



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Gavriel Novick,
Director of Regional
Development,
NCSY Israel

Sharing Our Passion for Torah Parshat Vayeilech

One of the last mitzvot in the Torah is known as Hakhel. Hakhel requires the entire nation to gather together every seven years in the Beit Hamikdash and hear the king read portions of the Torah. The event was a magnificent opportunity to witness the centrality of Torah and inspire all to follow the path it sets forth. Think of the siyum hashas, just bigger, much bigger!

The pasuk says “Assemble the people: men, women, and children.” But the word used for children is not the common “yeladim” or “banim” but rather “taf” which refers to small children, babies and even infants. Why are we required to bring such small children to this gathering? Infants certainly won’t understand what is happening.

Rashi quotes the gemara Chagiga that children would come “to provide a reward for those who brought them.” What does that mean? Are they simply being rewarded because they need to shlep more?

I remember learning in high school from Rabbi Avi Haar a beautiful lesson. He gave an analogy to a sports event where one can see parents with their infants and toddlers. Many parents have dressed their youngest children in the colors of their favorite team, maybe even given them a jersey or a cap. Why is this? The children don’t understand the meaning of it. Yet it is a representation of the parents’ passion and commitment to the team. When you are passionate about something, you want to bring your children along. Doing so shows how important this cause is to you. That is why the parents get extra reward for bringing their young children to hakhel.

At NCSY Israel we are committed to sharing the Torah’s messages with the next generation. Torah is deeply important to us, therefore, let’s share that passion with our children!



Ari Emmer
11th Grade,
Chashmonaim

On Our Path

In Parashat Nitzavim, Moshe Rabbeinu conveys to Bnei Yisrael a teaching that Chazal were puzzled by.

“For this commandment which I command thee this day is not a wonder

unto thee: for the thing is very nigh unto thee, in the mouth of thy mouth, and in the heart of thy heart.” - Chapter 30, Pesukim 11-14.

Rabbi Zvi Me'liska explains in his book of morality - “The Righteous and the Good,” that if a person follows the path of the Torah, then he keeps the commandments of God in everything he does - even by eating and sleeping. After all, things like this (not necessarily eating and sleeping, also playing / traveling for example) help a person work better.

If a person needs rest (of course - only he knows if it's necessary or out of laziness), it will be a mitzvah if he rests.

And this is implied in the Pasuk we read:

בפיך ובלבבך לעשות - even when you eat - in your mouth, [in your heart] (in the thoughts of your heart) it is for heaven's sake, to do the commandments.

The Torah is teaching us to do even these ordinary and trivial things[for the sake of Hashem. In this way we will earn a lot of reward and perhaps most importantly fill our lives with meaning and true happiness. ■

NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower, and help teen olim with "Klita" to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at israel.ncsy.org



SHIUR SPONSORS

Wednesday, September 9 - Rabbi Manning's shiur is sponsored by **Donna and Stanley Dalnekoff** to commemorate their golden wedding anniversary. Stanley specifically wishes to thank Donna for having put up with him for 50 wonderful years together.

Wednesday, September 9 - Rabbi Manning's shiur is sponsored by Rachel Steiner in memory of her mother-in-law **ע"ה ריווע פנינה בת יואל הלוי ע"ה** on her 31st yahrzeit - 19 Elul. She was an unforgettable, compassionate woman famous for her generosity, who profoundly affected many lives. Even when she could barely walk, she got up early every morning to pick up other senior citizens to keep the minyan of the Young Israel of Parkchester, in the East Bronx going.

Thursday, September 10 - Rabbi Kahn's shiur is sponsored by Dr. Joseph R. Bensimon in loving memory of his dear brother, **Aharon Chai ben Saadia z"l** whose 7th yahrzeit was 15 Elul

Sunday, September 13 - Rabbi Aharon Adler's shiur is sponsored in memory of Rabbi Adler's father **David Adler z"l** on the 6th Yahrzeit - 24 Elul

Monday, September 14 - Pearl Borow's shiur is sponsored by Sheila Jacobson, in memory of her sister **Chaya Sarah bat Yehoshua a"h** and her sister in law **Rivka Basya bat Avraham Mordechai a"h**

Tuesday, September 15 - Rabbi Goldin's shiur is sponsored by Ceil and David Olivestone in loving memory of Ceil's father - **Josef Weinberg, Yosef Reuven ben Meir Mordechai z"l**

Wednesday, September 16 - Rabbi Manning's Shiur is sponsored by Lilian and Maurice Brodie to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their Grandson **Elisha Shlomo Greenspan**