

לא תרצח
לא תנאף
לא תגנב
לא תענה
לא תחמוד

אנכי ה'
לא יהיה
לא תשא
זכור את
כבוד את

שיחות

For Kids

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3

STUDENT WORKBOOK
תשפ"ו

A Sicha and a story for your Shabbos table

שיחות For Kids

תשפ"ו

לה"ו

Sichos For Kids

A Weekly Dvar Torah Curriculum for Young Minds

Published by Rabbi Zalmy Mochkin

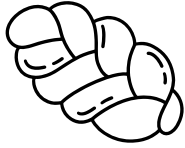
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Adapted from the Sichos of the Rebbe.

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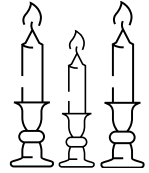
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פרשת וירא

לקוטי שיחות חלק ה' ע' 320



Parsha Summary

ה' comes to visit אברהם after his _____. Even though he wasn't feeling well, אברהם runs to welcome three מלאכים and gives them food and drink. One of them tells שרה that she will soon have a baby boy, יצחק.

Later, אברהם davens to ה' to save the city of סדום, but only לוט and his family are saved. Soon after, יצחק is born, and everyone celebrates the great _____. When הגר and ישמעאל have to leave, ה' watches over them in the desert. At the end of the פרשה comes the hardest test of all – the עקידה, when אברהם shows that he is _____ to do whatever ה' wants, with total faith.



Background

The פרשה begins: “וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו ה' בְּאֵלֵי מַמְרֵי” – “And Hashem appeared to him in Elonei Mamre.” ה' came to _____ אברהם, who was sitting outside his tent on the _____ day after his בְּרִית מִילָה, as he was recovering.



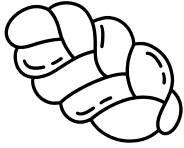
Question

Why doesn't the Torah write “וַיֵּרָא ה' אֶל אַבְרָהָם”? Why leave out his _____?



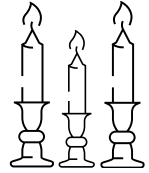
Answer

ה' came to visit אברהם like a person visits someone who is sick - בִּיקוּר חוֹלִים. The Torah doesn't mention אברהם's name to show that this visit wasn't because he was so _____, but because ה' was doing an act of חֶסֶד. The Torah doesn't want us to think that only _____ on אברהם's level is deserving of בִּיקוּר חוֹלִים.



פרשת וירא

לקוטי שיחות חלק ה' ע' 320



המעשה הוא העיקר

What act of חסד can you do this week for another person — not because they're your friend or deserving, but just because they're your fellow Jew?



It Happened Once

הַכִּנְסֹת אֲוֶרְחִים and שָׂרָה, were known all over for their amazing חסדים. They would search for poor travelers, bring them home, serve them delicious meals, and give them the best they had. Once, after שָׂבָת started, a tired traveller came to their house. It looked like he had just arrived to the town and traveled on שָׂבָת, but to the shock of the other guests ר' אֱלִיעֶזֶר didn't say a word. He welcomed him warmly, invited him to join their meal, and made sure he had everything he needed.

On Sunday, Before leaving, the guest revealed that he was really אֱלִיהוּ הַנָּבִיא, sent to test them and see how far their kindness would go. Because they had shown such pure חסד without judging, he blessed them with a son who would bring light to the whole world — the בְּעַל שֵׁם טוֹב.



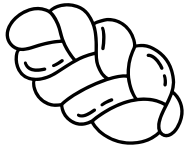
In Your Own Words

1

Why did ה' come to visit אַבְרָהָם in the beginning of our Parsha?

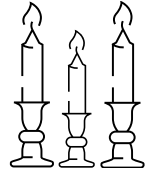
2

Why does the Torah say that "ה' appeared to him" and not appeared to אַבְרָהָם?



פרשת מקץ

לקוטי שיחות חלק א' ע' 85



Parsha Summary

פֶּרְעָה dreams of seven large and healthy cows swallowed by seven thin cows, and seven large and healthy ears of grain swallowed by seven thin ears. יוֹסֵף interprets this to mean seven years of plenty followed by seven years of _____. פֶּרְעָה appoints יוֹסֵף as governor of מִצְרַיִם to store grain. During the famine, ten brothers of יוֹסֵף come to buy grain. יוֹסֵף recognizes them but they don't recognize him. He accuses them of being spies and demands they bring בְּנֵימִין. יְהוּדָה takes responsibility and they return with בְּנֵימִין. יוֹסֵף plants his _____ in the sack of בְּנֵימִין. When discovered, יוֹסֵף offers to free them all but keep בְּנֵימִין as his slave.



Background

The תּוֹרָה tells us about many dreams in these פְּרָשִׁיּוֹת - the dreams of יוֹסֵף, the butler and _____, and פֶּרְעָה. These dreams led to גְּלוּת מִצְרַיִם - the source of all later גְּלוּתוֹת.



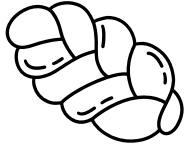
Question

What is the _____ between dreams and גְּלוּת?



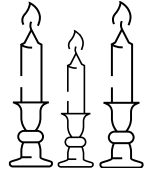
Answer

The connection between dreams and גְּלוּת is that both mix opposites together. In a dream, opposite things can come together, like an elephant going through the eye of a _____. In גְּלוּת, a person can feel real love for ה' during davening but immediately after davening can do things against the will of ה', chas v'shalom. The פְּסוּק says "בְּשׁוּב ה' אֶת שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים" - "בְּשׁוּב ה' אֶת שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים" - when ה' returns to Yidden to אָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל, we will be like dreamers. When מְשִׁיחַ comes, we will realize that _____ acted in גְּלוּת like dreamers, jumping between love for ה' and worldly pleasures.



פרשת מקץ

לקוטי שיחות חלק א' ע' 85



המעשה הוא העיקר

We're still in גלות, but we don't have to act like dreamers! This week, when you catch yourself doing something that goes against what you know is right, stop and "wake up" - remember who you really are and what ה' wants from you.



It Happened Once

Reb Mendel Futerfas relates: In a Siberian labor camp surrounded by barbed wire, guards, and vicious dogs, one prisoner planned a daring escape. He collected scraps of meat for weeks. The big day came - he climbed the fence and ran! The dogs charged after him, barking wildly! He threw the meat behind him. The dogs stopped, frozen between the meat and their training. Suddenly - shots rang out! The guard shot the dogs! Later he explained: 'If meat can confuse them and make them forget their mission, they're worthless.' The same is true for us - we can't let physical pleasures distract us from serving ה'.



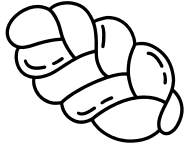
In Your Own Words

1

In what way is גלות compared to a dream?

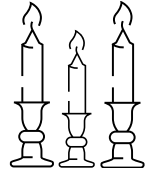
2

How can we ensure that our love for ה' is strong all day, not just when we are davening or doing מצוות?



פרשת ויחי

לקוטי שיחות חלק י"א ע' 233



Parsha Summary

יעקב lives his final seventeen years in מצרים. Before he passes away, he asks יוסף to bury him in ארץ ישראל. He blesses the two sons of _____, מנשה and אפרים, making them like his own sons. יעקב blesses each of his sons, giving each one a special role: יהודה will have kings, לוי will have כהנים, יששכר will have scholars, and so on. A large funeral procession brings יעקב to ארץ ישראל where he is buried in מערת המכפלה in חברון. יוסף also passes away at age _____ and asks that his bones be taken to ארץ ישראל when בני ישראל leave מצרים.



Background

The גמרא says that יעקב didn't die because "זרעו בחיים" - his children are _____. The word "זרע" means both "children" and also "seed."



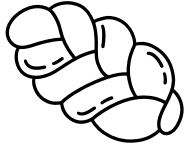
Question

What's the connection between children and _____?



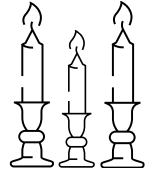
Answer

When you plant a tiny seed in soil and water it, ה' gives His ברכה and it grows into a big tree with lots of _____. The same is true for us. Even if you're young or just starting to learn תורה, don't feel small! Compared to how endless תורה is, even great scholars are "small." When you work hard at whatever you are learning and "water" it with יראת שמים and חסידישע warmth, your learning will _____ and produce beautiful fruits.



פרשת ויחי

לקוטי שיחות חלק י"א ע' 233



המעשה הוא העיקר

This week, take whatever you're learning in תורה - even if it's just one פסוק or one הלכה - and really work hard at it. "Water" it by thinking about ה' while you learn and by learning with excitement. Watch it grow!



It Happened Once

When the צמח צדק was nine years old, he desperately wanted to hear the חסידות that the Alter Rebbe was teaching to a small group of select individuals. However, he wasn't allowed in because he was too young! He secretly climbed into the big oven between the rooms and hid there, listening carefully. Suddenly, a worker came and lit a fire in that oven, but instead of the smoke going out the chimney, it was coming into the house. He tried to push the wood deeper into the oven, but he couldn't, so he pulled out the logs one by one to see what the problem was. That's when he found someone inside the oven! Everyone came running and found the צמח צדק having trouble breathing from all the smoke. With difficulty, they were able to revive him.

(ספר השיחות תרצ"ו בתחילתו)



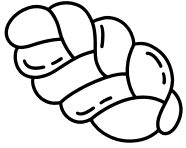
In Your Own Words

1

What are the two meanings of the word זרע?

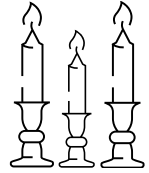
2

How do you make your learning "grow"?



פרשת וארא

לקוטי שיחות חלק ט"ז ע' 495, ש"פ וארא תשכ"ב



Parsha Summary

ה' reveals Himself to מֹשֶׁה and promises to take בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל out of מִצְרַיִם. He will bring them to the land He promised to the אֲבוֹת. מֹשֶׁה and אֶהְרֹן repeatedly come before פַּרְעֹה to demand, "Let My people go!" פַּרְעֹה refuses. The staff of אֶהְרֹן turns into a snake and swallows the Egyptian sorcerers' sticks. ה' then sends _____ plagues: the Nile turns to blood, frogs overrun the land, lice infest everyone, wild animals invade, plague kills animals, boils afflict the Egyptians, and devastating hail of fire and ice falls from the sky. Still, פַּרְעֹה's heart _____ and he refuses to let בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go.



Background

At the beginning of the פָּרָשָׁה, רַשִּׁי comments on the _____ "וְאֵל אֲבֹרָהֶם אֶל יִצְחָק וְאֶל יַעֲקֹב)" - And I appeared (to אֲבֹרָהֶם, to יִצְחָק, and to יַעֲקֹב)" by adding two words: "וְאֶל הָאֲבוֹת" - "to the fathers."



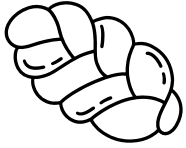
Question

What is רַשִּׁי adding with this? The פְּסוּקָה clearly mentions the names of the אֲבוֹת in the _____!



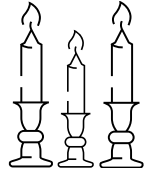
Answer

רַשִּׁי is teaching us that the greatest thing about אֲבֹרָהֶם, יִצְחָק, and יַעֲקֹב wasn't their personal accomplishments. Each one of the אֲבוֹת had their special way of _____. ה'. Yet, their greatest מַעֲלָה was being "אֲבוֹת" - fathers who brought children and passed down everything to the _____ generation. The תּוֹרָה says about אֲבֹרָהֶם, "וְאֵל אֲבֹתָיו" - ה' loves אֲבֹרָהֶם because he commands his children!



פרשת וארא

לקוטי שיחות חלק ט"ז ע' 495, ש"פ וארא תשכ"ב



המעשה הוא העיקר

This week, teach something you know in תורה to someone else - a sibling, cousin, or friend. The Rebbe would often say, "If you know Aleph, teach Aleph."



It Happened Once

When the מעזריטשער מגיד was only five years old, a fire broke out in his family's home and destroyed everything. Young Dovber saw his mother sitting and crying, and he asked her, "Why are you crying? It's just a house!" His mother answered, "I'm not crying about the house. I'm crying because we lost our family history scroll that showed our יחוס! (family line) all the way back to רבי יוחנן הסנדלר, and through him all the way back to ידוד המלך!" The little boy thought for a moment, then said confidently, "If so, then I will start a new יחוס! for you!" And that's exactly what he did - he became one of the greatest רבנים in חסידות, teaching and inspiring countless תלמידים who continued his legacy.

(רשימו"ד ע' 37, ספורי חסידים ע' 155)



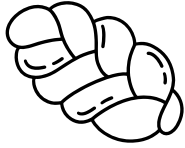
In Your Own Words

1

What's not understood about רש"י's comment on the word וארא?

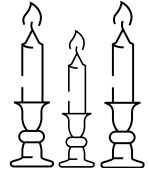
2

What was the greatest מעלה of the אבות?



פרשת משפטים

לקוטי שיחות חלק ו' ע' 150



Parsha Summary

After the giving of the תורה at סיני ה', gives בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל many מִצְוֹת. These include מִצְוֹת about servants, punishments for hurting or stealing from others, rules about damages and lending _____, and how courts must judge fairly. ה' also commands them not to mistreat strangers, to keep the יָמִים טוֹבִים and to bring gifts to the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ. בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל declare, "נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע" – we will do and we will listen!" The תורה then describes how מִשָּׁה goes up הַר סִינִי for _____ days and nights to receive all the מִצְוֹת from ה'.



Background

One of the מִצְוֹת in this week's פָּרָשָׁה is the אִיסוּר of cooking meat with _____ – בָּשָׂר בַּחֵלֶב.



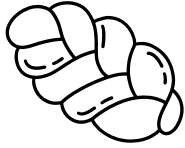
Question

All other forbidden foods in the תורה are only אִיסוּר to eat. But בָּשָׂר בַּחֵלֶב is different – the תורה forbids even _____ them together, not just eating them. Why is this אִיסוּר so much stricter than any other forbidden food?



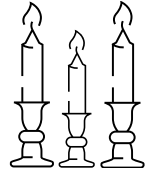
Answer

The רַמְבַּ"ן and the עֶזְרָא אֲבֵן explain that the reason for this אִיסוּר is because it involves cruelty – cooking a baby animal in the very _____ its mother made to feed it. The תורה wants us to stay far away from any trace of אֲכִזְרִיּוֹת (cruelty). That is why it doesn't just forbid eating it, but even cooking it – which could lead to eating it. From here we learn an incredible lesson: if the תורה is so careful about cruelty to animals, how much more careful must we be not to cause _____ to another person! And especially to a fellow Yid, who is part of ה' chosen nation.



פרשת משפטים

לקוטי שיחות חלק ו' ע' 150



המעשה הוא העיקר

This week, pay extra attention to how your words and actions affect others. Before you say or do something, stop and think: could this cause someone pain?



It Happened Once

During חזרת הש"ץ at מנחה (in the upstairs זאל in 770), the Rebbe would sit on a bench facing the crowd, with his hand resting on his forehead, following along in the סדור word by word. This was his מנהג for many years. Then one week, the Rebbe suddenly stopped putting his hand on his forehead. Everyone wondered why, until someone noticed that a guest from ארץ ישראל had been coming to מנחה those days — a man whose face was badly scarred. Then the חסידים realized that the Rebbe didn't want anyone to think he was covering his eyes to avoid looking at this Yid. That is how careful the Rebbe was — he changed a מנהג of many years just to make sure there was no possible way this Yid could be caused any pain.



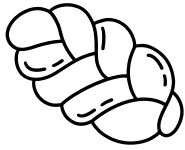
In Your Own Words

1

What makes the איסור of בשר בחלב different from all other forbidden foods in the תורה?

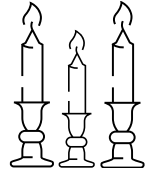
2

Why is the איסור of בשר בחלב stricter than other forbidden foods?



פרשת תרומה

לקוטי שיחות חלק ו' ע' 160



Parsha Summary

ה' tells מִשֶּׁה to ask יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי to donate thirteen materials to build a מִשְׁכָּן, a home for ה' – gold, silver, copper, different colors of dyed wool, flax, goat hair, animal skins, wood, olive oil, spices, and gems. On top of ה' סִינִי, מִשֶּׁה received detailed instructions for how to _____ it. Inside the מִשְׁכָּן, behind a special curtain, sits the אֲרוֹן with the לוחות, topped by two golden כְּרוּבִים (angel-like figures). In the outer room stand the מְנוֹרָה, the שֻׁלְחָן, and other holy כֵּלִים. The walls are made of wooden boards covered in _____, held up by silver sockets, with layered coverings as the roof.



Background

פרשת תרומה lists _____ types of metals donated for the מִשְׁכָּן: זָהָב (gold), כֶּסֶף (silver), and נְחֹשֶׁת (copper).



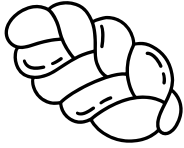
Question

נְחֹשֶׁת is the cheapest of the three metals donated for the מִשְׁכָּן – and it even shares its _____ with נָחָשׁ, the snake. Why would ה' want this lowly metal used in the building of His holy מִשְׁכָּן?



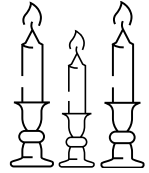
Answer

זָהָב and כֶּסֶף represent Yidden on high spiritual levels – their נִשְׁמָה shines brightly and they feel close to ה'. נְחֹשֶׁת represents a _____ who is on a lower spiritual level. And yet, נְחֹשֶׁת played an important role in the מִשְׁכָּן – the sockets that held up the entire outer courtyard wall were made of נְחֹשֶׁת and the goat skin covering was held together with hooks made of נְחֹשֶׁת. This shows that even a Yid who is on a lower level – through תּוֹרָה and מִצְוֹת, can _____ ה' into their life.



פרשת תרומה

לקוטי שיחות חלק ו' ע' 160



המעשה הוא העיקר

This week, pick just one “small” מצוה and do it with extra care and כוונה. It doesn't have to be big or fancy – נחשת wasn't the most precious metal, but ה' still wanted it in His מִשְׁכָּן. Your small actions matter to ה'.



It Happened Once

In 1982, Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky traveled to the Caribbean island of Curacao to speak to the small Jewish community there. After his talk, a man named יוסף גרויסמן approached him. His thirteen-year-old son had refused to enter a non-Jewish house of worship the school was forcing all students to attend – and had been beaten up and bullied for it. Rabbi Kotlarsky helped the family send the boy to a Jewish school in New York, and soon the whole family moved somewhere they could live as Yidden. Later, גרויסמן wrote to the Rebbe to say thank you – but added, “How can I, a small Yid from Curacao, thank someone as great as the Rebbe?” The Rebbe wrote back on the 3rd of ניסן, 5744: “I must take exception to your calling yourself a “a small Jew from Curacao.” Every Yid has a נשמה that is a part of ה' – there is no such thing as a small Yid.”



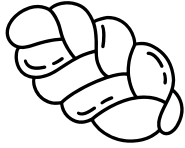
In Your Own Words

1

Of the three metals – זָהָב, כֶּסֶף, and נְחֹשֶׁת – what makes נְחֹשֶׁת seem like the lowest one?

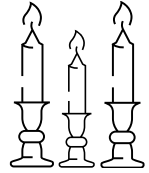
2

What important jobs did נְחֹשֶׁת do in the מִשְׁכָּן?



פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

לקוטי שיחות חלק ט"ז ע' 334



Parsha Summary

מֹשֶׁה gathers all of יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי and reminds them to keep שִׁבְת. Then he shares ה' instructions for building the מִשְׁכָּן. The people give so generously — gold, silver, copper, wool, linen, wood, oil, and precious stones — that מֹשֶׁה has to tell them to _____. Skilled artisans, led by בְּצַלְאֵל and אֶהֱלִיאָב, build every part of the מִשְׁכָּן and all its vessels. They also sew the special garments for the כֹּהֲנִים. A full accounting is made of all the gold, silver, and copper used. When everything is finished, מֹשֶׁה puts the מִשְׁכָּן together, anoints it with special oil, and brings אֶהֱרֹן and his sons into the כֶּהֱנָה. A _____ comes down, showing that ה' שְׁכִינָה has come to rest inside.



Background

This week's פָּרָשָׁה tells us how בְּצַלְאֵל built the אֶרֶן. One of the 613 מִצְוֹת is that the carrying poles of the אֶרֶן must never be removed from its _____ — not even when the אֶרֶן is resting permanently inside the קֹדֶשׁ הַקֹּדְשִׁים.



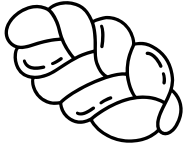
Question

The אֶרֶן stood in one place for hundreds of years without ever moving. Why does the תּוֹרָה command that its _____ must always stay in, ready to carry it at any given moment?



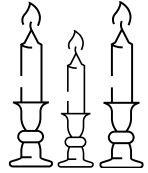
Answer

The אֶרֶן held the לִיּוֹחַ and the תּוֹרָה scroll that מֹשֶׁה wrote — making it the symbol of תּוֹרָה. And תּוֹרָה is never meant to stay in one _____. Just like the poles kept the אֶרֶן always ready to move, the תּוֹרָה must always be moving outward — spreading to every corner of the world. Every Yid is like a pair of poles, carrying the light of תּוֹרָה to the people around them. We don't just learn תּוֹרָה for ourselves — we become messengers, sharing a תּוֹרָה thought _____ a friend, bringing a fellow Yid closer to a מִצְוָה, or making sure no Yid is left without the warmth of תּוֹרָה in their life.



פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

לקוטי שיחות חלק ט"ז ע' 334



המעשה הוא העיקר

This week, share some תורה you learned with a friend, sibling, or classmate — at lunch, on the bus, or at home. You can even teach someone why the poles of the אָרוֹן could never be removed!



It Happened Once

When רבי חייא saw that תורה study was weakening, he planted flax, spun it into thread, and sewed nets. With the nets he caught deer, which he slaughtered and used the hides to write ספרי. תורה. He traveled from village to village, gathering five children in each one and teaching each child one of the חמשה חומשי תורה. Then he did the same with six other children and the ששה סדרי משנה, instructing them all to teach each other what they learned. That is how רבי חייא made sure the תורה would never be forgotten. When רבי יהודה הנשיא — the greatest Torah leader of his generation — heard of רבי חייא's efforts, he exclaimed: "כמה גדולים מעשי חייא!" — "How great are the deeds of חייא!" A student asked: "Greater than yours?" To which רבי answered: "Yes!"

(בבא מציעא פה:)



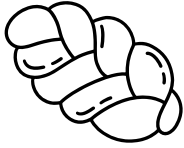
In Your Own Words

1

What מצוה did ה' give regarding the אָרוֹן that was different from the other כלים in the מִשְׁכָּן?

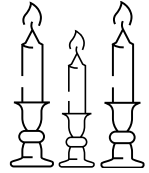
2

What is one way you can bring the תורה to new places?



פרשת צו

לקוטי שיחות חלק י"ב ע' 24



Parsha Summary

ה' tells מֹשֶׁה to command אֶהְרֹן and his sons about their jobs as כֹּהֲנִים. The פָּרָשָׁה teaches the הִלְכוֹת of the different קִרְבָּנוֹת – the עֹלָה, מִנְחָה, חֹטֵאת, אֶשֶׁם, and שְׁלָמִים – including who brings them, who _____ them, and how they are offered on the מִזְבֵּחַ. The fire on the מִזְבֵּחַ must never go out. The פָּרָשָׁה also teaches about the תּוֹדָה – a special thanksgiving offering brought by someone who survived a dangerous situation. At the end, אֶהְרֹן and his _____ stay inside the מִשְׁכָּן for seven days while מֹשֶׁה performs the special ceremony to make them כֹּהֲנִים.



Background

רָשִׁי lists four types of people who bring a תּוֹדָה, writing: "Those who made a sea-voyage and returned safely, journeyed in the _____, prisoners in jail who were released, or a sick person who recovered."



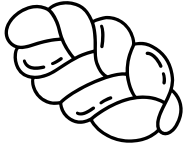
Question

In תְּהִלִּים קאפיטל ק"ז, _____ lists the four people who give thanks in order of the biggest danger: desert traveler, prisoner, sick person, and sea traveler. Why does רָשִׁי use a different order?



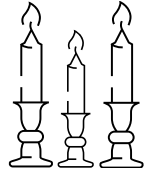
Answer

The Rebbe explains that three of the four dangerous situations actually happened to בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל – they crossed the sea when they left מִצְרַיִם, they traveled through the desert, and they were "imprisoned" when ה' decreed they would stay in the desert for _____ years. רָשִׁי lists these three in the order they happened. The fourth – being sick and getting better – did not happen to the whole nation, so רָשִׁי puts it last. This also explains why רָשִׁי writes the first three in רְבִים ("those who traveled") and the fourth in יְחִיד ("a sick person") – because the first _____ happened to everyone, while the fourth did not.



פרשת צו

לקוטי שיחות חלק י"ב ע' 24



המעשה הוא העיקר

Think about something good that happened to you recently – maybe you felt better after being sick, or things worked out when you were worried. Take a moment to thank ה' for it – not just quickly, but with real feeling.



It Happened Once

ניקנור traveled to Alexandria in Egypt to have two beautiful copper doors made by the finest craftsmen there for the המקדש. On the way back, a massive storm hit. The sailors were terrified the ship would sink, so they threw one of the heavy doors into the sea – but the storm kept raging. They were about to throw the second door in too, but ניקנור grabbed onto it and cried: "Throw me in with it!" The moment he said those words, the sea went calm. ניקנור arrived safely with one door – his heart breaking for the one lost at sea. Then, as the ship pulled into the port of עכו, something incredible happened: the lost door came rising up from under the water. When the המקדש was later renovated and all the other gates were given gold doors, the gates of ניקנור were left in their original copper – to remember the miracle forever.

(יומא לח.)



In Your Own Words

1

After which four dangerous situations does someone bring a תודה?

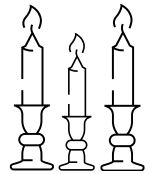
2

Why does רש"י write the first three in לשון רבים and the fourth in לשון יחיד?



פרשת תזריע-מצורע

לקוטי שיחות חלק ל"ה ע' 57



Parsha Summary

פרשת תזריע speaks about the הלכות of טמאה and טהרה. After a baby boy is born, his מילה is done on the eighth day. We also learn about צרעת – a special spiritual condition that can appear on a person's skin. A כהן examines the person and says if they are טמא or טהור. Someone with צרעת must stay outside the camp until they are healed. פרשת מצרע tells us how a מצרע becomes טהור again – the כהן performs a special ceremony with two birds, cedar wood, and a red thread. We also learn about צרעת that appears on the walls of a house, and the הלכות of how to purify it.



Background

The תורה says the מצוה of ברית מילה must be done on the eighth day – this applies even when the eighth day falls on שבת. The מוהל performs the מילה even though it involves מלאכה on שבת.



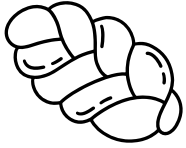
Question

The ברית מילה is the father's מצוה – it is his job to bring his son into the ברית of אברהם אבינו. Since most fathers don't know how to do it themselves, they ask a מוהל to do it for them. So how can the מוהל put himself in a position of doing מלאכה on שבת for someone else's מצוה?



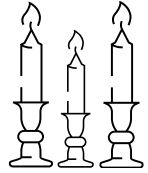
Answer

שבת on מילה is not just another מצוה – it reveals something very deep about what it means to be a Yid. Every Yid has a connection to ה' that goes even deeper than the תורה itself. This is shown through נפש – being ready to give everything for ה', no matter what. When a מוהל does a ברית, שבת on מילה, he gives himself over completely – he does it even though it involves מלאכה on שבת and it is not even his מצוה. That total readiness is the very נפש that מילה is all about.



פרשת תזריע-מצורע

לקוטי שיחות חלק ל"ה ע' 57



המעשה הוא העיקר

מְסִירַת נַפְשׁ can mean being ready to give your whole self for ה', even when it is hard. This week, think of one thing that is hard for you to do and do it anyway, just for ה'.



It Happened Once

The פריערדיקער רבי once wanted to raise money to print ספרים of the צמח צדק – for the very first time in America. He approached a certain Yid and asked him to donate the full cost of printing. The problem was that the amount was beyond what this Yid could afford. Still, he said yes – and the פריערדיקער רבי blessed him. Not long after, the Yid became wealthy and was able to pay the entire cost, fulfilling his pledge in full. When the פרידיקער רבי was later asked about it, he explained: when a Yid goes beyond his limits for ה', new channels of blessing are opened up for him – making it possible for him to do what seemed impossible.

(לקוטי שיחות חלק כ"ז ע' 105)



In Your Own Words

1

Whose מצוה is it to give a baby boy his מילה?

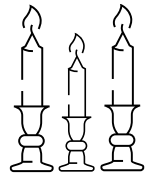
2

Why does the מוהל agree to do מילה on שבת even though it is not his מצוה?



פרשת אחרי-קדושים

תורת מנחם חלק ל"ג ע' 187



Parsha Summary

קדש tells us about the עבודה of the גדול on כפור יום. Only he may enter the קדש once a year to offer the _____ to ה'. Two goats are chosen by lots — one is offered to ה' and one is sent to the wilderness to carry away the sins of בני ישראל. The פרשה also teaches that קרבנות may only be brought in the המקדש, and forbids eating blood. פרשת קדושים opens with ה' telling בני ישראל: "Be holy — just as I, ה' your ה', am _____." It then gives many מצוות — including caring for the poor, being honest in business, honoring parents, and loving your fellow as yourself.



Background

פרשת קדושים includes the מצוה of honest weights and measures. A merchant or store owner must not keep two different scales or measurements — a bigger one when buying and a smaller one when _____.



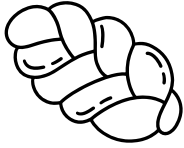
Question

The מדרש says that עמלק comes to attack because of the עבירה of dishonest weights and measures. Why would this particular _____ bring such a terrible enemy — the worst enemy בני ישראל ever had?



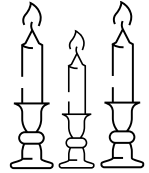
Answer

We can also have two different "scales" in our everyday _____ — one for גשמייות and one for רוחניות. When a Yid always wants more for גשמייות — never satisfied, always finding the time and money — but for רוחניות suddenly there is never enough time or energy, that is the double standard the תורה forbids. This split is what gives עמלק — our יצר הרע — a way in. The fix is one honest scale for everything, the same "I will not _____ for less," for your נשמה as for anything else.



פרשת אחרי-קדושים

תורת מנחם חלק ל"ג ע' 187



המעשה הוא העיקר

Think about something you really want — a new game, a trip, or something for yourself. Do you put that same energy into something for your נשמה — like learning תורה or doing a מצוה? This week, pick one רוחניות'דיקע goal and go after it with the same excitement as a גשמיות'דיקע thing.



It Happened Once

ר' גבריאל was one of the earliest חסידים of the Alter Rebbe. No matter how hard life got, he never complained to the Alter Rebbe — about money or even about having no children. Once, the Alter Rebbe asked him for a sum of money for פדיון שבויים but ר' גבריאל did not have the money. On her own, his wife חנה רבקה sold her jewelry to cover the full amount, and polished every coin until they sparkled. When ר' גבריאל placed the bundle of coins on the table, the Alter Rebbe opened it the coins shone like they were brand new. The Alter Rebbe asked where he got the coins and upon hearing the sacrifice of his wife חנה רבקה the Alter Rebbe blessed them with children, long life, and success — and from that day on he was successful in everything he did. He became known throughout Vitebsk as ר' גבריאל נושא חן - R' Gavriel, who finds favor.

(התמים ע' 315, שיחת ערב שבועות תשמ"ג)



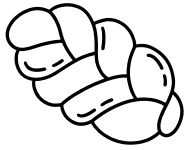
In Your Own Words

1

What עבירה does the מדרש say causes חס ושלום to עמלק?

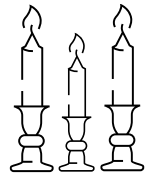
2

What does it mean to have "two different scales" — one for גשמיות and one for רוחניות?



פרשת במדבר

לקוטי שיחות חלק ח' ע' 237



Parsha Summary

ה' tells מֹשֶׁה to count בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל in the מִדְבָּר סִינִי. The total comes to 603,550 men between the ages of 20 and 60. The שְׂבָטִים camp around the מִשְׁכָּן in four groups of three, each with their own נָשִׂיא and flag. The שְׂבָט of לֵוִי is _____ separately – 22,000 males from 30 days old and up – and they are chosen to serve in the מִשְׁכָּן instead of the firstborns, who lost that role after the חֲטָא הָעֵגֶל. Those between 30 and 50 take apart, carry, and reassemble the מִשְׁכָּן whenever בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל travel – each of the _____ לֵוִי families with their own specific job.



Background

פרשת במדבר takes its name from the מִדְבָּר – the desert where בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל camped and received the תּוֹרָה after leaving מִצְרַיִם. This פְּרָשָׁה is always read before _____, when we celebrate the giving of the תּוֹרָה.

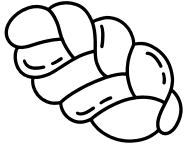
? Question

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל were on their way to אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל – a beautiful land. So why did ה' give the תּוֹרָה in the dry, empty מִדְבָּר? Why not _____ and give it somewhere nicer or somewhere with special significance?



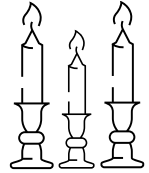
Answer

ה' teaches: אַל תֹּאמַר לְכַשְׁאֲפֶנָּה אֲשֶׁנָּה – "Do not say: when I have free time I will learn" – because maybe that free time will never _____. בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל were in the מִדְבָּר – a temporary, unsettled place, not yet in their homes, not yet living a normal life. You might think: let them get settled first, and then receive the תּוֹרָה properly. The Rebbe explains that this is exactly the point – the תּוֹרָה cannot wait for better conditions. ה' gave the תּוֹרָה right there in the _____ to teach us זְרִיזוּת. Wherever you are, whatever your situation – now is the time. And ה' will take care of everything else, just like He took care of בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל in the מִדְבָּר.



פרשת במדבר

לקוטי שיחות חלק ח' ע' 237



המעשה הוא העיקר

Think of one moment in your day that usually goes to waste — a car ride, waiting for class to begin, before bed — and make the most of it by learning תורה.



It Happened Once

Once, the Alter Rebbe saw his grandson wearing an expensive gartel and asked how much money he had and where it was. "I gave 2,000 rubles to Reb Shmaya the גביר to invest," said the grandson. "Today he is a גביר," said the Alter Rebbe, "but who knows what tomorrow will bring?" Months later, Reb Shmaya lost everything and the grandson came to the Alter Rebbe for help. The Alter Rebbe said: "Once, on my way back from the מגיד, I stopped at an inn. The innkeeper asked my advice — should he stay while the Poretz raises the rent or move to a cheaper inn? I advised him to move, and went to rest. When I woke up, the inn was already packed and everyone was ready to leave. Soon after we left, lightning struck and the inn burned to the ground. I was not even a Rebbe yet and he listened immediately, without wasting a single moment — but you, when I warned you about Reb Shmaya, you did nothing. ה' will help you."

(בית רבי (אידיש) ע' 78)



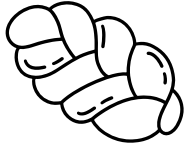
In Your Own Words

1

Where would have been a more suitable place to give the תורה instead of the מדבר?

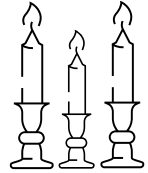
2

Why did ה' give the תורה in the מדבר?



פרשת בהעלתך

לקוטי שיחות חלק ל"ג ע' 71



Parsha Summary

שְׁבֹט starts by telling us about the מִצְוָה of lighting the מְנוֹרָה in the מִשְׁכָּן, and how לוי officially begins their job serving in the מִשְׁכָּן. A group of Yidden who were _____ ask why they should miss out on bringing the פֶּסַח and קָרְבַּן פֶּסַח and ה' gives them a second chance with שְׁנֵי פֶּסַח. בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל then travel from הַר סִינִי, where they had camped for nearly a year. The people complain about the מֶן and demand meat. מֹשֶׁה appoints _____ זִקְנִים to help him lead. מִרְיָם speaks negatively about the מֶן and is punished with צָרַעַת. מֹשֶׁה davens for her, and all of בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל wait seven days before travelling while she waits to become טָהוֹר.



Background

In the מִדְבָּר, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל ate the מֶן every day. The מִדְרָשׁ teaches that the מֶן had a miraculous quality – you could taste any flavor you wanted. Yet בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל complained that they missed five vegetables _____ מִצְרִים – cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.

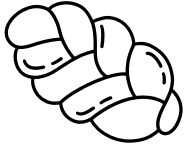
? Question

If the מֶן could taste like anything, why were בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל complaining? Didn't they _____ that those five flavors were left out for their own good – because if a nursing mother tastes them it could harm the babies who drink their _____?



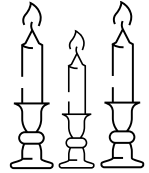
Answer

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל understood it was to protect the nursing mothers. Their complaint was why not let everyone else taste those flavors? However ה' did not _____ this argument. If the nursing mothers saw everyone around them enjoying flavors they could not have, it could cause them to feel left out and they may have a strong desire to have it too. So ה' removed those five flavors from the מֶן of everyone - around _____ million people - just to protect a small number of nursing babies.



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המעשה הוא העיקר

A Yid has to be sensitive to others. This week, before you do something, stop and think: could this cause anyone around me pain?



It Happened Once

A group of prominent חסידים once came to visit the צמח צדק in Lubavitch. They wanted him to deliver a מאמר of חסידות — feeling that this was more important than spending time in יחידות with simple townspeople discussing their physical problems. They positioned themselves near the Rebbe's room and began singing the Alter Rebbe's נגון, hoping it would open his heart to deliver a מאמר. The צמח צדק opened the door and asked what they wanted. "We want חסידות, not יחידות," they said. The Rebbe agreed — on one condition: no local townspeople would be present. The locals were asked to leave. When the Rebbe came out and was told that no one from Lubavitch remained, he stopped. "If so," he said, "what am I doing here? I too am from Lubavitch!" — and returned to his room, dismayed by the visitors' insensitivity to the plight of the poor townsmen.

(מגדל עז עמ' רז)



In Your Own Words

1

Why did בני ישראל complain about the מן if it could taste like anything they wanted?

2

Why didn't ה' just remove the five flavors from the מן of the nursing mothers only — why did He remove them for everyone?
