

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 CHAYEI SARAH – ELIEZER’S MISSION

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

Everyone is faced with challenges and hardships. They run the gamut from minor mishaps to major calamities: losing your car keys, health problems, poverty, emotional issues, difficult marriages, raising children, social dilemmas, car accidents – to name a few. They often result in much stress and aggravation. Most people feel that not only would they be better off without these problems, they could even serve Hashem better if their plight were improved.

Rav Yechezkel Levenstein asserts that this is a false perception, for one good reason. It was Hashem who put you in the position that you are in, and He knows what is best for you. Your true mission is to deal with each situation to the best of your ability. Rav Chatzkel (as he was fondly referred to) finds a paradigm for this type of attitude in Eliezer, Avraham's slave. When Avraham asked Eliezer to find a shidduch for Yitzchok, Eliezer suggested his own daughter. No, Eliezer was no fool. The Torah describes him as "the elder of [Avraham's] household who controls all that belongs to him" (Bereishis 24:2). He obviously felt that his daughter was an appropriate shidduch for the great Tzaddik Yitzchok. However, Avraham told him since he was a descendent of Canaan, who was cursed by Noach, and Avraham was a descendent of Shem, who was blessed by

Noach, the shidduch could not take place. *"Ain arur misdabeik bebaruch."*

This response could have been shattering to Eliezer. He now realized that the curse of Noach – "Cursed is Canaan, he shall be a slave to his brothers" (ibid 9:25) applied to him too. He was a lowly slave, forever cursed. How did he react? He accepted this reality and dealt with it in a superb fashion, acting as a dedicated slave. He proceeded to Charan where he prayed to Hashem to give him a sign which girl he should select for Yitzchok. When Hashem answered his prayer demonstrating that Rivka was the perfect shidduch for Yitzchok, he bowed to Hashem in gratitude. He met with Besuel and Lavan and immediately announced, "I am the slave of Avraham." After he convinced them to agree to send Rivka with him, he bowed again to Hashem and declared, "Blessed is Hashem, G-d of my master Avraham, Who has not withheld His kindness and truth from my master... Hashem has guided me on the way to the house of my master's brothers" (ibid 24:10-27). He acknowledged what might be considered a "dismal" reality, and utilized it superbly. Is it any wonder that Eliezer, the slave of Avraham, was so holy that when he left this world, he did not die, but merely walked straight into Gan Eden.

Eliezer's accomplishment would be very formidable for most of us Lilliputians who might fall apart when a perfect shidduch turns us down. Nonetheless, he can serve as a remarkable role model for us to emulate. Hashem puts us in a specific situation and expects us to serve Him to the best of our abilities.

You might ask: "What if we were the ones who put ourselves in the situation due to our own behavior?" The answer is simple. You made the mess; you deal with it. As they used to say, "You made your bed, now sleep in it." Now, this becomes the situation which Hashem has given you the opportunity to excel in serving Him.

Often, it is Hashem's intention that we daven for His help. Chazal state, "Why were our Matriarchs barren? Because Hakadosh Baruch Hu yearns for the prayers of Tzaddikim." It takes a great deal of wisdom and discretion how to best respond to our challenges, and we should ask Hashem to guide us to the right conclusion. However, we must always bear in mind that it is Hashem Who put us in this situation in order to serve Him to the best of our abilities.

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.

ANOTHER TICKET PLEASE

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

In this week's Parsha, we learn about the unique camels of Avraham. What was special about his camels? They were muzzled so that Avraham would not accidentally steal from other people's property if his camels would eat from their land. That leads us to the following story.

Zev worked for a company that gave their employees a company car to drive to meet their customers. The company's policy was that if the car would get a ticket for anything that was the company's fault, like an expired registration or broken taillight, then the company would cover any fines. But if the driver gets a ticket for something that was the driver's fault, like a traffic infraction, then the driver is obligated to pay for it.

One day Zev was driving, and he did not pay proper attention to the speed limit where he was driving. The speed limit was much lower than usual because of nearby construction. Zev sped by a police cruiser that was waiting in a thicket. The police quickly turned his lights on and, on the loudspeaker, told Zev to pull over.

The police officer came to Zev's window and said, "do you know you were driving almost double the posted limit in a construction zone? The penalty is

two points on your license and a doubled fine." That turned out to be \$300.

Zev went pale. He could not afford the extra \$300. He also could not afford any more points on his license as it would likely increase the rate of his insurance premiums. Zev had nothing else to do but be completely honest with the officer.

"Officer, you are 100% right. I did the wrong thing by speeding. I won't try to make any excuses for it. But I will be completely candid with you. I have seven children. I pay private school tuition for each of them. We have huge bills for clothing and food. I will be totally straight. I really can't afford a \$300 ticket. I also can't afford one more cent on my insurance premiums. My teenage children drive, and my insurance premiums are already sky-high, I beg you. Please give me a ticket. But can you please give me a ticket for something else that would not be that expensive and give me points?"

Zev's words came straight from his heart, and they penetrated the officer's heart. The officer pulled off his aviator glasses and gave a friendly smile. "I can relate to you, sir. Let me see what I can do."

The officer walked around the car and came back a minute later. "This is what I can do. Instead of a

ticket for speeding, I can give you a ticket for the broken taillight."

Zev thanked the officer profusely for his kindness in giving him a less severe ticket. On his way home, Zev thought about the ticket. Because he got a ticket for the taillight, his company would cover the costs of the ticket. But then Zev wondered if he should pay for the ticket. Because although the taillight was the company's responsibility, the only reason why they got the ticket was that he was speeding and because he asked for another ticket. Zev wondered if he had to pay his company for the ticket. What do you think?

See Upiryo Matok Bereishis, page 441

Regarding last week's question about the groom who invited extra guests to his wedding, Rav Zilberstein writes that the groom should not have to pay for the extra meals because they agreed initially to only 200 meals and made no agreement about extra guests. However, if the additional guests gave cash wedding gifts that are at least equal to the price of the meal, then the cash should be given to the caterer to pay for the extra meals. Please note that, of course, a caterer has a right to stipulate in the initial contract that if extra guests come, the groom is required to pay for it.

I AM NO LONGER PERMITTED TO SMOKE ANY DAY

If a doctor would tell Rav Baruch Ber Liebowitz to do or not do something for the sake of his health, Rav Baruch Ber would comply without hesitation. Once, when a doctor told him to not eat a certain food, for it was not good for him, Rav Baruch Ber told his family that because it was a question of his health, that particular food now was forbidden to him "like treif meat".


There is a similar story with Reb Yaakov Kamenetzky. At one point, a doctor

suggested that Reb Yaakov lose some weight and he prescribed a diet. At Reb Yaakov's next checkup, the doctor was shocked to find that he was losing weight too rapidly. When R' Yaakov insisted that he had followed the diet precisely, the doctor admitted that he had never met anyone who did not cheat on a diet, and had therefore told Reb Yaakov to eat less than he was really supposed to. By following the doctor's exact orders, Reb Yaakov had taken off too much weight. Reb Yaakov used to smoke

cigarettes and a lot of them. However, once the Surgeon General came out with the decision that smoking is hazardous to one's health he stopped immediately. "Just as I am not permitted to smoke on Shabbos I am no longer permitted to smoke any day."

From Reb Baruch Ber by Rabbi Chaim Shlomo Rosenthal, (Israel Bookshop), and 5 Great Lives By Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, (Artsroll/Mesorah). Reprinted with permission from Table Talk.

First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Morning Track 1: Shiurim				
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tohoros <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tohoros <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tohoros <i>(R' Chesky Weiss)</i>	Mishnayos Tohoros <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' David 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>	

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!



New Men's Shiur
Maharal – Tiferes
Yisroel given by Rabbi
Greenspan
Motzei Shabbos 9 PM
Fox Residence
329 Linden Lane

Daf HaShavua is
learning Kesubos Daf 10