

# Teacher's Guide: Supporting Material for Viewing "What's new?" –Rising Lion Edition

## Goals:

- Deepen students' understanding of current events in Israel
- Connect Jewish history to the present
- Encourage Jewish identity and a sense of responsibility toward the Jewish people



**Target Audience:** Jewish elementary school students in the Diaspora, summer camps, youth movements



**Lesson Duration:** 45 minutes

## Lesson Structure:

### 1. Guided Viewing

10 min

#### Before Watching:

- Ask: "What do you know about Iran?"
- Explain that you will be showing a children's news report. Ask students to focus on the following questions while watching:
  - What is the goal of the operation?
  - How does it relate to the story of the Book of Esther?
  - What message is conveyed by the name Am KeLavi ("Rising Lion")?



Show the video.

### 2. Short Discussion

10-15 min

#### Discussion Questions for Group or Class:

1. What is different between now (Operation Rising Lion) compared to the beginning of the "Iron Swords" war? (Explain that the war is still ongoing in Gaza and there are still hostages.)
2. Why did Israel carry out this operation?
3. What is the meaning of the name Am KeLavi (Rising Lion)?
4. What do you think of the idea that "the best defense is a strong offense"?
5. How did you feel when you heard that children in Israel aren't going to school right now?
6. Why is it important to send wishes and support from the Jewish Diaspora to Israel?
7. What do you think is special about Jewdisim? What do Jews contribute to the world? What is important about having a Jewish state for the Jewish People?

### 3. Connection to Jewish History

5 min

- Briefly explain: The Book of Esther took place in today's Iran (then called Persia). The Jewish people have had ties to that region for thousands of years.
- Show a map of the region and point out Israel, Iran, and the traditional burial site of Mordechai and Esther.

### 4. Optional Creative Activity

15 min

#### A. Letters to Israel

- Each student can write a short letter or draws a picture to show support for children in Israel.
- These can be collected and sent digitally to a partner school in Israel.

#### B. "Am KeLavi - Lion Rising Poster

- Students can create posters with drawings of lions, the Israeli flag, and the verse "Am KeLavi Yakum".
- Encourage them to include words like unity, courage, prayer, Am Yisrael Chai.

## End of Lesson – Personal Reflection

### Ask students:

- What does it mean to me to "be a lion"? Have I ever felt like a lion in a certain situation?
- What part of the lesson touched you the most?
- What can you do to help strengthen the Jewish people?

### Possible ending to the lesson:

The lesson can end with a Prayer for the State of Israel and the IDF Soldiers, and a group singing of:

- Acheinu Kol Beit Yisrael
- Am Yisrael Chai
- Kol HaOlam Kulo Gesher Tzar Meod
- Lo Tinatzechu Oti ("You Won't Defeat Me")