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 VAYISHLACH – BROTHERHOOD

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

After Shechem's tragic assault of Dina, the Torah relates that Shimon and Levi took the matter into their own hands. "And the two of Yaakov's sons Shimon and Levi, Dina's brothers, each took his sword and they came upon the city (of Shechem) confidently and killed every male" (Bereishis 34:25). Rashi explains that although we already know that they were the brothers of Dina, the *pasuk* emphasizes that they acted out of a sense of brotherhood.

Rav Meir Tzvi Bergman sees in Rashi's explanation a profound idea. While it is natural to risk one's life for one's own survival, risking one's life for another person does not come naturally. However when it comes to one's brother or sister it becomes a personal matter, for a sibling is a blood relation deriving from the very same parents. Each sibling is a portion of the same progenitor. This is what Aharon meant when he asked Moshe to pray for Miriam who was stricken with *tzaraas*. Since she is born from the same womb as we, if she were to die it could be as if "half of our flesh had been consumed." (See Rashi Bamidbar 12:12.)

The Rambam (Matnas Aniyim 10:2) in codifying the laws of Tzedaka, expands this concept to include the brotherhood of all Jews. "All Yisrael and those who have joined (their ranks) are like brothers as it states, 'You are children of Hashem your G-d,' and if a brother will not have compassion on his brother, who will have compassion?" Since we all are Hashem's children, we are indeed all brothers. As explained before, brothers share the same "flesh" and having compassion for a brother is akin to having compassion on yourself. Thus, the Torah logically commands, "Love your fellow [Jew] as yourself" (Vayikra 19:18). This is because you should perceive him as a part of yourself.

Indeed many Mitzvos *bein adam lechaveiro* are expressed in terms of brotherhood. To cite a few examples: "Do not hate your brother in your heart" (Vayikra 19:17), "If your brother will become impoverished…you shall strengthen him...so that he can live with you" (Vayikra 25:35), "You shall not see the ox of your brother or his sheep and ignore them; you shall surely return them to your brother" (Devarim 22:1).

After the Torah is read on Monday and Thursday, the *shliach tzibbur* recites a series of prayers which all begin with "May it be the will of our Father in heaven…" except for the last one. It begins *"Acheinu kol Bais Yisrael hanesunim batzarah uvashivya* – our brothers the entire House of Yisrael, who are in distress or captivity…" Our hearts go out to all of Bais Yisrael because they are our brothers. Rav Bergman suggests that this prayer does not need to invoke "our Father in heaven" since it refers to all of us as brothers only because we are the children of our Father in heaven.

Rav Mattisyahu Salomon asks rhetorically, "If all Jews are brothers because we are all children of the same Father, how do you think our Father feels when His children don't get along?" If for no other reason, we must find a way to create harmony and *shalom bayis* among ourselves, so as not to upset our Father. Don't you agree, dear brothers and sisters?

You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refua sheleima 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 VISIT

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

We know that Yaakov received the brachos because he dressed up like Esav. This leads us to the following true story.

Avraham, who lived in Eretz Yisrael, was a successful businessman, and he was known as a philanthropist and a ba'al tzedakah. He generously supported many yeshivas and mosdos.

One Purim, as usual, many people came to Avraham's home to collect tzedaka, to give him mishloach manos, and to sit with him and have a lechaim. While the home was filled with guests, Avraham saw out the window that a dark car pulled up. The driver opened the back door, and an elderly gentleman was supported out. To Avraham's surprise and delight, it was one of the Gedolei Hador, one on the great Rosh Yeshivas of Eretz Yisrael. The Rosh Yeshiva was escorted into Avraham's home by a small entourage of people. Avraham was delighted to have a personal visit to his home by this Gadol. Avraham knew that he gave tzedakah to this Rosh Yeshiva's Yeshiva, and he assumed that the Gadol visited him personally to show his hakaras hatov, his gratitude, for Avraham's support. The gadol sat with Avarahm and shared a few Divrei Torah with him.

Avraham was so honored and delighted to have this personal visit. Before the gadol left, Avraham took out a large mishloach manos and a bottle of brandy. The brandy was an expensive and rare bottle that cost more than $300. Avraham told the Gadol, "I'm so honored that you came to my home personally, and here is a special bottle of brandy in honor of your visit." The Gadol thanked him and was escorted back to his car and driven away.

That night, after Purim, Avrahm was reminiscing with his friend about the wonderful Purim and about all the guests that came. Avraham told his friend, "Thankfully, one of the Gedolim, personally came to visit me, and I gave him an expensive bottle of brandy to express my gratitude." The friend turned to Avraham with a smile and said, "You mean you didn't realize the shtick?" Avraham was surprised. "What do you mean?" The friend said, "That wasn't really the gadol. It was actually Chaim, our neighbor from down the block. He dressed exactly like that Gadol, matched his voice and way of dress, and was driven around town by a driver and entourage as a Purim shtick."

Avraham could not believe his ears. He knew Chaim and he never in a million years would have thought the Gadol was really Chaim. Avraham picked up the phone and called Chaim up. "Chaim, was it really you who was dressed up like the Gadol?". "Yes," Chaim said, "it was so nice that you played along so nicely, stayed in character, and didn't spoil the fun for everyone." Avraham said, "Actually, you did such a good job that I really thought you were the gadol. One thing though, the bottle of brandy was very expensive and I saved it for a special occasion. Do you think you might be able to return it to me?" "Oh, I'm so sorry," Chaim answered, "I, together with my family and friends, finished the brandy tonight at our Purim meal. It was exceptional, thank you. We had no idea that it was expensive."

Avraham felt tricked. He wanted to ask Chaim to pay him the $300 for the brandy. The only reason he gave it to Chaim was because Avraham thought he was the real Gadol. Perhaps he had a right to ask for the money back because the gift was given under false pretenses. Had Avraham really known that it was Chaim, he never would have given him the brandy. But on the other hand, Chaim was not intentionally deceiving Avraham. He was just dressed for Purim, and was doing Purim shtick. Furthermore, Chaim never knew that it was an expensive brandy. Had he known he might not have accepted it. Perhaps Avraham did not have a right to ask for the $300 back.

Avraham brought this question to a Rav. Did Avraham have a right to ask Chaim to repay him for the $300 brandy that was given under false pretenses? See Upiryo Matok Bereishis Page 473

Regarding last week's question about the embosser who made a mistake, Rav Zilberstein answered that the embosser would not have to pay for the mistake, because even if he would have followed the directions exactly, the benchers would not have been useable and would not be returnable.

TATA WILL BE THERE

Rabbi Boruch Brull was the second grade rebbe at Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim for many years. Unfortunately, one year a father of one of his second graders passed away and naturally it was very difficult for this child. As the school year advanced towards Purim, Reb Boruch was concerned how he would teach this child to say the Ma nishtaneh. Throughout the years he taught his children the Yiddish version with each question beginning with "Tata leibin..." (dear father). However, considering this child and how his seder will be missing a father, he was at a loss.

Reb Boruch turned to his Rosh Yeshiva, Reb Yitzchok Feigelstock zt'l from the Long Beach Yeshiva, and presented his dilemma. Reb Yitzchok suggested that he should teach this child to begin each question with "Mama leibin..." and address his mother.

After Purim Rabbi Brull had the opportunity to see Reb Shmuel Kamenetsky. Without wasting an opportunity, he presented his dilemma to Reb Shmuel. Reb Shmuel told him that he should teach the child to begin the questions with "Tata leibin..." and tell his second grader that his father will be there and will be listening to him reciting the Ma nishtaneh.

1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

Maharal – Tiferes Yisroel
Shiur given by Rabbi Greenspan
Motzei Shabbos
8:45 PM
Fox Residence
329 Linden Lane

Daf HaShavua **is learning Kesubos Daf ג"ו**

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)*	

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

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

Gut Shabbos!