

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 BEHA'ALOSCHA – AVODAH SHEBELEIV

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

“When you go to wage war in your land against an enemy who oppresses you, you shall sound the trumpets, and you will be remembered before Hashem, and you will be saved from your enemies” (Bamidbar 10:9). The Rambam and Ramban both maintain that the Mitzvah is not merely to blow the shofar, but also, and primarily, an obligation to pray to Hashem in times of distress. Additionally, the Rambam holds that there is a *Mitzvah D'oraysa* (from the Torah) on both men and women to pray at least once daily. Indeed, the Sefer Hachinuch (433) writes that one who does not pray at least once a day according to the Rambam or one who does not cry out to Hashem in his distress, according to both opinions, violates the Mitzvah of Tefilla.

By praying to Hashem, we demonstrate our conviction in Hashgacha Pratis – that Hashem is entirely in control of our fate. The Rambam maintains that since everything that we need comes from Hashem we must demonstrate this belief by davening daily. Although the Ramban questions the scriptural

proofs of the Rambam, it seems fair to ask why there should not be a daily obligation to beseech Hashem for all our needs?

Perhaps we can answer that the Ramban maintains that since prayer is considered an *Avodah Shebeleiv*, a service of the heart, if one's heart is not in it, there is no Mitzvah. Thus, one must be truly motivated to pray and be earnest in his supplications. At times of distress there is indeed significant motivation that will naturally beget a sincere, heartfelt prayer. Thus, praying daily would only be a Mitzvah if one were self-motivated to reach out to Hashem.

The Medrash (Shemos Rabba 21:8) poses the following question: Why, after redeeming Bnai Yisrael from Mitzrayim, did Hashem cause the Egyptians to chase after them, leaving them trapped between a powerful army and the raging sea? The Medrash answers that Hashem yearns to hear the Tefillos of Yisrael. When Bnai Yisrael were brutally enslaved in Mitzrayim, they cried out to Hashem and He redeemed them. Since that

time, Hashem had not heard from them at all (not even a postcard). Therefore, He placed them in a desperate situation so that they would be forced to cry out to Him.

Why does Hashem “need” our prayers? Rav Yechezkel Levenstein asserts that a true relationship with Hashem is only possible with consistent communication. If we want to be close to Him, we must pour out our hearts to Him regularly. Why should we need suffering to force us to pray to Hashem? If we truly recognize that He is our ultimate Patron and He wants to provide for us “every day, in all seasons and at all hours” (as we say in bentching), we would praise Him, beseech His continued support and thank Him at least once a day. True friends talk to each other regularly, the other type of friend only calls you when he needs you.

We must always remember that Hashem truly wants to hear from us in the form of Tefilla. And then bear in mind that Tefilla is an *Avodah Shebeleiv*, so that we will put all our hearts into our davening.

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.

CONTINUES TO LINGER

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Paysach Diskind

The following story occurred in Israel during the Corona pandemic. Yossi and his wife lived in a community where the virus was spreading rapidly. Many of their neighbors fell victim to the virus. Naturally, they were greatly concerned and remained in their apartment without ever leaving it except on rare occasions. Their children, all married, refrained from visiting them as well.

After some time, they began suffering from cabin fever and decided that they needed to leave the city and rent a flat in the country. Yossi's friend, Moish, had a flat in Tzfas which he rented out for vacationers. Yossi called Moish to ask if his apartment was available. His friend responded that it had been rented out for two weeks and the renters just left yesterday, so if he wanted it he could have it. They agreed on a price and it was a deal. In anticipation of Yossi and his

wife, Moish did a thorough job of cleaning up the apartment.

The next day Yossi and his wife headed up to Tzfas looking forward to a badly needed two-week respite. A few days after they arrived both Yossi and his wife came down with symptoms of Corona. They had themselves tested and, in fact, they had contracted the virus. With much regret, Yossi and his wife headed right back to their own home. It was discovered that the previous renters had contracted the virus and were living there for two weeks with the virus. Unfortunately, Moish did not know that the earlier tenants were infected and did not disinfect the apartment.

Yossi called Moish and told him that he had no intention of paying for the apartment. The only reason they were going on vacation was to escape the virus infected city. They would

never have rented an infected apartment! The doctors were all saying that the germs can linger for a while if it is not disinfected. Moish, on the other hand, argued that he did clean the apartment and was never asked to disinfect it. If Yossi wished to have a disinfected apartment, he should have requested it or taken care of it himself.

Is Yossi responsible to pay for the rental? Veharev Na vol IV page 94

Regarding last week's question about the Kimpeturin Home, Rav Zilberstein answered that the receptionist would not have to pay for the woman's stay because she did not cause her a loss, only a menias revech, a prevention of a gain. Nonetheless, it would be midas chassidus, a matter of piety, to pay her for the loss.

MIXING CEMENT AND LAYING BRICKS

R' Dovid Katz recalled that one day in Kfar Saba, some students saw R' Aharon Leib Steinman mixing cement and laying bricks, assisting construction workers who were extending the yeshivah building. Assuming that R' Aharon Leib was trying to save the yeshivah money, R' Katz offered to take his place and help the workers. R' Aharon Leib smiled and told him that it was his mitzvah of building in Eretz Yisrael, as the Ramban

writes, "that there is a mitzvah to build Eretz Yisrael in contemporary times."

A parent of a young son asked R' Aharon Leib, "Wouldn't it be more appropriate for a rebbi, rather than a morah, to teach boys in the younger grades? With a rebbi, the little boys could start learning as soon as they begin attending yeshivah." R' Aharon Leib replied, "In the youngest grades, women can

teach as much content as men, and do it with more warmth. Having the children nurtured by the warmth of a morah is very important at that time."

(From Rav Aharon Leib, By Naftali Weinberg, Published By Artscroll Mesorah, Reprinted With Permission From Table Talk.)


Daf HaShavua

Chabura is learning
Kesubos Daf 'n



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 Uktzin <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i> | Mishnayos Uktzin <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i> | Mishnayos Uktzin <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i> | Mishnayos Uktzin <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i> | Parsha HaShevua <i>(R' Yehoshua Levy)</i> |
| 10:00 AM – 10:40 AM | Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i> | Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i> | Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i> | Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i> | Gemara Gittin <i>(R' Daniel Baltuch)</i> |
| 10:45 AM – 11:25 AM | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> |
| 11:30 AM – 12:10 PM | Practical Timely Halacha <i>(R' Mordechai Shain)</i> | The Life and Torah of our Leaders <i>(R' Dovid Gross)</i> | Biur Tefilla <i>(R' Yoel Zeffren)</i> | Sefer Tehillim <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> |
| 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> | Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa -Parsha <i>(R' Uri Greenspan)</i> |  |

Have you joined the Mishnathon???

You can join the Mishnathon and enable the 1st Seder Bais Medrash to continue spreading Torah throughout the world!

To join please visit firstseder.org or contact Rabbi Greenspan or Zac Miller.

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.

Good Shabbos!