



# TORAH 4 TEENS

## BY TEENS NCSY ISRAEL



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### BOUNDARIES THAT ELEVATE

Parshat Emor talks a lot about boundaries and restrictions: with time, with details regarding the Kohanim, and more. This may feel very restrictive and intense, but in reality, these limitations are what allow us to tap into the kedusha that lies within us. As the Torah says, “וְשַׁמְרֶתֶם מִצְוֹתַי וְעִשִּׂיתֶם אֹתָם... וְלֹא תַחַלְלוּ, וְשָׁרְאֵל” (Vayikra 22:31–32), we are commanded to guard the mitzvot and thereby sanctify Hashem’s name.

In a world where rules and boundaries aren’t always appreciated, we as Jews are given special instructions on how to live our lives through the Torah. This is not meant to restrict or limit our potential; it is actually the opposite. It is meant to unlock our full potential as Jews and as individuals. The boundaries and limits that have been set for us allow us to reach even higher levels of kedusha that we may not have

been able to achieve without them.  
Shabbat Shalom!



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### YOUR OWN PATH TO KEDUSHA

Parshat Emor begins with special laws for the Kohanim. Though they are already holy, they receive additional laws to follow, showing that they are held to a higher standard. We might think this means only Kohanim are holy, but the parsha concludes with laws for all of Klal Yisrael. The Torah states, “One law shall be for you, for the stranger and for the citizen alike,” showing that every person possesses a basic level of holiness.

I think there’s a lot to learn from this contrast. While Kohanim have a unique role and responsibility, so does the rest of Klal Yisrael. Every person is holy and has something unique to contribute. We should all find our own path in Avodat Hashem and strive to be the holiest versions of ourselves.

Shabbat Shalom! ■

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