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 SHELACH – THE REAL ATLAS

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

Rashi, citing the Gemara in Bava Basra (118b), comments that Yehoshua and Calev were given the portions in Eretz Yisrael that would have been given to the other spies. Rav Aharon Kotler maintains that this reward was in keeping with the Gemara in Chagiga (15a) which states that the Tzaddik receives his portion and the portion of the Rasha in Gan Eden. He goes on to explain why this concept is appropriate and just. The purpose of Creation and the only means by which the world continues to exist is the observance of Torah and Mitzvos. Those who are responsible for the very existence of the world earn their reward based on what they contributed to sustaining its existence.

The Gemara in Maseches Shabbos (88a) says that at the time of Creation Hashem stipulated with the world, "If Yisrael accepts the Torah you will continue to exist and if not, I will return you to nothingness." It is only our acceptance of the Torah and our fidelity to it that keep the world going. This principle is manifest most poignantly in the study of Torah, as Rav Chaim Volozhin (Nefesh Hachaim 4,11) avers that if there would be one moment when no one on this planet would be learning Torah, the world would immediately cease to exist.

The Mishna in Avos (5,1) states, "The world was created with ten utterances. What does this come to teach us? Could it not have been created with one utterance? This was to exact punishment from the wicked who destroy the world that was created with ten utterances and to bestow reward upon the righteous who sustain the world that was created with ten utterances." This Mishna clearly demonstrates Rav Aharon's point that the reward of the righteous is not merely for keeping the Mitzvos but for sustaining Creation.

Rav Aharon offers a second reason why the reward of the righteous is so great. People are affected by their environment. Since there are people around who don't keep the Mitzvos, it becomes more challenging for others to keep the Mitzvos in such a hostile environment. This additional struggle and effort deserve greater reward.

Thus Rebbi Shimon Bar Yochai declared, "If you see that people have abandoned the Torah, arise and strengthen yourself in it and you will receive reward equivalent to all of them" (Yerushalmi Berachos).

Rebbi Shimon Bar Yochai lived over eighteen hundred years ago. If it was true then, it is certainly true today. Today in the twenty first century, when a small percentage of Jews are Torah observant and intermarriage is rampant, the words of this illustrious sage resonate so emphatically. And when we consider the fact that the moral fabric of the world at large is coming apart at the seams, this idea becomes even more relevant.

The very existence of the world rests on the shoulders of those of us who are faithful to the observance of Torah and Mitzvos. The impact of every Mitzvah that we do and every word of Torah that we learn is magnified hundreds of times over. Indeed, let us all 'arise and strengthen ourselves' in Torah study and Mitzvah observance for our reward is veritably unimaginable!

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.

RUBIK'S RAGE

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Paysach Diskind

In Vhaarev Na IV (page 347) the following Din Torah between two sixth grade boys is discussed.

Itamar received a Rubik's Cube from his father and brought it to school. He spent an entire recess trying to figure out how to make each side one color only. Seeing that it was absolutely impossible and completely frustrated, he tossed it into the garbage.

The next day Nesanel came to school with a Rubik's Cube as well. Itamar thought that perhaps Nesanel had found his Rubik's Cube and took it for himself.

"Hey, Nesanel, where did you get that Rubik's Cube from?" asked Itamar.

"Oh, I got it from the garbage, why do you ask?"

"Well, that is my Rubik's Cube and I want it back!"

"I know it was yours but I saw you toss it in the garbage yesterday. So, too bad, once you tossed it in the garbage, it's hefker, it is no longer yours!"

The bickering went on from some time until they decided to bring the case to the Rav.

Does it make a difference how long it was in the garbage? Does it make a difference who gave it to Itamar in the first place? Does it make a difference what kind of garbage it was in? Does it make a difference which of the boys is older? Does it make a difference how expensive the Rubik's Cube is? Hint: At least one of the above questions does make a difference!

Regarding last week's question about the Corona-infected apartment; the rule that governs this situation is that it is the responsibility of the owner of the rental to do whatever is expected of him to take care of. Naturally, this matter changes from location to location and from time to time. In this case, in 2020, since nobody would move into an apartment that was not disinfected, the vacationers would not be liable to pay for the rental.

INVESTMENT BUILT ON SOLID PRINCIPLE

The following story was related by Rabbi Menachem Porush to Rav Yechiel Aryeh Hacohein Munk.

Rabbi Menachem Porush had an acquaintance who lived a more modern lifestyle. He once asked Rabbi Porush "I keep hearing about a יששכר-זבולון partnership concept. Please explain this to me." Rabbi Porush explained how people of means can take upon themselves a partnership with a Torah scholar and his family. In the World to come they equally share in the reward of the Torah study. He thought for a moment and said to Rabbi Porush "I like this idea. Can you please help find a suitable Torah scholar for my family to partner with?"

Rabbi Porush approached a Rosh Yeshiva who suggested the family of a Torah scholar in need of support and arranged for them to meet. After the scholar and this person met, the scholar got back to Rabbi Porush saying "I don't think this partner is suitable for me." He explained "I take my Torah study quite seriously. I looked into it, and there are some matters in his lifestyle which are not compatible with the level of my Torah study. I am not ready to share my Torah with him."

Rabbi Porush called his friend back telling him that the scholar was not interested. The fellow responded to Rabbi Porush "I inquired about him and I know that he is living with quite some financial difficulty. If he is refusing us as a partner – I insist on knowing why."

Rabbi Porush had no choice but to tell him. "This scholar takes his Torah study seriously. He feels there are some matters in your lifestyle that are not compatible with his Torah study." Upon his friend's insistence for an explanation, Rabbi Porush told him "There are three problems. The first is that your wife does not cover her hair. The second is that the level of schooling for your children is not what he considers adequate and finally your business opens too early Saturday night." The fellow thought for a moment and said "Rabbi Porush, I will get back to you."

A few days later, he returned with his wife to Rabbi Porush and said "We gave the matter much thought and decided that if this scholar who is in such dire financial need takes his study of Torah so seriously that he refused our partnership, then he is specifically the one we want to partner with. Please inform him that we will make the changes necessary to qualify us to be his partner. We would be privileged to partner with such a great Torah scholar.

The two families met and their lives were changed forever, truly forever and ever! (Reprinted With Permission From Table Talk.)

Daf HaShavua

Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf מ"א

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.

1st Seder

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First Seder Weekly Schedule

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

Good Shabbos!