

PARSHAT BESHALACH  
15 SHEVAT 5781/28 JANUARY 2021



*Forward*

Painting by Jacob Lawrence

## GOING FORWARD

1. And the Children of Israel went up from Egypt *chamushim*. (Exodus 13:18)

Only one out of five departed from Egypt. (Rashi)

2. Some say one in fifty. Some say one in five hundred. Rabbi Nehorai says: “It was not one in five hundred that went out but fewer. (Midrash Mekhilta)

There were sinners among the Israelites who had Egyptian patrons, and they lived in wealth and honor there and did not want to leave. (Midrash Shemot Rabbah)

3. Our ancestors divided into four groups on the shore of the Sea. One said, “Let’s go into the sea!” Another said, “Let’s return to Egypt!” Another said, “Let’s make war on the Egyptians,” and the fourth said, “Let us pray to God.” (Midrash, Pirkei Rabbenu haKadosh; Jerusalem Talmud)
4. Then God said to Moses: “Why do you cry out to me? Speak to the Children of Israel, that they shall go forward.” (Exodus 14:15)