

What Makes a Jewish Leader Strong?

The Jewish people have had many strong leaders, each one different from the next. Our tradition teaches that some, like Moses, were chosen by God. Others, like Queen Esther, took on challenging roles in difficult times. Still others, like David Ben-Gurion—the first prime minister of the modern State of Israel—were elected to their positions. But *all* our strong leaders had courage, and made efforts to improve themselves and to help strengthen our people.

In his youth, Jacob took advantage of his brother's weakness in order to gain the birthright. But the birthright was not enough to make him a worthy leader. In chapters 32 and 33 of Genesis, the Bible tells how Jacob met the challenge of healing his relationship with Esau. This helped him to become a great leader of the Jewish people.

As you continue to read and to respond to the activities in this booklet, consider what traits make someone a worthy leader. Also think about what Jacob needed to learn to become a great leader.