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 KI SEITZEI – THE ESSENCE OF CHESED

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

If one finds a lost object, the Torah commands him to return it to its owner. "And so shall you do for any lost article of your brother that may become lost from him and you find it; you shall not be able to ignore it" (Devarim 22:3). Rashi explains that you should not turn your eyes aside as if you do not see it. Rav Meir Tzvi Bergman asserts that the Torah is not merely instructing us not to pretend that we don't see the object. The Torah is stating that we should not be oblivious to the article lying in the street. If you do not truly care about the welfare of another person you can pass his lost object and not pay any attention to it. Rather, you should care so much about your "brother" that you will not be able to ignore it. This is what Chazal mean in Pirkei Avos (2:12) "Your fellow's property should be as dear to you as your own." Certainly, if a valuable item that you lost was lying in the street, you would not fail to notice it as you passed by. Similarly, you should not be able to pass by someone else's lost article without noticing it.

Rav Bergman avers that he heard many times from his father-in-law, Rav Elazar Shach, that the essence of all tzedakah and chesed should derive from our intense concern for every Yid. Without this degree of sensitivity, one could remain totally oblivious to the needs of others. It is this sensitivity which allows us to perceive whether someone needs financial assistance, an ear to listen to his problems, some sincere encouragement or any other kind of help.

This was the middah of Avraham Avinu. "He lifted his eyes and he saw three men were standing before him. And he saw and he ran toward them…" (Bereishis 18:3). Why does the Torah repeat "he saw"? The first one refers to the visual sight of the men and the second one implies that he took note of them. He was able to perceive what they needed and what he could do for them. He could not, and would not, let them pass by without being of assistance to them.

Perhaps this idea is in consonance with Rashi's comment on the pasuk in Parshas Mishpatim (Shemos 22:4). The Torah states, "When you lend money to My people, the poor person who is with you, do not act toward him as a creditor, do not levy interest on him." What is meant by "the poor person who is <u>with</u> you"? Rashi explains, "Look at yourself as if you are a poor person." Thereby your act of chesed will derive from your empathy for your brother.

Thus, the Torah states, *"Lo suchal l'hisaleim* – you should not be able to ignore" the lost article. You must develop such a degree of sensitivity toward the property of others as if it were your own. The Torah is not merely a book of laws, of dos and don'ts. It is a manual of how to live and a guide to mold our character and refine us.

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

TAKING HER CLEANING LADY

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week's Parsha talks about the Yefas Tohar, a captured woman. This leads us to the following story that was recently asked to us. You may note that a similar scenario was raised in the "Double Take" column in Mishpacha Magazine. We aim to share a Torah opinion about how this should be handled.

Esti was a busy mother who lived in Lakewood, New Jersey. Like thousands of other women in her stage in life, she desperately needed a housekeeper, a cleaning lady, to help with the chores. The problem was that there were roughly ten to fifteen thousand women in the Lakewood area who needed cleaning ladies, and there were not more than 3000-5000 cleaning ladies available. This means that roughly three Lakewood women were competing for every cleaning lady in Lakewood. This obviously led to supply and demand problems.

The going rate for cleaning help was $20/hour. Esti knew a capable and experienced cleaning lady who worked for someone in the neighborhood. Esti needed a cleaning lady every day, and she was willing to pay $25 or even $30/hour to get the help. Esti considered offering the cleaning lady $30/hour to come work for her instead.

But then Esti felt very torn. If she sniped away another person's cleaning lady, there was a good chance that her neighbor won't be able to find a new one for a while. Even if she did find one, perhaps by offering so much more money, she would be raising the prices for everyone in the area, making it inaccessible for all but the wealthy.

What do you think the Torah's perspective is on this question? Is Esti allowed to hire the neighbor's cleaning help if that will leave the neighbor with no help or unable to afford cleaning help in the future? This question was presented to Rav Tzvi Berkowitz.

Regarding last week's question about buying the condo without mentioning that it was for the deaf brother, Rav Zilberstien said that this was not a problem, as the apartment was truly, objectively worth less because it had a flaw in it. This is because the value does not go based on who is buying it, but rather on the market value.

IT IS ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE

Rabbi Paysach Diskind

Rabbi Mordechai Finkelman, a presenter on Torah Anytime, shared the following story. Shortly after their marriage the Finkelmans rented an upstairs apartment in Brooklyn. The owner, a 70-year-old fellow and his wife, lived on the first floor. It used to be a large house but he split it to accommodate a rental to bring in some more income. His landlord lived very simply, drove an older car, spent his free time studying Torah and was a very happy person.

During a conversation with his landlord, Rabbi Finkelman learned that he worked for the Postal Service. In his curiosity Reb Mordechai asked him why he still works; "I know that the Post Office has a good pension plan for their workers". His landlord told him that he has not been working there long enough. "Oh! What did you do before working for the Post Office?" His landlord responded "I used to be a wealthy diamond merchant until one day. On that fateful day I came to work to discover that my partner emptied the safe and took off with all the diamonds and jewelry. Besides having lost my entire inventory I also lost a number of diamonds and pieces of jewelry which I took on consignment for which I now was in debt. That was when I decided to start from scratch and took a job at the Post Office."

Reb Mordechai was mortified. "I feel so bad for you! How do you and your wife carry yourselves with such a happy disposition?" His landlord responded, "You feel bad for me?! I did nothing wrong. Baruch HaShem I have what I need. I feel bad for my partner, look what he will have to deal with!"

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MAZEL TOV

to the 1st Seder Bais Medrash on beginning its 11th year!

Join Daf Hashavua at the First Seder Bais Medrosh for Meseches Kesubos starting on September 18!

For more information or to register for First Seder, contact RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org or 732-407-3178.

First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Morning Track 1: Shiurim				
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Parsha HaShevua *(R' Yehoshua Levy)*
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*
10:45 AM – 11:25 AM	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Practical Timely Halacha *(R' Mordechai Shain)*	The Life and Torah of our Leaders *(R' Dovid Gross)*	Biur Tefilla *(R' Yoel Zeffren)*	Sefer Tehillim *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	

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To sponsor the 1st Seder Weekly, please contact office@firstseder.org.

Gut Shabbos!