

# Youth Minyan

## OHHEL SARA NEWSLETTER

Parshat Vayeira 17-18 Cheshvan 5776

This issue is dedicated to the  
refuah shelema of

Yigal ben Yocheved

### Shabbat Schedule

Candlelighting— 5:36 PM

Mincha & Arvit—5:36 PM

Shaharit – 8:45 AM-11:20 AM

Halacha Shiur—4:05 PM

Minha & Seudat Shlishi – 4:55 PM

Arvit & Motzei Shabbat - 6:35 PM

Rabbeinu Tam— 7:06 PM

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### Joke of The Week

The High Holidays were finally over and the Rabbi Epstein's wife dropped into an easy chair saying, "Boy, am I ever tired."  
Rabbi Epstein looked over at her and said, "I had to conduct multiple services not to mention that I gave a total of five sermons. Why are you so tired?"  
"Dear," she replied, "I had to listen to all of them."

An El Al 747 was flying the busy Tel Aviv-New York route when the plane began having engine trouble. The pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.  
A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.  
"All set back here, Captain," came the reply, "except one lawyer who is still going around passing out business cards."

## Avraham: Leader By Example

Did you ever ask why Avraham was chosen to be the father of the nations? If you answer that it is because he was the first person to believe in One G-d, you are incorrect. He was not the first: Adam, Hanoach, Noach, Shem (Malki-Tzedek), Eiver and many others believed in One G-d before Avraham was even born. The true answer can be found in this week's parsha, "For I have loved him, because he commands his children and his household after him that they keep the way of Hashem, doing charity and justice. (Bereshit 18:19)" The true answer is that Avraham was able to pass on the understanding that there is One G-d, and the ideals of goodness that go along with that, to his children and his household.

I would like to ask how he succeeded in this task when all the other tzadikkim were unable to? Noah had three sons and they saw the destruction of the world, why was he not able to pass on the legacy to them? In the beginning of this parsha we get a detailed account of how Abraham tends to his guests. It is this account that directly precedes the quote above and shows us how Abraham passed on this legacy of One G-d to his family. Three days after Abraham's circumcision he was waiting outside of his tent for guests. It was such a hot day that G-d had to send angels disguised as men to walk by because no one else would leave their home and risk a heat stroke. As soon as Avraham sees them he runs towards them and begs them to accept his hospitality. Then he quickly runs to Sara, his wife, to instruct her on what to do. Finally he goes to the youth (his son Ishmael) to instruct him what to do.

When you just read the words it seems so mundane, so unimportant. What could it possibly teach us about why Avraham was chosen and how we can pass on this legacy to future generations? The answer lies in the order of the events.

First Avraham had a great desire to do kindness.

Then that kindness presented itself and he ran to do it.

Then when he needed help he went first to his wife.

Only then did he go to his son.

The order shows us the key to his success. The first thing he worked on was himself! He put the values that he wanted to pass to his children in himself. But that was not enough, he had to then bring that into action and do something. Now that he did it he was able to ask his wife to help him. Then as soon as the child saw that both of these parents are doing this act he too became willing to do it. Let's give a real example of this. Imagine a very dirty house, if no one in the house cares about it being clean then it will stay dirty. The first step is for someone to take charge and say, "you know, this house is really dirty." But that is not enough because no one else cares. So this person has to generate interest by starting to clean up (many men preach about cleaning, but their wives and children never saw them lift anything off of the floor). Once this is done the parents need to be in sync and both clean in order to convey the same message to the children. Once the children see this they can be given responsibility and taught how to clean, and they will be willing to do it because their parents are doing it. (Continued on page 2)

**(turn the page)**

## Parsha In a Nutshell

G-d reveals Himself to Abraham three days after the first Jew's circumcision at age ninety-nine; but Abraham rushes off to prepare a meal for three guests who appear in the desert heat. One of the three—who are angels disguised as men—announces that, in exactly one year, the barren Sarah will give birth to a son. Sarah laughs.

Abraham pleads with G-d to spare the wicked city of Sodom. Two of the three disguised angels arrive in the doomed city, where Abraham's nephew Lot extends his hospitality to them and protects them from the evil intentions of a Sodomite mob. The two guests reveal that they have come to overturn the place, and to save Lot and his family. Lot's wife turns into a pillar of salt when she disobeys the command not to look back at the burning city as they flee.

While taking shelter in a cave, Lot's two daughters (believing that they and their father are the only ones left alive in the world) get their father drunk, lie with him and become pregnant. The two sons born from this incident father the nations of Moab and Ammon.

Abraham moves to Gerar, where the Philistine king Abimelech takes Sarah—who is presented as Abraham's sister—to his palace. In a dream, G-d warns Abimelech that he will die unless he returns the woman to her husband. Abraham explains that he feared he would be killed over the beautiful Sarah.

G-d remembers His promise to Sarah, and gives her and Abraham a son, who is named Isaac (Yitzchak, meaning "will laugh"). Isaac is circumcised at the age of eight days; Abraham is one hundred years old, and Sarah ninety, at their child's birth.

Hagar and Ishmael are banished from Abraham's home and wander in the desert; G-d hears the cry of the dying lad, and saves his life by showing his mother a well.

Abimelech makes a treaty with Abraham at Beersheba, where Abraham gives him seven sheep as a sign of their truce.

G-d tests Abraham's devotion by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah (the Temple Mount) in Jerusalem. Isaac is bound and placed on the altar, and Abraham raises the knife to slaughter his son. A voice from heaven calls to stop him; a ram, caught in the undergrowth by its horns, is offered in Isaac's place. Abraham receives the news of the birth of a daughter, Rebecca, to his nephew Bethuel. *Reprinted with permission of Chabad*

*Continued-* This was just one example, but there are endless possibilities such as the value of stealing, kindness anger, selflessness, patience etc. The key to becoming a great leader, whether in the home or outside of it is to start with yourself, and slowly, your influence will grow compelling others to follow your lead. So for those of you that want to bring a certain value into your family and continue the legacy that Avraham Avinu started, first look at what you can do yourself before trying to change others!

## Real Kindness

Avraham came forward and said, "Will You also stamp out the righteous along with the wicked?" . (18:23)

God revealed to Avraham his plan to destroy Sodom. As soon as Avraham heard the news he began praying for its survival. What is difficult to understand is that Sodom's lifestyle was diametrically opposed to Avraham's way of life and teachings. Avraham was the epitome of chesed (loving kindness). His whole life revolved around helping others. However, in Sodom chesed was considered a crime! One could get executed for just giving charity to a pauper. Why then did Avraham pray on behalf of the corrupt inhabitants of Sodom?

Often people preach kindness, but they get angry and hate those who dispute their values. This is because their kindness is coming from the love that they have for themselves. They are trying to build up their own confidence and self-esteem. Avraham's kindness was based on his love for other people. It is true that the people of Sodom were doing wicked acts, but Avraham loved them and therefore anger and animosity did not play a role in whether or not to pray for them.<sup>1</sup>

When doing acts of kindness out of love the kindness will continue even when it's hard and difficult for you, such as when a person takes care of his children even when it's difficult. His love for his child overrides any personal feelings he may have. Furthermore, this type of selfless kindness can really help someone grow and become a greater person. Similarly, the Talmud<sup>2</sup> relates that there were thugs frequenting R' Meir's neighborhood. They caused R' Meir so much aggravation that he prayed they should die. R' Meir's wife, Bruria, said to him, "Instead of praying for their deaths pray that they should repent!" R' Meir prayed on their behalf and they returned to God. *By Rabbi Eli Scheller*

### NOTES

1 R' Moshe Feinstein

2 Berachos 10a

## A HALACHA A DAY

1) What does it mean " - ולא תשקצו את נפשותיכם" Do not soil your soul?

**A.** One shouldn't hold waste inside but use the restroom immediately when it's time to relieve oneself

2) What blessing is said after using the restroom to thank Gd that his intestines function well?

**A.** "Asher Yaztar"

3) Does one who relieved himself at night need to wash before blessing "Asher Yaztar"?

**A.** One may wash regularly like when washing dirty hands. If it's too difficult then one may wipe hands on his blanket and say Asher Yaztar.

4) One should be also modest in the restroom and not reveal his body more than necessary for Gd fills the whole world with his Glory.

5) May one speak in a restroom?

**A.** One should only speak only if highly necessary otherwise stay silent .

6) May one learn Torah only by thinking it in the restroom?

**A.** No because Torah is very holy.

7) What if one is thinking about Torah in order not to think improperly about girls?

**A.** Then yes, one may think about Torah.

# Люди и собаки. Ваера

«Ибо Я знаю его, потому что заповедает он своим сынам и дому своему после себя: им соблюдать путь Господень, творя милость и суд, чтобы исполнил Господь для Авраама то, что говорил о нем» (Ваера 18:19). Комментатор Раши поясняется, что под знанием подразумевается любовь Всевышнего к Аврааму.

Как-то раввин Галинский повстречал адвоката.

— Чем вы занимаетесь по жизни? — поинтересовался юрист.

— Читаю лекции в ешивах и синагогах, — ответил р. Галинский.

— И сколько за это платят?

— Платят? — переспросил раввин. — Мне станет известно об этом после смерти.

Адвокат не поверил собственным ушам:

— Получается, что вы работаете бесплатно!

Р. Галинский улыбнулся:

— Давайте я расскажу вам одну историю. К раввину Элиэзеру-Менахему Шаху, да будет благословенна память праведника, постучался таксист: «Мне сказали, что вы даете благословения больным».

Р. Шах кивнул головой и начал произносить формулу благословения «Ми ше-берах»: «Тот, Кто благословил наших праотцев Авраама, Ицхака и Якова, Моше и Аарона, Давида и Шломо, тот благословит...» — «Джессика» — произнес таксист. «Джессика, дочь... Как зовут ее мать?». Визитер покраснел. Оказалось, что Джессика — это его любимая собака. Поди знай, как звали ее мать-колли! Рав Шах не смутился: «Раз имя матери неизвестно, прочесть “Ми ше-берах” мы не можем, но дать вашей собаке благословение я могу. В конце концов, речь идет о цаар баалей-хаим, животное не должно страдать.»

Р. Галинский выжидающе посмотрел на собеседника:

— Поймите, я неразрывно связан с наследием своего отца, и я передаю это наследие сыновьям.

Праотец Авраам был великим человеком. Всевышний подверг его тяжким испытаниям, которые тот с успехом прошел. Но из-за чего Творец любит Авраама? «... Потому что заповедает он своим сынам и дому своему после себя: им соблюдать путь Господень, творя милость и суд».

Когда я исполняю заповеди, я тем самым увеличиваю заслуги собственных родителей, а также дедушек, прадедушек и так далее, вплоть до Авраама. Когда я даю лекцию, и под ее влиянием люди интенсивнее учат Тору и тщательнее исполняют заповеди, счет моих заслуг растет на глазах.

Собака же никак не связана с предыдущими поколениями. Она живет сегодняшним днем, миской, будкой, прогулкой. А мы, люди, обязаны думать о грядущем мире, в котором наш истинный Работодатель выплатит нам причитающееся.

(из книги «Ве-игадта»)





This Issue is  
Dedicated In  
Loving Memory  
Of  
Rafailov Avrash  
ben  
Tzipora

Congratulations to  
Moshe and Yael Tov Kulangi  
On the Birth of a Boy



Happy Birthday  
To:  
Yitzhak Inayev  
Yissachar Pleshtiyev



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### Weekly Events

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SUNDAY

Art Class Children 5-8:  
10AM-11AM

Sunday Program Ages 5-12:  
11:00AM-12:30 PM

Hebrew Class for Adults  
Contact Moshe If Interested

Wednesday

Torah&MeWith Rabbi B  
8:45PM-9:45PM

Shabbat

Prayers-Arvit, Mincha, Shoharit, Musaf  
(Change Weekly)

Lecture before and during Seudat Shlishi  
(Changes Weekly)

Any Day

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