



## TORAH 4 TEENS

## BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



**Gavriel Novick,**  
Director of Regional  
Development

### Steps Forward

In the beginning of Parshat Metzora the Torah describes that someone with tzaraat must *go* to the kohen or “v’huva el hakohen” to start the purification process. However the next pasuk states that the kohen *goes out* or “vayetze hakohen” to meet with such a person in need of purification. These two adjacent pasukim seem contradictory. Does the one with tzaraat need to approach the kohen or does the kohen need to step forward to approach the one plagued with tzaraat?

The mussar seforim use this dilemma to explain the successful model of teaching and inspiring. On the one hand individuals need to seek purity themselves. They need to reach out to gain wisdom and

open themselves to inspiration. Yet, at the same time our teachers need to also take those first steps. They need to initiate and approach others they can teach. They need to draw them in and help them to take their own steps forward.

The Regional and Chapter Directors of NCSY Israel, as well as the entire advising staff have adopted this process of interaction. Our NCSY Israel teens are consistently taking leadership roles, planning new events and starting new initiatives. At the same time, our talented, passionate and caring advisors and staff members also step forward, often encouraging those who may be on the sidelines and motivating those who otherwise might have been left out. This is the model of achieving purity outlined in the parsha and one we practice at NCSY Israel. As we inspire the Jewish future everyone needs to take steps forward.



**Talia Rapps**  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Efrat

### The Kohen Within Us

The main topic of these parshiyot is the idea of טומאה וטהרה - impurity and purity. Tazria - Metzora mainly deals with the matter of tzara’at (leprosy). Tzara’at is a skin disease, brought on by one speaking Lashon Hara. Someone who is affected by tzara’at, also

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known as a מצורע, must quarantine by themselves until they are pronounced clean by the Kohen. Only then are they permitted to return back to their homes.

The Kohen that treats the מצורע has a very unique job. It is part Kohen, part doctor, and part social worker. No one else can see the מצורע besides the Kohen. This creates a special connection between them. The Kohen must put aside his other duties in order to care for this person, and perform the tasks in order to restore their cleanliness and allow them to return to their community.

Although this mitzvah isn't entirely applicable to our lives today, I think we can learn a lot from it. It teaches us the importance of caring for other people, especially ones that are on the outside. Each one of us must fill the role of the Kohen, and try to help one another as much as we can.

We have to bring people in, instead of pushing them away. Not only does each person have the individual responsibility of being the best person they can be, there is also a social responsibility to help one another in order to build a strong community. ■

*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](http://israel.ncsy.org)*



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