



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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No I in Team

Many Parshiyot in the Torah give a lot of technical information about the Mishkan. Do we really need so much information?

Perhaps the Torah spends so much time giving details because they give deep insight about life in general.

The main colors that constantly appear are techelet, purple, red, and white. These 4 colors are constantly woven together.

When most people paint the walls in their house, they paint it one or two colors. An interior designer would definitely struggle designing a house with so many different color schemes! Rabbi Lowenstein says the colors represent the rainbow. He believes the Mishkan is meant to look like the rainbow Hashem showed Noah.

When Hashem recreates the world with Noah, man can eat meat and dominate the world in a way we couldn't before the flood. The rainbow represents man's ability to dominate the world and Hashem's promise to let that be. The rainbow's many colors are man's ability to see many different colors of the world and not the one truth.

Where exactly do we find these colors in the Mishkan? They are on the walls and the entrance ways. Man's dominion stops on the walls. These colors aren't on the Aron or Kodesh Kedashim. They're only on the outer parts. The physical world is man's to reign, but the Beit Hamikdash is Hashem's space. We are not the center, rather Hashem is.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks zt'l said the way to understand a culture is by asking them what they worship. If people in the future looked at our generation, they would see that we worship the self. Today's culture is about selfies, iPhones, self-esteem, and individual rights.

May we live in a world where we are not so absorbed with the self but absorbed with the klal and Hashem's goodness.



Yael Emmer **11th Grade,** **Chashmonaim**

Building a Community

In this week's Parshiot, Vayakhel-Pikudei, Moshe gathers Bnei Yisrael together after they sinned in order to teach them about Shabbat and how to build the Mishkan. Bnei Yisrael seem to view this as an opportunity for repentance for the sin of the golden calf, and now they will have the opportunity to build the Mishkan.

These Parshiot teach us not only about building a Mishkan, but also how to build a community. Bnei Yisrael gathered to listen to these instructions from Moshe, their leader, and used his detailed instructions to reconnect to Hashem. Each person was to donate jewels, gold, and anything else they could to the Mishkan. Once all the donations were collected, only then was the Mishkan complete. Through these actions, Bnei Yisrael were redeemed from sinning and given the opportunity to serve Hashem as a nation.

The first thing we can learn in terms of building a community is the importance of gathering together as a collective and being a part of something. The ability to come together and share a common goal can lead to a beautiful feeling of unity. Everyone from Bnei Yisrael was thrilled about giving their jewelry towards the building of the Mishkan, to the point where it was overflowing! From this we can see how a common goal can cause beautiful creations.

Moreover, we can learn that even if we make mistakes, there are actions we can take in order to repent for those wrongdoings. This past year has been difficult for everyone due to the pandemic, yet we can see that as a result of the struggles, our communities have come

together to help those in need. Whether it was helping people that were sick or quarantined or just checking in on each other.

We see the importance of being part of a community, not to mention the fact that the entire world was working together to develop a vaccine! The struggles in building the Mishkan actually brought Bnei Yisrael to work together and become a close-knit community. Hopefully we will continue to see how even the struggles of Corona can bring the world closer together! ■

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