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 EMOR – OUR NATIONAL DEBT

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

Sometimes we may feel that the burden of certain Mitzvos is quite onerous. We are required to *daven* three times a day with concentration and devotion. We must make a *brachah* before and after partaking of any food and are expected to say it with feeling. We have to remember to count the Omer every night religiously. We are commanded to observe Shabbos every week with all of its restrictions. And you can add to this list any Mitzvah that you "struggle" with; maybe lashon hara. How do we develop and maintain a positive attitude toward these obligations and muster the enthusiasm to perform them with diligence and joy?

I came across a beautiful Medrash (Vayikra Rabba 27:2) on this week's Parsha which I found to be very helpful: "In the future an echo will burst forth upon the mountaintops declaring, 'Whoever did something **on behalf** of Hashem should come and claim his reward'…The Ruach Hakodesh will respond, 'Who praised Me before I gave him a *neshamah*? Who made a *maakeh* (a fence around his roof) for My sake before I gave him a roof? Who affixed a Mezuzah for My sake before I gave him a house? ...Who made *tzitzis* for My sake before I gave him a garment? ...Who separated challah before I gave him the dough? Who set aside a sacrifice for Me before I gave him an animal?' Thus [the Torah] states, 'When an ox, lamb or goat is born…'" (Vayikra 22:27). This *pasuk* refers to the obligation of *bechor* – to give the first born animal to a Kohein to be brought as a Korban. The implication of this *pasuk* according to the Medrash is that Hashem first provided the animals before He commanded you to give up the *bechor.* And despite all this Hashem still rewards us for keeping His Mitzvos.

The Medrash is teaching us that we are really not doing G-d any favors. Everything that we have comes from Him. We can do no less than express our appreciation and gratitude by performing His Mitzvos with enthusiasm and joy, and davening and reciting *brachos* with the best *kavanah* that we can achieve.

Let us think about this the next time we make a *brachah* on food. We have this food. Who gave it to us? We can eat and digest this food. Who gives us a healthy digestive system? We say in *bentching,* "And due to His goodness we have never lacked, and may we never lack nourishment forever." Do we truly appreciate what we are saying? We live in a generation when even "poor" people have food on their tables that was not enjoyed by wealthy people not so many years ago – and it's all glatt kosher. How do we thank Hashem for this bounty?

We give *tzedakah* generously. Who gave us the money? We keep Shabbos down to the last detail. Who gave us the physical and mental capacity to perform all week long the creative activities that are forbidden on Shabbos? Once we integrate this approach we can apply it to many other Mitzvos. We are indeed forever indebted to Hashem.

According to the Chovos Halevavos, the raison d'etre for our religious obligations is gratitude. No matter what physical and financial condition we may find ourselves in, we all owe Hashem abundant gratitude for everything that we have. Rav Shimon Schwab was once asked in his later years how he was coping with his inability to walk. He responded, "If someone gives you ten million dollars and then takes back five thousand, do you have what to complain about?"

"Ivdu es Hashem besimcha – Serve Hashem with joy…for Hashem is good, His kindness endures forever!"

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

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

This week's Torah portion discusses the mitzvah of counting the Omer. We all know that we are currently in this period, which is a time for reflection on how we can improve our relationships with others. This brings us to the following story.

Izzy lived in a condominium with six units. In the center of the complex, there was a pathway that connected to the sidewalk. The pathway was used to walk to each of the respective units. The pathway ended at a parking lot. Adjacent to the parking lot was a shul. People often used the pathway as a shortcut from the sidewalk to the parking lot and shul, saving them about two minutes of walking time. Izzy felt uncomfortable with strangers from the street using the pathway, as he was concerned about his privacy, potential noise, and people looking into his apartment.

One day, when Izzy saw someone using the path as a shortcut, he politely told

them that it was private property and asked them not to use it. The person replied that they had spoken to some of the other condo owners, who didn't mind people using the shortcut. Izzy, taken aback, asserted that he was also an owner and didn't want people walking through. The person apologized but mentioned that they had received permission from some other owners. Izzy felt uneasy about the situation and wondered if he had the right to stop people from using the pathway.

On one hand, as a condo owner, he had rights to the path and could prevent people from using it. Does one owner's disapproval hold enough weight to block access, considering they have 1/6 of the ownership of the pathway? On the other hand, some of the other five owners may have permitted its use. Can people use the pathway as long as even one owner allows it? What do you think?

Regarding use of security cameras, Rav Heinemann paskens that any activity on Shabbos which indirectly causes information to be stored on a computer is permissible, as long as nothing appears on a screen and no lights change color – i.e., nothing detectable by the five human senses occurs. The fact that the information is stored "invisibly" on the computer is not a problem, as the Torah does not forbid "invisible" things. For this reason, a person may walk in front of a video camera on Shabbos, even though it will cause his image to be recorded to a hard drive. Regarding use of the footage, R' Paysach Diskind renders the idea that that this would create a pirtza which could quickly unravel. Before long, relatives unable to attend a bar mitzvah would watch it motzei Shabbos.

CARRY THE LOAD

Among the 48 ways to acquire Torah is to carry the load with your friend. The meaning of this is found in the Midrash when it describes the qualities of Dovid Hamelech. When Dovid Hamelech was a shepherd he adopted the following manner of sending the sheep out to pasture. First he sent out the young sheep since they could only eat the soft blades of grass. Once they finished, he sent out the senior sheep since they were able to eat the medium blades of grass. The harder blades were too hard for them. Once the soft and medium blades were taken he would then send out the strong sheep to graze on the hard blades.

In a very similar manner Reb Moshe Juravel taught his elementary school talmidim. He understood well the abilities of each child and wanted every child to succeed. When it came time to test them, he created several tests. The weaker students received the easier test and the less weak received the medium test and the hard test was given to the strongest students.

He would give out papers throughout the year for the boys to keep in their binders. As they would learn in class, these papers would be filled out by the talmidim. He therefore hole-punched all the papers on the left side so that they could be easily placed in their binders. In the beginning of the year he would find out which talmidim were lefties. For those boys he hole-punched their papers on the right side so that they would be able to fill out the papers comfortably without having the metal clamps interfere with their writing. Reprinted With Permission From Table Talk.

Daf HaShavua **Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf ל"ד**

The Mussar shiur is currently learning the sefer Pele Yoetz on the timely topic of Ahavas Re'im. You can join the internationally enjoyed shiur either via WhatsApp or podcast. Please contact Rabbi Greenspan for more information.

Maharal Tiferes Yisroel **shiur will be held IyH this motzei Shabbos at the Chodesh residence, 7 Maple Ave (corner of Maple and Edgehill).**

1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning Track 1: Shiurim					
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tevul Yom *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tevul Yom *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tevul Yom *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tevul Yom *(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)*	

Good Shabbos!

Sifrai Chofetz Chaim

Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim. Have you joined the daily shiur? You can listen via WhatsApp, podcast or online! You can also listen to archived shiurim from the Sefarim of the Chofetz Chaim of Ahavas Yisroel, Kavod Shamayim, Sfas Tamim, Zechor L'Miriam.

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.