

## ולמדתם אותם ולמדתם אתם – And you will teach them; and you will teach

### OVERVIEW

The גמרא relates that initially the people understood that it is incumbent on the fathers (only) to teach תורה to their children, for the פסוק states ולמדתם אותם את בניכם; however, the word אתם is written without a וי"ו, so it can be read אַתם (האלף); (פתוחה והתי"ו סגולה); meaning that אתם, you the father, should teach your children. דרשה offers an alternate גירסא and understanding of this דרשה.

יש ספרים שלא גרסי ולמדתם אתם ודריש מדכתיב ולמדתם משמע<sup>1</sup> מעצמכם<sup>2</sup>:

**There are text that are not אתם ולמדתם, rather they expound this דרשה as follows, since it is written ולמדתם (and you shall teach); this indicates that you yourselves the fathers of בניכם are required to teach your children.**

### SUMMARY

We can derive the דרשה that a father is obligated to teach his children, from the word 'ולמדתם' by itself (without the דרשה אתם).

### THINKING IT OVER

Is there any advantage in one גירסא over the other?

<sup>1</sup> משמע אתם בעצמכם inserts the word אתם so it reads משמע אתם בעצמכם.

<sup>2</sup> See מהרש"א who explains (according to the גירסא מעצמכם) that this גירסא is explaining לומד לא היה לומד לומר (גירסא מעצמכם) that this גירסא is explaining לומד לא היה לומר to mean that no one taught him; he had to learn by himself מעצמכם.