

# 1st Seder Weekly Divrei Torah

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

**FIRST SEDER BAIS MEDRASH** established in 2012 by Rabbi Uri Greenspan, provides a unique learning program for men with diverse schedules, ages, and backgrounds. Since its inception, the daily learning programs of Gemara, Mishnayos, Tanach, Halacha, and Jewish ethics, have provided hundreds of First Seder participants with a rich, challenging, and authentic Bais Medrash experience. The wide range of subjects and the varying levels of difficulty allow for the participants to choose which learning track best fits their individual needs, enabling them to truly take their learning to the next level.

## DAILY SCHEDULE:

9-11:30am: Gemara in-depth and B'Chavrusa

9:10am-1pm: Classroom Learning

Monday 9-9:45pm: Dirshu Mishna Berura Shiur

Tuesday 8:45-9:45pm: Daf HaShovua Gemara Shiur

**TO JOIN:** Contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at 732.407.3178  
Office@FirstSeder.org, Lower Merion Synagogue

## PARSHAS NOACH – OUR GENERATIONS

“These are the generations of Noach; Noach was a righteous man.” (Bereishis 6:9). Rashi, citing the Medrash Tanchuma, clarifies the connection between Noach’s “generations” and his righteousness. “This teaches us that the primary offspring of a tzaddik are his good deeds.” Rav Moshe Feinstein explains that one should love his Mitzvos in the same way that he loves his children. Thus, he should enjoy doing Mitzvos and do them wholeheartedly. Additionally, one should put great effort into the performance of his Mitzvos so that they are done as perfectly as possible. Even “minor” Mitzvos, which are not as significant as other Mitzvos, should receive the same degree of love and attention – just as one attempts to give the same love and attention to all his children. And just as one applies all his efforts to making sure that each of his children reaches his potential, so too Mitzvos require a great deal of effort to do them properly.

Rav Shlomo Wolbe points out that just as children marry and bring more children into the world, so too Mitzvos can live on forever. The Torah that one imparts, the chesed one does and the tzedaka that one gives can endure for generations to come. Acts of chesed done for individuals or families often can have ripple effects well beyond their initial performance. Consider the infinite reverberations that Torah can create in educating and being *mekareiv* people. Think about organizations that were born and live on year after year, century after century, and the impact that they have.

Rav Wolbe explains that this concept will help us understand the meaning of the Tefilla that we say daily in Uva Letzion: “May He open our hearts through His Torah and imbue our hearts with love and awe of Him and do His will and serve Him wholeheartedly, so that we will not toil for naught.” We must take great care and also pray for *siyata dishmaya* so that all the effort that we put into our Mitzvos is not done

for naught. For example, one may start an organization and in a short time the people working for it do not see eye to eye. This may result in the dismantling of the organization and might even cause great harm to its original beneficiaries.

When undertaking such major endeavors, one must be very careful that his intentions are pure, and his methodology is halachically sound. Indeed, Noach, who was charged with rebuilding the world after the flood, is faulted for the initial action which he took – planting a vineyard. The Meforshim explain that the wine was intended for sacrifices; nevertheless, since Noach made wine his priority, he ended up drinking from it himself. This led to his inebriation, his great humiliation and a curse of Canaan, his grandson, that lives on forever.

The message is profound: Love all your children and love all your Mitzvos and bear in mind that both investments will last forever.

You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah - by signing up for a weekly erev Shabbos contribution at <https://pay.banquest.com/lightuptheworld> and by joining the 2-3 minute daily shiur on the writings of the Chofetz Chaim.

## THE DECLINED CREDIT CARD

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

In this week's Parsha, Rashi writes that the fate of the generation of the flood was sealed because of theft. This leads us to the following true story that occurred recently.

Avraham and Yosef were friends. Yosef asked Avraham for a favor. "Would you be willing to pick up a set of Sifsei Chaim when you go to the seforim store? I can give you my credit card to pay for it." "Sure", Avraham replied, and he took the credit card and went to the Judaica store.

Avraham found the set that Yosef wanted. There was only one left. He took it and went to wait at the register. When his turn came to pay, Avraham swiped Yosef's card. After a pause, the cashier told Avraham that the card was declined.

Avraham was embarrassed and unsure of what to do next. There was a tall, dark-skinned man in line behind him who noticed Avraham's embarrassment. He spoke up, "Here is \$100 to pay for the set. See it as a gift from G-d." The man passed the hundred-dollar bill to the cashier and paid for the set of sefarim. Avraham was extremely grateful to the kind man and thanked him profusely.

As Avraham left the store, he wondered to himself if he could now keep the set of sefarim for himself. "Am I obligated to give the set of sefarim to Yosef? After all, the stranger who paid for it intended to help me. Why should Yosef get them? He can buy a set when his credit card is working. Maybe I can keep it for myself."

But on the other hand, Avraham intended the whole time to buy it for Yosef. A minute before the man paid, Avraham was still intending to buy this set on behalf of Yosef.

What do you think? Is Avraham obligated to give the sefarim to Yosef? This question was sent to Rav Tzvi Berkowitz.

Regarding the question about the gabbai who worked behind the scenes to help the lower bidder win Maftir, Rav Zilberstein wrote that the gabbai does not have to pay the difference to the shul. In addition, the shul should give the poor man a discount and not require him to pay the high amount that he was forced to bid.

### YOU ARE MY OWN SON!

A student of Rav Dovid Trenk had permission to bring his car to yeshivah, but it broke down on Route 9, not far from the yeshivah. He trekked to the nearest pay-phone and called Rabbi Trenk, who arranged for a tow truck to pull the car to a garage.

Then Rabbi Trenk came by and sat with the bachur, waiting for the tow truck to arrive. Lots of time passed, and the talmid said, "Rebbi is so busy and I am fine waiting here by myself. Rebbi can go."

"I know that I can go" Rabbi Trenk replied, "but if it was my own son stuck out here, I would wait with him and you are my own son!"

There was once a talmid who consistently missed Shacharis — he simply never came. One day, however, he got out of bed and made his way to the beis medrash, arriving as the minyan was starting Aleinu, the very last part of davening.

He sauntered to his seat and slowly started to remove his tefillin from the bag in order to put them on.

"You made it," a beaming Rabbi Trenk ran up the aisle to greet him, "you made it, I'm so proud. You came to say Aleinu with us... you came to say Aleinu with us, that's wonderful!"

(From Just Love Them, The Life and Legacy of Rabbi Dovid Trenk, By Rabbi Yisroel Besser, Published By Artscroll Mesorah, Reprinted with permission from Table Talk.)

### Mishnayos Shel Chesed

We are currently learning for:

Malka bas Eliya, Dr. Margureite Werrin

Menka bas Moshe, Mrs. Dahlia Ocken's aunt

**1st**  
Seder

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**NOW IN OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!**

For more information or to register for  
First Seder, contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at

732-407-3178 or

[RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org](mailto:RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org)

**Good Shabbos**