SOLOMON AND THE TREES


In this beautifully illustrated children’s book, the young (not yet king) Solomon loves to spend his time in the forest, communicating with the animals and the trees. He especially loves the month of Sh’vat when he would listen to the trees awaken to spring. He grew older and wiser – so wise in fact that he was selected by his father King David to be the next king of Israel. Solomon built the majestic Temple sparing no costs, including his beloved trees. But when he discovered that his forest was ravaged to build the Temple, he was distraught and set about replacing what had been lost.

Discussion should center around Solomon’s relationship with the environment – the animals and the trees. Questions could include the following:

Why was the month of Shevat so important to Solomon?

Why did Solomon become king, rather than his other brothers?

What did Solomon do when he became king?

What happened to his beloved trees?

What do you think is more important: to build a house for God or to save the trees?

Could they do both?

Should Solomon have been so angry with the workmen?

What did Solomon do to solve the crisis of his ruined forest?

What were Solomon’s difficult choices?

What are some of the difficult choices you sometimes have to make?