of your father." The passage narrows Abraham's life into very personal terms. How does Abraham find the courage to leave the place he has always known, his home; and, journey to an unknown land? I would answer "faith."

Change is hard. I know. In the past four years, in the middle years of life, I have changed homes and careers. My journey has taken me far from my home and those I love, to new and unknown places. What sustained me and gave me courage to "go forth," was having a deep sense of purpose and commitment that the journey I was taking would lead me to a "land that God would show me." That journey has led me here, to Beth Yeshurun Day School. My hope is that together we can continue to build the land and the place that God has shown us.

Shabbat shalom.