

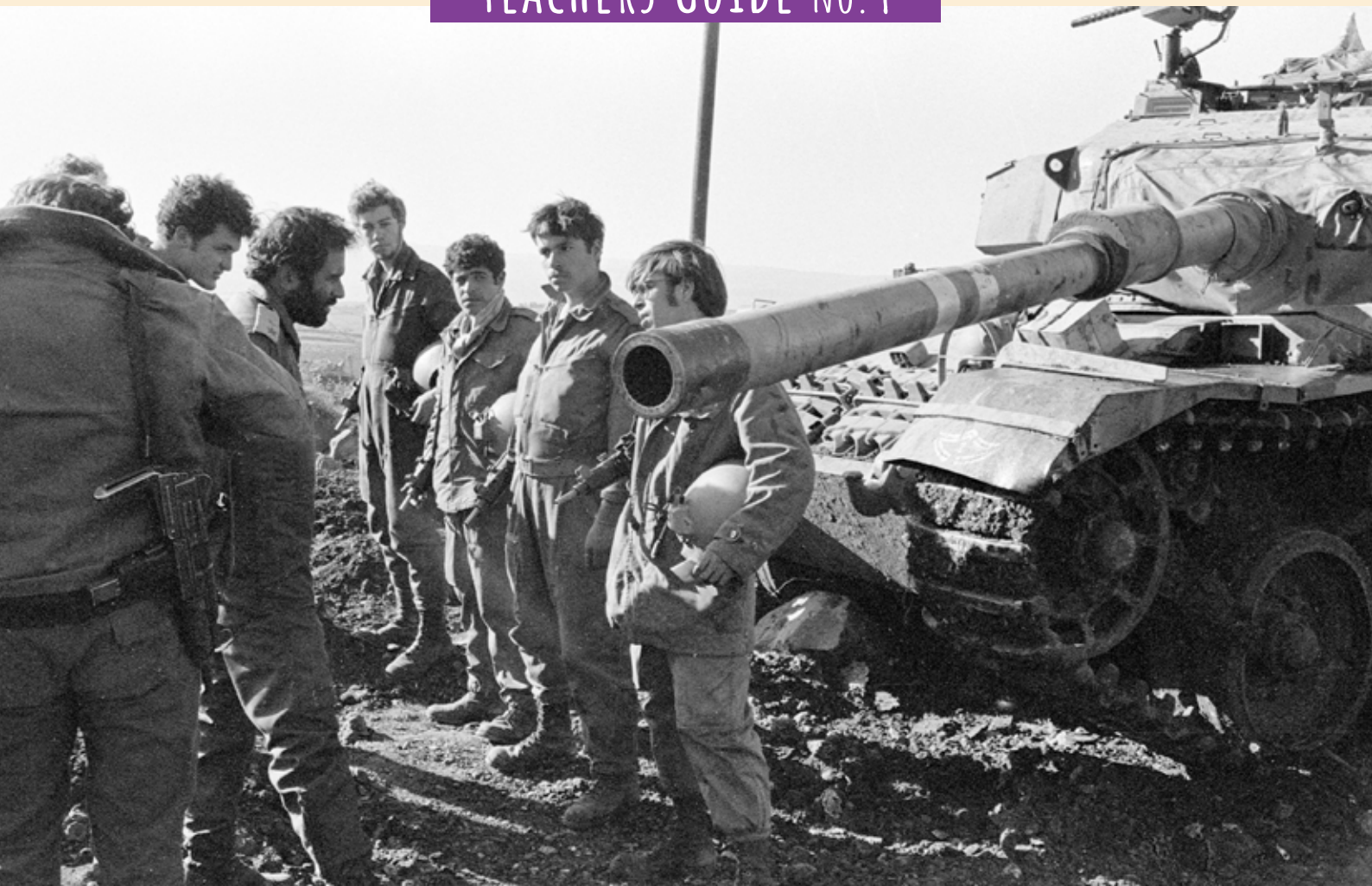


UnitEd

אל עמי - אל שמואל
אל עמי
זהות | צינות | מורשת | אחדות

50 YEARS TO YOM KIPPUR WAR

TEACHERS GUIDE NO. 4



part 4 - Leadership

The content of the workshop

This lesson will focus on the role of battlefield leadership during war. In many cases, the level of leadership, including platoon, company, and battalion commanders, has often made the difference between success and failure. These commanders have had to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty and time pressure. By focusing on aspects of leadership such as the commander's location, communication skills, decision-making, and personal and moral values, students will learn key leadership skills and how to apply these skills in their daily lives.

We will learn about the figure of the leader through familiarity with Lieutenant Colonel Avigdor Kahalani and his leadership in the Battle of the Valley of Tears in the Golan Heights.



Lesson Objective

The objectives of the workshop

A.

Students will become familiar with the Battle of the Valley of Tears.

B.

Students will recognize the turning point in the course of the battle that led to a breakthrough and understand the role of personal leadership in these battles.

C.

Students will identify the characteristics required of a leader and understand what makes someone a leader.

D.

Students will understand the role and position of a leader in times of peace and during wartime and draw inspiration for their own lives from such significant figures.



Workshop Structure

Part One - The Battle of the Valley of Tears

The lesson begins with a description of the Battle of the Valley of Tears as presented in the slides.

- Slide 2 Presents the opening details of the war on the Golan Heights.
- Slide 3 Presents the opening conditions of the Battle of the Valley of Tears.
- Slide 4 Explains the term "valley" and shows the topography of the area.
- Slides 5-8 Describe the Battle of the Valley of Tears.
- Slide 9 Students will watch a short film about the war.

Part Two - Leadership Workshop

To succeed in battles, you need a leader who inspires the warriors to go onward...

You can use both tasks or choose only one of them:

Task 1, Slides 11-12:7

- Slide 11 Write down as many names of leaders as possible.
- Slide 12 Initiate a discussion: Which leaders do you know?
Who are your leaders? Why do you consider them leaders?

Task 2, Slides 13-14:

- Slide 13 Characteristics of a leader, introductory sentence.
- Slide 14 You can present the slide in class

or as an alternative

distribute cards to each group or student with leadership characteristics (found in the appendix). They need to choose the 8 most important characteristics of a leader.

Observe together which characteristics were chosen by most groups.



Practical Takeaways

Slide 15 - About Leadership

Slide 16 - Description of Avigdor Kahalani's leadership in the battle - a quote from his book "Leadership in the Circles of Life."

Slide 17 - Authentic voices from the communication network during the battle.

Slide 18 - Description of the monument in memory of the soldiers.


Slide 19 - Summing up video - Avigdor Kahalani giving a speech on Israel's 75th Independence Day.

Slide 20 - Conclusions

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YOM KIPPUR WAR:

Unit 4 - Leadership



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Battle for the Valley of Tears

During the Yom Kippur War, under the leadership of Avigdor Kahalani, the 77th battalion was victorious in the fiercest battle on the Golan Heights, known as the Battle for the Valley of Tears.

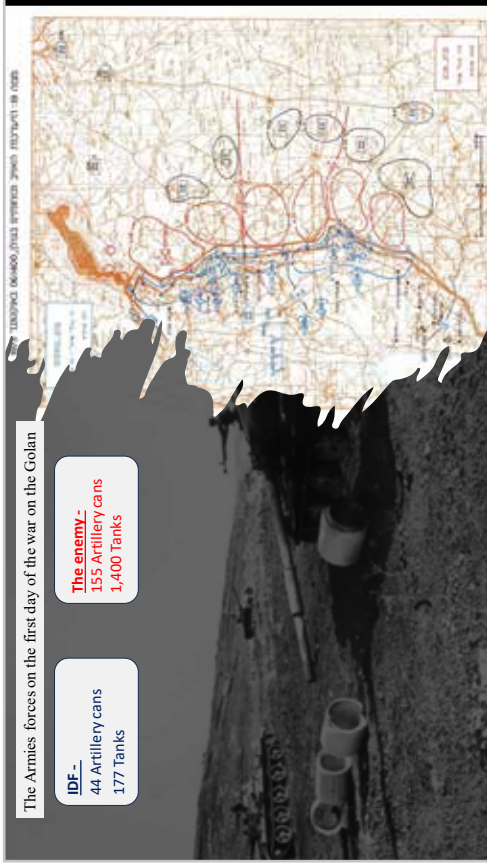
A bloody battle that lasted 4 days - 150 Israeli tanks faced 450 Syrian tanks.



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The Armies forces on the first day of the war on the Golan

IDF - 44 Artillery cans 177 Tanks	The enemy - 155 Artillery cans 1,400 Tanks
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4

The Valley of Tears

"The Valley of Tears" is a nickname for a wide valley on the Golan Heights, that extends from just north of the abandoned Syrian town, Kuneitra, until Tel Hermonit in the north. The Syrian forces tried to break through this valley during the Yom Kippur War.




NOTES:

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The Decisive Battle in the Valley of Tears

9.10.73

In this battle, tanks of the 7th Brigade and the 188th Brigade with the help of the 405th Battalion stopped the Syrian armored forces in the Valley of Tears.

in a bloody battle that lasted about four days.

The Israeli force numbered 150 tanks and about 450 Syrian tanks lined up in front of it.

Thanks to the containment battle led by the commander of the 7th Brigade of the 7th Brigade, Lt. Col. Avigdor Kahalani, the attack of the Syrian army failed. During all the days of fighting in the Valley of Tears, about 300 Syrian tanks were destroyed.

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However, after 3 days the Israeli forces were exhausted, and some units had run out of ammunition.

The Syrians renewed their attack. Many Syrian tanks managed to advance towards the Valley. They seized strategic areas, against the exhausted and ill-equipped Israeli forces.

At this crucial point the unit commander concentrated all the remaining Israeli forces into Battalion 77, under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Avigdor Kahalani. The situation seemed hopeless!

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How the Battle Proceeded

The battle started at the beginning of the war, at 2:00p.m. on 6 October 1973, as part of the general Syrian attack along the whole border.

Under the cover of heavy rocket fire, the Syrians advanced westwards, in order to break through the Israeli defenses. For 4 hours the Israeli tank Battalion 74 managed to hold off the Syrian tanks.

At 18:00 they were reinforced by Battalion 77, under the leadership of Avigdor Kahalani.

The battle was very fierce and exhausting.

The Israeli forces managed to prevail.

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On the 4th day Lt. Kahalani, with enormous courage, managed to turn the situation around. He took his position at the head of the unit and ordered his soldiers to charge forward, despite the danger. They managed to recapture the crucial parts of the Valley of Tears, with close up battles against Syrian tanks. On that day alone he and his forces destroyed 70 Syrian tanks.

Kahalani declared over the walkie-talkie
“We’ve taken control of the whole mountain!”

Yamish Ben-Gal, his commander, answered him over the walkie-talkie:
“Everything is thanks to you, believe me, kudos to you, you are the hero of Israel!”

By the 5th day the Israeli soldiers had fought off the Syrian attackers, and on the 6th day they even began a counter attack, entered Syrian territory and took control of about 400 km², called “the Enclave”.

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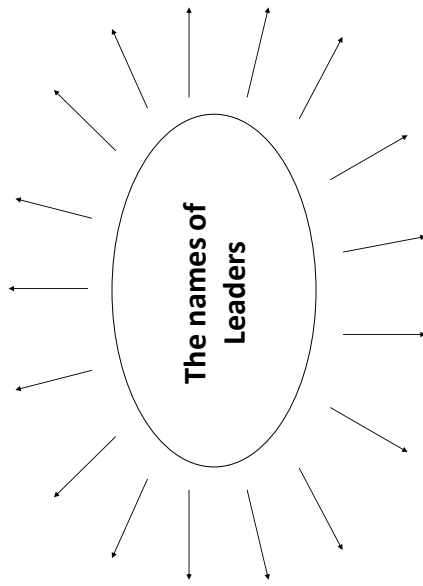
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VALLEY OF TEARS



ביום-טקס, סגור לינון קריה לרן באמנה מלחמה

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Leadership Workshop

To succeed in battle you need a leader.
“The leader holds a blazing torch that illuminates the way for his men”
(Avigdor Kahalani)



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Discussion



Which leaders do you know?



Who are your leaders?



Why do you consider them to be leaders?

NOTES:

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What are the characteristics of a Leader ?

“A leader carries in his backpack a set of values that serve us as landmarks as we journey into the future. We have no doubt about the character of our leader who we faithfully follow.”

(Avigdor Kahalani)

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confident, takes initiative, ability to compromise, a good listener, a visionary, team player, leads by example, eloquent, well organized, charismatic, wisdom, high aspirations, brave, professional, responsible, creative, modest, sets an example, patience, decisive, persuasive, dependable, authoritative, integrity, focused, authoritative, credible, forceful

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Leadership is the ability of a person or a group to lead others towards a common goal with minimal authority. An act of leadership is directly connected to influence and creating change.

Moshe rabhinti asked that the leader should be “a person who contains spirit” (Numbers 27:18)

Rashi interprets this as follows: “One who can lead according to the spirit of each individual”, who will be apply to assign to each person the task that suits him, who will treat him properly according to his nature, understanding and personality.

Leadership on the battlefield during war:

In many cases this type of leadership was the decisive factor that determined either success or failure in a battle. These leaders were forced to take decisions under pressure and in uncertain circumstances, and they needed to possess great communication skills, decisiveness, personal bravery and a high level of morality.

Leadership – A Summary

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The Battle in the Valley of Tears - Lieutenant Colonel Avigdor Kahalani

My position was visible to all. I had trouble controlling the communications until I asked everyone to get onto my war/denight. My orders to move forward were clear but we were met with much hesitation. No-one moved. Long minutes passed before they began to advance. I urged them in every way I could to imagine. Finally, I heard them. I saw their headlights from a distance. My attention had left them. I saw their headlights for the first time. My attention changed from moment to moment. I had to control my forces and it was imperative to move them forward. My soldiers saw me all the time and each one, to the very last, heard my voice. My tank fired non-stop and destroyed many enemy tanks. At the critical moments, when total fear gripped us, I had to use all my power of persuasion to convince my men to continue to move forward....

I never stopped praying to Hashem, to give us the strength to stand on the hill in front of them. We succeeded. We were determined not to be taken. We were determined to win. We were determined to win. We were filled with euphoria. The sun was shining brightly. The red flames that painted the valley. We did it! We beat them! We were victorious because of the special spirit that hovered above us and inspired us with our ancient culture and our generations old tradition.



NOTES:

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The Israeli front on the Golan Heights almost collapsed. Nonetheless they managed to hold out at the northern Heights.



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The IDF lost 76 soldiers in the Battle of the Valley of tears. A monument was erected in memory of the brave 77th Battalion. The memorial site overlooks the battlefield.

"They marched forward with brave spirit against hundreds of tanks in the knowledge that only with their bodies could they save the Galil and Golan Settlements. Our nation will never forget their brave heroes and their sons' deeds. They will be remembered forever. They fell, but not in vain."

Avigdor Kahalani: One of the virtues you need during war is the ability to overcome fear - to demonstrate bravery and to continue functioning. The soldiers will never stop charging forward if their commander is charging at their head. It is this feeling of togetherness and knowing where we're heading that emboldens those who run into the fire. Many commanders in Israel's wars set a personal example to their soldiers and were the first to run into the fire. Many thus paid with their life. There is no other army in the world that has lost so many commanders on account of their leading, by example.

The central element of the monument is a Model T-62 Syrian tank that was hit in the battle and was left here as is. Next to it stands an Israeli turret dome and tank cannon pointing upwards. The names of the fallen soldiers are inscribed on three iron tablets that are positioned in front of the cannon. A pine grove was planted next to the monument, in memory of the fallen.

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Avigdor Kahalani Lighting a Torch



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CONCLUSIONS

- Life is full of uncertainty and risks – even in these situations, one has to work with the facts and take decisions, through creative thinking and with confidence.
- Good and clear communication is of the utmost importance, especially when you need to lead people and forces.
- It is very important that the leader creates a good connection with his subordinates so that he knows to give each one the job that suits his ability and personality.
- Many times in war the commander is hit, and an ordinary soldier has to take over as leader. So the leader also must set an example of how to be a leader.

Summary:

The leader's position is critical; he must process events in real time, manage good communication, motivate his subordinates and be a role model for his subordinates.

Points to Ponder:

It is important to note that during war one cannot know the outcome and the ramifications of decisions that are taken under duress, but even so one has to take risks and make decisions to the best of our knowledge and understanding. It is important to note that during war one cannot know the outcome and the ramifications of decisions that are taken under duress, but even so one has to take risks and make decisions to the best of our knowledge and understanding.

NOTES:

